

2012 Biblical Fasting Focus

January 9 to 29, 2012

The year 2012, the Year of Government – the Foundational Year, the Year of Establishment

THE YEAR OF RELEASE

“As for you also, because of and for the sake of the [covenant of the Lord with His people, which was sealed with sprinkled] covenant blood, I have released and sent forth your imprisoned people out of the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold [of security and prosperity], you prisoners of hope; even today do I declare that I will restore double your former prosperity to you.” Zech. 9:11,12 AMP

Our annual fast for the beginning of the year is to focus on the established blood covenant of the Lord for His people, releasing the imprisoned out of their waterless pit (exile) to a place of prosperity and becoming prisoners of hope, knowing God will restore double our prosperity.

“And the [threshing] floors shall be full of grain and the vats shall overflow with juice [of the grape] and oil. And I will restore or replace for you the years that the locust has eaten—the hopping locust, the stripping locust, and the crawling locust...” Joel 2:24 AMP

As we prepare ourselves for this special time with God, examine your heart for unconfessed sin. Scripture records that God always requires His people to repent of their sins before He will hear their prayers. King David said:

“Come and hear, all of you who reverence the Lord, and I will tell you what he did for me: For I cried to him for help, with praises ready on my tongue. He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins. But he listened! He heard my prayer! He paid attention to it!”

“Blessed be God who didn’t turn away when I was praying, and didn’t refuse me his kindness and love.” Ps. 66:16-20)

Just like natural breathing, Spiritual Breathing is a process of exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure. As an act of faith, trust Him to empower you. Spiritual breathing is a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit to help you resist temptation, not only to sin but to keep you from abandoning your fast.

Prepare yourself several days ahead by eating smaller meals. Resist the urge to have that ‘last big feast’. Wean off of caffeine and sugar products to help your initial hunger or discomfort at the beginning of the fast.

Type of Fast

There are several types of fasting. The one you choose is between you and God. He will honor your best sacrifice.

Absolute Fast = extreme, no food or water – depends on health, should be attempted only with supervision.

Normal or Full Fast = water only (juice or clear broth can be taken if needed)

Partial Fast / Daniel Fast = abstaining from something you feel led to give up (sweets, meats, no bread, etc.) Drink Water and juice (diluted). Eat fruits and vegetables.

Use wisdom when coming off the fast. Slowly introduce food to your body.

Remember, God looks at the intent of the heart. Fasting brings brokenness and brings us into His presence. It brings favor, breakthroughs and gives understanding. Food is not what really sustains us, it is every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Note: If you are in poor health or have concerns about your physical ability to fast, consult a doctor before beginning.

**FASTING, PRAYER AND GIVING IS THE MASTER KEY TO THE IMPOSSIBLE
IF YOU DO THE UNUSUAL – GOD WILL DO THE UNUSUAL**

When You Fast

“Moreover when you fast, be not as the hypocrites.” (Matt. 6:16)

Jesus assumed a lifestyle of fasting and exhorts our focus on pleasing God, not man.

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” (Ps. 42:1-3)

God with Us

“... and they will call him Immanuel, . . . God with us.” (Matt. 1:23)

He is making Himself known. He is speaking. He is calling. He is drawing us to a time when our hearts truly become thirsty to want and welcome the power of Him; first purifying us, then igniting us to lives of impassioned worship and service.

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace; free the oppressed; cancel debts. What I’m interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory

will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, "Here I am."

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places.

If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, if you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places-firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again." Isaiah 58:6-12 MSG

So it's paramount that you keep the commandments of God, your God, walk down the roads he shows you and reverently respect him. God is about to bring you into a good land, a land with brooks and rivers, springs and lakes, streams out of the hills and through the valleys. It's a land of wheat and barley, of vines and figs and pomegranates, of olives, oil, and honey. It's a land where you'll never go hungry-always food on the table and a roof over your head. It's a land where you'll get iron out of rocks and mine copper from the hills. Deut. 8:7-8MSG

Based upon the above scriptures, the following are targets of prayer.

