
DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING ~ 21-MAR-23

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

Last month we began a focus of “Invitation to Application” for our Scripture meditation. We continue that this month. The whole point of this as our focus is to ask the LORD, “How would You like me to be applying Your word into my life. How do You want me to be growing in my faith and in our relationship together.” I trust that this time with the LORD and in His word adds blessing to your life. As James says in his letter,

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.”

James 1:25 (NIV)

INVITATION TO APPLICATION ~ ACTS 2 & ROMANS 2:1-3:20

“What does the Lord want me to take from this and put into my own life today?”

As we look back at the passages from the past 4 Friday nights, this is the question that I would encourage you to have ringing in your ears. Perhaps you will feel more drawn to one particular set of thoughts more than the others. Focus in on those. Remember, it is about how the LORD would like to see these thoughts and ideas implemented in your life – not how you or anyone else wants to see them acted on.

(If this ends up raising more questions or you have questions that you can’t seem to answer, I would like to encourage you to feel free to chat with me about those questions. Give me a call, send me an

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email, or chat with me on a Friday evening after church. I would love to interact with you. It doesn't have to be me either. If you know a mature Christian you trust and respect, feel free to interact with them also.)

Psalm 139:23-24 (NASB) gives us good model to follow as we pray and contemplate application of the Lord's Word in this way.

*Search me, O God and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.*

Acts 2

- When we look at the amazing occurrences in Acts chapter 2, we must always keep in mind a few pieces of the context. First, it was a major feast day on the Jewish calendar. That meant that the devout Jews from all over the world would be in Jerusalem to celebrate. Some would have even stayed on from the Passover celebrations 7 weeks earlier. Also, Jesus was still a well-known figure. He had been travelling the country for the past three years, engaged in all kinds of ministry. This was the fertile ground that Peter stepped into to deliver his first "sermon" to the masses.
 - What does the Lord want me to take from this and put into my own life today? – What can I do, as part of my regular life, to prepare my heart to be receptive for the Lord's messages to me? how can I be getting to know Jesus better? What can I do to enhance my understanding of His life and what that would look in my own daily activities?

Romans 2:1-3:20

- This is all part of Paul's case for presenting the fact that all the world stands under the power and influence of sin. There is no one who is exempt. We looked at three different aspects of life in three passages. In 2:1-16 we saw that our actions do matter. We will be held accountable for what we do and say. Will we be repentant or stubborn in our response to the Lord gentle correction? Chapter 2 (vv17-29) ends with the description of the facade of spirituality. Is there actual reality in our relationship or are we like the Pharisees that Jesus called "Whitewashed tombs? So, not only do our actions matter, but where they come from is also a concern to the

LORD. Then we looked into chapter 3:1-20. Here Paul shows that there truly is no one who can claim a righteousness of their own. As Isaiah put it in our Scripture reading from that night, "...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..." (Isaiah 64:6 NIV)

- LORD, what does this look like in my life today?
 - How do my actions and activities measure up to You and Your example?
 - How does my attitude look. Is it one of arrogant stubbornness or one of humility before You?
 - Finally, what am I depending on for my standing with You? Do I secretly think that because I go to church and ... and... and... that You look on me with more favour? Do I do these things for show? Or is it because I love You, LORD?

PRAYER CONCERNS

There is much in this world that we can and should be remembering before the Lord. Here are some suggestions based on some of the situations and events that we see around us in our world. If the Lord lays other events, situations, etc. on your heart, I encourage you to lift them up to Him.

International:

- Conflict Zones
 - The war in Ukraine continues. Please continue to pray for a resolution that would see God's purposes accomplished.
 - Other conflict areas such as ongoing conflict in African countries and the Middle East
- Turkey, Syria, New Zealand and other areas still recovering from natural disasters.
- Pray for the salvation of world leaders.
- World Churches

National:

- Salvation for all those involved in National politics and policy creation.
- May God be seen once again in our Country.
- May the Lord be seen clearly in the churches across our country.

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Provincial:

- Provincial leadership concerns.
- The salvation of our Provincial leaders.
- That our government's policies would somehow reflect God's glory and His will.
- That the churches of this province would be consumed with a passion for knowing God. That He would be seen in the policies and practices of each church and denomination.

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.
- Those in our church, and others you may know, who are struggling with physical and/or mental health issues.
- Pray any other requests you may have.

May the Lord continue to guide you as you seek to put His words into practice in your daily life.

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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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