



DAYS OF PRAYER + FASTING

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20





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CORPORATE PRAYER AND FASTING
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2019

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HOW TO BEGIN



Start with a clear goal. Be specific. Do you need direction, healing, restoration of marriage or family issues? Are you facing financial difficulties? Are you seeking a greater reality of the person and presence of God in your life? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Pray and read your Bible daily.

PREPARING SPIRITUALLY:

Confess your sins to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of weakness. Forgive all who have offended you and ask forgiveness from those you may have offended (Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4; 17:3-4). Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ and reject the worldly desires that try to hinder you (Romans 12:1-2).

DECIDING WHAT TO FAST:

The type of fasting you choose is up to you. You could go on a full fast in which you only drink liquids, or you may desire to fast like Daniel, who abstained from sweets and meats, and the only liquid he drank was water. Remember to replace that time with prayer and Bible study.

TYPE OF FASTS:

FULL FAST - Drink only liquids (you establish the number of days)

THE DANIEL FAST - Eat no meat, no sweets, and no bread. Drink water and juice. Eat fruit and vegetables.

3-DAY FAST - This fast can be a full fast, a Daniel fast, or avoiding one type of food.

PARTIAL FAST - A partial fast is from 6:00am to 3:00pm or from sunup to sundown; avoiding one type of food is better than one item of food.

INTRODUCTION



As we enter the fall season, for many a beginning of sorts as the school year commences, the demands of life and schedule can become central to our thoughts and activity.

It is increasingly easy to find ourselves losing what, or whom, is at the center of our lives. Over these few days of prayer, fasting and focus, let's consider that question and re-establish God Himself as that Center.

Martin Luther said, "Just as the business of the tailor is to make clothing, and that of the shoemaker to mend shoes, so the business of the Christian is to pray."

Let's do business.

I am thankful for:

I am believing for:

DAY 1: AT THE CENTER



“In the beginning, God ... “ (Genesis 1:1)

The very first mention in Scripture is of God Himself. Not what He has done, is doing or is going to do. The creation and mention of man comes later in the Genesis narrative. God, without creation but having always existed, is the Alpha (first) and stands at the center of all that would follow (Omega).

Thus, the glory of all His creation, in particular man, was always intended to find its source from The Source - God.

Even beyond God’s design, God’s purchase through Jesus even more fully manifests this truth.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20, NIV84)

Paul writes to the Corinthians that we who have received the Holy Spirit through salvation are not our own, but rather, have been bought by God. So if our life is not our own, it subsequently cannot be lived on our own apart from its rightful owner, God Himself.

So that begs the question - how much of life do we live on our own, independent from, rather than wholly dependent on, Him? Has our own competence or absence of need lured us into complacency, deceiving us into believing or living as if there are places in our lives where He is somehow not needed or desired? Scripture is clear on this matter.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5, NIV84)

PRAYER: Repent of every area in your life where independence, perhaps derived from your own strength or competence, has disconnected you from the vine who is Jesus. In so doing, ask God back into the center, making Him central and Center to all that you are and do.

DAY 2: OFF-CENTER



Back in the dark ages, before digital devices and streaming services, music came on strange discs called records. Grooves were pressed into vinyl at a pressing plant and then those records were placed on a device called a record player where those grooves were translated into audible sounds. In the middle of this disc was a hole, placed over a spindle, that insured that the record would stay in place on the turntable and spin in a precise circle. If a manufacturing anomaly occurred, and the hole was placed off-center, the record would subsequently not spin accurately and the resulting sound coming from the speakers would be wobbly, distorted and nothing like what the artist intended when the recording was originally made.

When we lose our Center, our lives reflect this same phenomena. We become wobbly (the book of James calls it double-minded), unstable and then distorted by sin, which in turn reflects nothing of that which God originally intended for our lives.

Our hearing is affected and we begin to hear only our own thoughts and the noise around us, often to the exclusion of His voice. This is how we all lived prior to Christ having first revealed Himself to us. But God, by His Spirit, placed HIMSELF inside each of us, and is continually speaking and calling us into daily fellowship with Him. We must take care to not allow ourselves to get off-center, neglecting that priority and that love.

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” (Revelation 2:4, NIV84)

PRAYER: Where have you gotten “off-center?” In your thoughts? In your emotions? What is the resulting outworking, or sin, of having gotten “off-center?” Ask God to reveal those specific areas where you have gotten deceived or distorted in your view of God, self and others.

DAY 3: RE-CENTERED

“For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” (Acts 17:28, NIV84)

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:17, NIV84)

Center carries with it a sense of both priority and focus. It is where, or to whom, we instinctively turn to return home. Center implies that which holds all things together, the source and object of attraction, not unlike gravity.

Gravity empowers position, enabling us to hold our ground. That same gravity maintains the orbit of that which is in close enough proximity to feel the effects of its pull.

The farther away we get from the Source of gravitational attraction, the weaker that pull becomes, and the more likely we are to get knocked out of God’s intended orbit — His plans and destiny for our lives — and onto our own paths.

The former (His paths) have safety and an accurate trajectory, the latter (our plans and paths) are dangerous and chaotic even if not apparent at first.

The drift away from Center is always subtle. That drift is not always recognized or easily marked as a one-time event, or even overtly sinful. Rather, it occurs as our proximity to God is subtly lengthened and our need of Him lessens accordingly. It is here, that sin often finds its opportunity for entrance into our life.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are **far** from me.” (Matthew 15:8)

“**Come near** to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8, NIV84)

The promise of re-entry into the safety of the Shepherd and His Presence is afforded us as we make a decision to draw near.

When we do, the gravitational pull of relationship and righteousness takes hold and the contrary pull of sin and the sin nature is weakened.

PRAYER: Decide to become “re-centered” in God. That is done by deliberate effort to place Him at the center, making Him the Center of every aspect of our lives. Believe that as this re-centering occurs, the promise of fellowship and the fruit of righteousness will be your reward.

NOTES/JOURNAL