An Increase of His Manifest Presence

I no longer live; but Christ lives in me. (Gal. 2:20) Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col. 1:27)

Love the Lord Your God

Jesus replied; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt. 22:37)

Prayer Target: Increased participation in corporate as well as individual prayer, fasting, giving and other spiritual disciplines. Now more than ever, it is time to enter together into passionate prayer and worship that invites Christ's eternal glory to invade our troublesome world. Seek His face, not His hand.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14)

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know". (Jer. 33:3)

More and More Believed in the Lord

"More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number." (Acts 5:14)

Prayer target: Increased burden for the lost—the ingathering of people into His kingdom.

“... they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

Two Become One

“...and the two will become one flesh.” (Mark 10:8)

Prayer Target: A decrease in divorces and renewed commitments to marriage in covenant relationship as God intends lifting each other up and a coming together in prayer.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Prov. 15:1)

Train Up a Child

“...and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim. 3:15)

Prayer Target: Parents imparting faith to their children realizing they are their children’s primary discipler. Prayer can reverse the generational freefall happening to our children today. Parents must be involved in their training. Let peace rule and reign.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Prov. 22:6)

When You Give

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7)

Prayer Target: Faithful giving to the Kingdom of God. We are wise—and well within God’s will—to pray, work, and trust Him for our daily bread. God always pours into people who keep pouring out. Pray for a spirit of giving to erupt within our churches.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18)

Joy of the Lord

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Neh. 8:10)

Prayer Target: Pray for the joy of the Lord to be evident in the lives of those that minister the Word of the Lord; having healthy, loving relationships within their families; a bonding between them and their people. May there be leaders who are called to come, called to stay and joyfully content where God has placed them. May they weather every season that comes to accomplish every assignment. Keep our leaders a focus of ongoing prayer.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Prov. 4:23)

They Spoke Boldly

“After they prayed. . . they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly”. (Acts 4:31)

Prayer Target: Believers in bold witness accompanied by miracles, dramatic conversions, and Holy Spirit-empowered victories over evil. May nothing hold them back from believing Him. May nothing keep them quiet when He is calling them to speak out.

“That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.” (Eph. 1:19-21)

They Took Note

“...and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Prayer Target: A transformation of society through the restoration of Christ’s influence in the arts, media, and communications. When God truly gets into His people and sanctifies us through and through, He begins to infuse excellence and it impacts our worship and our workday. We can then influence our culture. When we offer God everything, we are able to bear witness of His glory not only through our conversation but through the offering of our craft. God knows how to speak where the culture can hear.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom. 12:2).

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (Heb. 3:13)

Let Each Give Account

“...each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Rom. 14:12)

Prayer Target: A restoration of morality, ethical foundations, and accountability among leaders of church and government, business and politics. May there be a renewal of righteousness in our hearts today. We need men and women who will walk with integrity into the marketplace, the government house, the bustling streets of modern life, and act with godly honor everywhere they go.

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.” (Ps. 1:1)

“So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves”. (Rom. 14:22)

The Least of These

“...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matt.25:40)

Prayer Target: Increased care and concern for the hungry and homeless, the most vulnerable and needy. Pray for the poor in our community and in the land. The Word teaches us that there will always be poor people and God commands us to be openhanded toward the poor and needy. (Deut. 15:11) Pray the church will give generously to the poor.

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him”. (Luke 10

Imparting Life

“...we were delighted to share with you... our lives.” (1 Thess. 2:8)

Prayer Target: Young adults, students, and children embracing the claims and lifestyle of Christ through the witness of peers who live and love as Jesus does. May there be youth and children crying out to God; passionate and devoted to the things of the Lord. Young people know where the empty places are. They hear the hunger for authenticity and the echoes of hopeless despair. **Cry out for the Lord to use them to reach their peers with the true Gospel.**

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (Rom. 12:9-12)

Favor with God and Man

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)

Prayer Target: Community and national leaders to seek out the church for answers to society's problems. Pray for Christians and church leaders who are Spirit filled to be emboldened to go into challenging settings and situations to speak what the Lord has laid on their heart. We must not be afraid of cultural conditions that call for the church to rise with answers to society's needs. Pray that all people in our community and in our land fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of You. (Ps.33:8) May the Spirit of Wisdom and the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord, mightily work in us. (Isa.11:2) May the people in our community and land not despise Your wisdom and may they choose to fear You.

