



fast TO feast +

21 DAYS OF FASTING & PRAYER
TO DRAW CLOSER TO GOD



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God has burdened my heart to call you and me to seek God's face in these challenging times. As we pursue continued pastoral leadership and divine provision for this ministry, it is no time to wring our hands as though God does not care.

God is our refuge at all times. He has told us to seek His face by drawing nigh to Him and He will draw nigh to us (James 4:8). So we are challenging you to join us in corporate prayer, private prayer, and meeting with others to pray for revival, renewal, direction, and the help of God.

When we have gone to the throne of God in prayer as a whole congregation, we have seen God provide, sustain, and bless. We are just as dependent on God's help as the day we began.

James 4 says we do not have because we have not asked. He further qualifies our lack of prayer answers by saying when you prayed it was for yourself and not for the glory of God. Let us seek first God's interests which seem to be His glory or fame and the desperate condition of people without Jesus Christ.

Others have testified that prayer accompanied with fasting or any sacrifice of themselves has brought great reward. God has given His Word that if we "diligently seek the Lord He will reward us" (Hebrews 11:6).

I look forward with anticipation to see what God is going to do in our personal lives as well as the life and ministry of this church. By the way, do not forget the twelve missionary families and individuals who are taking Jesus Christ to other parts of our world.

Welcome to **fast** TO *feast*, 21 DAYS OF
FASTING AND PRAYER TO DRAW CLOSER TO GOD.

I plan to meet you at the throne of grace,



Phillip
Jude 24

what is fasting?

This is an important question to ask. Old Testament saints fasted when in danger (2 Chronicles 20:3), facing a difficult situation (Esther 4:16), and in pursuit of God's help. Biblical fasting was always associated with the abstinence from food (Daniel 10:3; Luke 4:2; Esther 4:16). Fasting was done for repentance (Isaiah 58) and a return to God.

Fasting is denying myself in order that I may more fully seek God.

The Psalmist said, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, my God" (42:1 NIV).

**Refraining from food without prayer
and seeking God is not fasting, that
is called dieting.**

Fasting a single meal or even for a whole day is something Jesus said His disciples would do once He went back to heaven (Mark 2:19 with Luke 5:33-35). God often directed the Church in the context of their praying and fasting (Acts 13:1-3; 14:23).

You might consider fasting during your lunch break (or any time of the day) and pray in place of eating, seeking God instead of food (Matthew 7:7-12). Someone has said that ***fasting and prayer is faith in action***. James 2 tells us that faith always has works that accompany it.

Jesus told us to fast during His departure. ***The heart that hungers and thirsts for God has chosen a greater Feast than any earthly food.***

Some have suggested that people can also give up other things besides food. Let God lead you in this area.

Jesus fasted to seek His Father. ***Fasting is faith pursuing God.*** "Seek God first and He will rescue you from the anxiety of living in a troubled world" (Matthew 6:33).

our focus this year—why we pray

DISCOVER THE MOTIVATION AND POWER OF PRAYER

For three weeks, we will focus on corporate and private fasting and prayer, humbling ourselves in dependence on God's help. "Without me, you can do nothing" were the words of Jesus in the Upper Room.

Prayer changes things. There is life-altering power available to us if we humbly bow before Him. Humility drives us to the Source of our help, provision, and power. Who can save us but God? Who can meet all of our unmet needs but God?

God's resources are made available to those who pray in faith. **Plan to pray alone, with your family, and with other believers.** I hope you will draw closer to God during these twenty-one days of fasting and prayer.

May praying be more than an event, but become a lifestyle.

"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the hand of God."

– Charles Spurgeon

Prayer Times:

- On **Sundays** during morning services
- All-church **Prayer Nights** on SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 6-7PM and WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 7-8PM. Childcare for infants through Kindergarten will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Set aside time **during the week** to pray with your family.

Fasting can be any self-denial for a spiritual purpose. Biblical examples always involved food. Here are other suggestions. Let God lead you in this area:

Food (one meal per day or one day per week)

Amusement (sporting events, TV shows, secular music)

Sleep (try waking up earlier to pray)

Technology (iPads, video games, social media)

As a church, we are praying for the following:

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND REVIVAL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4:8a)

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO DO MINISTRY

[Jesus said,] "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)

GOD'S WILL AND PLEASURE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP

While the church worshipped, fasted, and prayed, God revealed His will to provide leadership. (Acts 13:2-3)

MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

"Marriages are where children can see the love of God on display."

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)

THAT WE CAN IMPACT OUR AREA, OUR CITY, OUR PART OF THE COUNTY FOR JESUS CHRIST

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

VBC MISSIONARIES

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. (Colossians 4:3)

1. John and Debra Anderson - Bay Area Rescue Mission
2. Mirco and Nada Andreev - Transform Europe Network, Macedonia
3. Dr. Sukhwant and Vinita Bhatia - Seek Partners International, Northern India
4. David Brickner - Jews for Jesus
5. Oded and Bimini Cohen - Negev Region, Israel
6. Manny and Glenda Fernandez - World Link Ministries, Cuba, India, Liberia, Spain, Ukraine, Vietnam
7. Rod and Mayra Fry - Commission to Every Nation, Mexico City, Mexico
8. Options for Women of California
9. Nonilo and Fely Sanchez - Sola Gratia Ministry, Philippines
10. Dr. John Sircar - Bangladesh Theological Seminary and Orphanage, Bangladesh
11. Kim Smith - Wordsower Liberia, Liberia
12. John and Estera Vatan - World Venture, Romania

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THINGS GOD IS SHOWING ME ABOUT HIMSELF...

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GOD IS TELLING ME TO SURRENDER...

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TO
feast
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I AM SEEKING GOD FOR...

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TO
feast
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GOD IS TELLING ME I MUST...



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