
DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING ~ 20-SEP-22

Welcome to “the cowboy church’s” day of prayer and fasting. 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.*

2022-23 – A “YEAR” IN GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER

With the coming of September, comes a new ministry year (September-June). This year we want to learn and grow in our understanding of prayer and its application in our lives corporately and personally. With that in mind, I hope these days of Prayer and Fasting will (1) encourage you in your encounters with the Lord and (2) deepen your relationship with Him. May you find encouragement and challenge in this day focused on time spent in the Lord’s presence.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION ~ EXODUS 33:13

Exodus 33 is the recounting of a conversation between the LORD and Moses. The Israelites had sinned by worshipping the golden calf and it is now time for the journey to resume. Verses 1-3 give us the Lord’s opening comments about restarting the journey. Then verses 4-11 unfold the Israelite’s reaction and some of the background to help us understand the context better. The prayer I want us to focus on today is found primarily in verses 12 & 13.

Exodus 33:12

- Verse 12 is the preamble for what Moses really wants to say in his prayer. He begins his prayer with some confirmation of God’s message to him and bases his requests on God’s message...
 - Moses communicates to God in conversation by listening to what God has to say and then responding back. When was the last time you “heard” God speaking to you, either in the Word or some other means?

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- Notice that this is what Moses’s prayer is based on – God’s word to him. When you find yourself “hearing” God, do you seek to confirm the message the same way that Moses did? How often do you use God’s Word in your personal prayer time?

Exodus 33:13

- I remember the first time I realised what Moses asked the Lord in this verse. It certainly wasn’t what I was expecting.

“If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I may know You...”

(NIV – emphasis added)

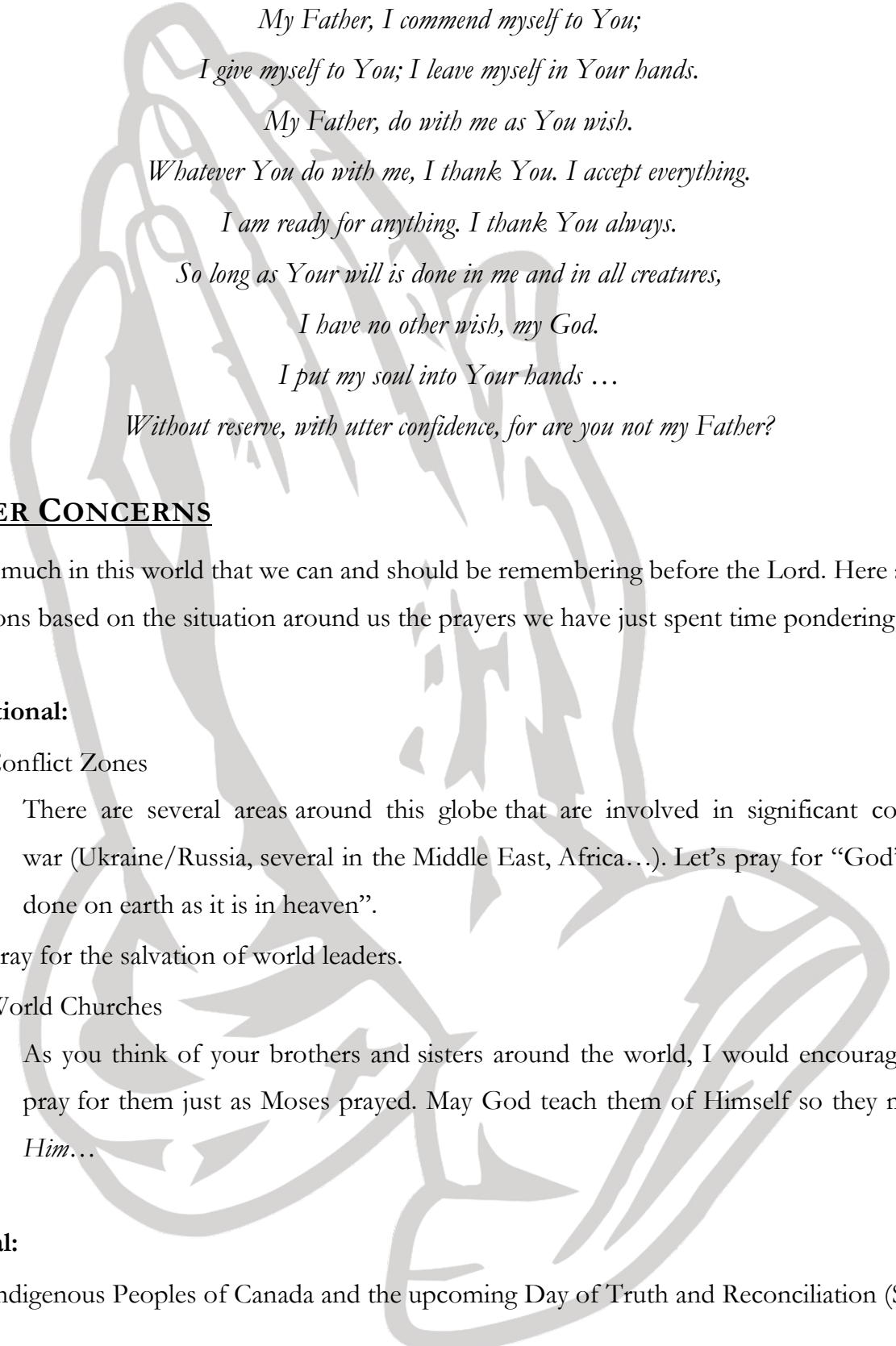
*“Now therefore, I pray You...let me know Your ways **that I may know You, so that I may find favour in Your sight.**” (NASB)*