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:21)

Children as Gifts

“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.” (Ps. 127:3)

Prayer Target: *Increased care and concern for children as “gifts from the Lord”.*

Pray against the expansion of abortion rights; and for the unsafe and unwanted children by so many in society. Also the neglected and abused; their minds polluted and stripped of opportunity. Children are “gifts from the Lord” and the future generation!

“Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.” (Deut. 32:46)

“Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.” (Joel 1:3)

Honoring Marriage Covenant

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” (Heb.13:4)

Prayer Target: Righteous relations between men and women; decrease in divorce rates, cohabitation, same-sex relations, sexual abuse, sexual trafficking, out-of-wedlock children, and STDs. Pray that all sexual sin will be exposed in our culture for the devilish deception it is. This is not too big for God, and it is not too late. Purity can indeed be reborn in our land, our hearts, and our churches. Pray and pray hard.

“The Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.” (Mal. 2:14)

Revere the Lord

“Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.” (Ps. 33:8)

Prayer Target: An awakening to the “fear of the Lord” rather than the approval of man, thus restoring integrity and credibility. May there be a holy, courageous army of leaders, committed to right teaching and the character to match it. This must begin in God’s house, with us. Pray that our church and ministry leaders would open their hearts wide to the “fear of the Lord”.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” (Prov. 1:7)

“...become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.” (Phil. 2:15)

Love Your Neighbor

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:39)

Prayer Target: Neighborhood transformation with increased expressions of ‘loving your neighbor’. Actions still speak louder than words—our faith must take to the streets. God’s plan—based on purposes known only to Himself—is to use us, His fallen but

faithful servants, to be the flesh-and-blood means by which He touches a hurting world.

“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.” (1 John 3:11)

New Birth Pittsburg/Oakland

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I do a new thing: now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” (Isa 43:18,19)

As the year 2011 has been a year of paradigm shifts we prepare for breakthrough and release in the year of 2012. We declare we have come into a place of maturity and prosperity in the New and better Covenant. Everywhere our feet tread will belong to the Kingdom of God and New Birth.

We decree and declare the prayer of Jabez; *“Oh that you (Father), would bless New Birth indeed, and enlarge our coast (Territory), that your hand would be with us, and that you would keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us.” (1 Chron. 4:10)*

We declare our tent is enlarged (lands, ownership), our cords are lengthened (favor to possess) and our stakes strengthened (no limits). We will spread abroad to the right hand and to the left and the seed sown will possess the nations and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

“Then the king commanded, and they quarried great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with cut stones.” 1 Kings 5:17

“It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well build.” (Luke 6:48)

“Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem(Zion), a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.” (Isa.28:16 NLT)

“They sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid!” (Ezra 3:11)

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and loving-kindness and truth go before Your face.” (Psalm 89:14)

“The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the hills, through [the general establishment of] righteousness.” (Psalm 72:3)

Bishop Smith, Lady Adrienne and family

“And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in My heart and mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.” (1 Sam. 2:35)

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jer. 3:15)

We declare and decree his dwelling shall be a place of quietness, a tent that shall not be taken down, that not one of his stakes that You have established will ever be pulled up or shall the cords that You have set in place be broken.

We declare that the enemy shall not be able to frustrate the plans and purposes of God for his life; and that every Godly desire and possession of his heart will be established.

We tear away and break every cord of the enemy that has been wrapped around the man of God and his family.

Lord, pull out every rebellious one that has been planted. We bind the spirit of criticism from off the man of God; the spirit of backbiting, the spirit of whispering, envy, bitterness and jealousy.

We tear up and off every root sown among the man of God and his family. We draw away every enslaving yoke, every chain that is binding.

Lord, show Bishop Smith your ways, teach him your paths. Guide him in Your truth and faithfulness. Remember Lord, Your tender mercies and loving kindness toward him.

Guide Bishop Smith in every opportunity presented to him. May wisdom be his portion and grant him knowledge to know whom to have alliances with. No weapon formed against him will prosper and every voice of judgment shall be silenced. Because Bishop Smith is anointed and qualified to preach the Gospel, he will be sent to the poor and afflicted, to the brokenhearted and to set at liberty the captive to the glory of God.

We seal these prayers in the blood of Jesus.

