
DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER ~ 22-JUN-22

Welcome to “the cowboy church’s” day of fasting and prayer. I trust that as you engage with the LORD in this way that you will grow deeper in your relationship with Him. *If you are new to our “fasting and prayer” day, there is some introductory material included on the last page that you may find helpful.*

2022 – PRAYERS FROM THE BIBLE

This month, as we continue to look at “Prayers from the Bible”, we will look at benedictions as a form of prayer. The ones we will look at today (all from the same chapter), have a statement about God and then some way of applying it to the lives of His children. Throughout the year we will probably return from time to time to benedictions to see some of the others that God has included in His Word.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Romans 15 has three different places that can be considered “benedictions”. We will look and ponder all three of these, noting the pattern and practicality of them. We will also see how they can influence our prayers for others.

Romans 15:5-6

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

- This benediction and the next one we will look at share similar patterns. That pattern starts with a statement about God and His character/attributes. It continues with a

request for God's influence in the life/attitude of His children. It then ends with an application/result in the life of the Christian the Apostle hopes for.

- Ponder your source of encouragement and endurance. Is it the LORD, or do you look somewhere else, or try to generate them for yourself?
- How does unity (“harmony” – ESV, “same mind” – NASB) with one another flow out of God as our source of endurance and encouragement? (In the immediate context Paul is talking about *relationships with, and actions toward, other Christians.* – 15:1-4,7)
- Where does this unity come from? What should characterize its outflow in the life of the Church?

Romans 15:13

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

- I find encouragement in the fact that God is the source of hope. In Ukraine, we had a saying, “Hope is,” or “Hope exists”. Hope’s name is **the LORD**.
 - How do both joy, and peace, originate from a God who is the source of hope?
 - What do the words “**overflow** with hope” mean to you?
 - How is the Holy Spirit involved?

Romans 15:33

The God of peace be with you all. Amen. (NIV)

- Paul brings his epistle to an early close with this benediction. Like any real preacher, he then adds another chapter after the “Amen” 🙌. As you look at this verse, I would encourage you think on what it means to have the God of peace **with** you – all day, every day...

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- Too often we only think of peace in terms of conflicts, wars, etc. What other forms of “peace” are there in the life of a Christian?
 - See also Isaiah 26:3, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7 for some other examples.

PRAYER CONCERNS

There is much in this world that we can and should be remembering before the LORD. Here are some suggestions based on the situation around us the verses we have just spent time pondering.

International:

- Conflict Zones
 - There are several areas around this globe that are involved in significant conflict or war (Ukraine/Russia, several in the Middle East, Africa...). Let’s pray for “God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.
- Pray for the salvation of world leaders.
- World Churches
 - As you think of your brothers and sisters around the world, I would encourage you to pray these benedictions over them. All three are so very appropriate for Believers everywhere and at any time.

National:

- Indigenous Peoples of Canada and Canada’s immigrant population
 - For God’s word and His presence to be fruitful to their cultures, in their cultures and through their cultures.
- Salvation for all those involved in National politics and policy creation.

- May God be seen once again in our Country.
- Pray the above benedictions over your brothers and sisters in Canada

Provincial:

- Provincial leadership concerns.
- The salvation of our Provincial leaders.
- That our government's policies would somehow reflect God's glory and His will.
- Again, pray these three benedictions over our Alberta churches.

Local & Personal:

- God's provisions for us here at "tcc".
 - vision, leadership, finances.
- Pray these benedictions over God's children here at "the cowboy church"
- Pray these benedictions for yourself also, along with any other requests you may have.

My prayer for each of you today!

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Pastor Orban

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THOUGHTS AND TIPS CONCERNING FASTING

Often, we approach fasting as a way of showing God how serious we are about the things we are asking from Him. We think that because we are giving up food, time, etc. that He will pay closer attention to us and our requests. Not True. Fasting is not a means of manipulating God to give us what we ask for. Really, it isn't even about asking for things in prayer. It is about sitting with God, in His divine presence, and allowing Him to lead and guide our time. It is a time for praise and worship, for scripture meditation and for prayer according to His desires and His will. Through the time of fasting, our prayer focus should be one of aligning ourselves with the will of God and deepening our relationship with Him. In this way, He can lead us into His thoughts, attitudes, and possible action plans in our daily and community (church) life.

Here are a couple of articles that may give added information along with some practical tips for fasting. I may not agree with everything on these sites but there is a wealth of practical information that can be helpful when you add fasting to your life regularly.

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/personal-guide-to-fasting.html>

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/7-steps-to-fasting.2.html>

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