- Notice the reason for Moses’s request. In light of the path ahead, Moses was more concerned with *knowing* God than with the tasks. Ponder the ramifications of this amazing prayer. Before power, guidance, patience, or anything else, Moses wanted to *know* God (not just *know about* God) and to continue to find favour in His sight.
- How does this prayer resonate with you? Does it offer encouragement? God wants to be known by us. He is a personal God. He wants us to know Him personally and not just formally knowing about Him.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

Many godly people of years gone by have left us prayers that they prayed or used personally. Sometimes this can be a help in launching some of our own personal prayers and prayer times. Here is one for us to read, perhaps pray, and see where the Lord takes us in deeper conversation. It is an Old Celtic Prayer taken from Prayers for Today: A Yearlong Journey of Devotional Prayer, by Kurt Bjorklund. Moody Publishers. 2011. It is a prayer of surrender and is quite fitting for us today, at the start of this new ministry year here at “the cowboy church”.

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*My Father, I commend myself to You;
I give myself to You; I leave myself in Your hands.
My Father, do with me as You wish.
Whatever You do with me, I thank You. I accept everything.
I am ready for anything. I thank You always.
So long as Your will is done in me and in all creatures,
I have no other wish, my God.
I put my soul into Your hands ...
Without reserve, with utter confidence, for are you not my Father?*

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 prayers 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 for them just as Moses prayed. May God teach them of Himself so they may *know Him*...

National:

- Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the upcoming Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Sep. 30)

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- 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 for our new King, King Charles III. May His Majesty come to *know* God in a deep and personal manner.

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, that the Christians in the churches of this province would be consumed with a passion for knowing God and not settle for knowing about Him.

Local & Personal:

- God’s continued blessing and guidance in each area of ministry
 - The Word, music, fellowship, and prayer.
 - Continued blessing of the finances for His ministry here.
- Pray any other requests you may have.

May the LORD open to you His ways so that you may come to *know* Him in an even deeper and more personal way and that you would find growing favour in His sight.

Thanks for praying with us.

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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