

RESET 2021

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Monday, Jan. 4: *To Increase in Spiritual Hunger and Holiness*

As the New Year begins, ask the Lord to awaken your heart to His love. Pray for increased hunger to spend more time in prayer, worship, and God's Word. Pray for a greater awareness of God's holiness and ask Him to give you a tender conscience and a heart to please Him in your every thought, word, and deed.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51: 10-12, NIV).

It was Daniel's practice, three times a day, to go to an upstairs room in his apartment, open the windows facing Jerusalem, get down on his knees and pray to the one true God. No doubt, Daniel prayed at other times also. He probably prayed throughout the day. But there were these special times, set aside times, where it was his priority to meet with God in prayer. In fact, it was such a priority to Daniel that when the king passed a decree that for the next thirty days people could only pray to the king, Daniel was unfazed. **"No way."** Daniel may have been an important official in Darius' kingdom but when the king's law (Don't pray) conflicted with God's Law (Pray) the choice was clear. Daniel just kept right on praying.

You know the story. Daniel was thrown in the lion's lair but God protected Daniel, delivered Daniel, and honored Daniel. Then placed it in the Bible for all to see.

Of the many truths in this impactful chapter, one concerns Daniel's prayer. Three times a day he set aside a special time to pray. God nowhere commands us that we must do the same but there is wisdom here.

Wisdom would suggest a special time, or several briefer times, set aside each day to meet with God in prayer. A time we prize. A time we protect. A time we prioritize.

It's a given that we want to pray throughout the day; an ongoing conversation with our Father. But it is wise to also have a special time of prayer each day. Maybe it's not a long time but it is your time, yours as in you and God. It is your time, to talk and listen and be together, no matter what else happens that day, Take Your time to connect. During that time God will fill you up and restore your soul and prepare you for whatever the day brings.

Just show up.

PRAYER: Father, today as we begin a season of cooperate Pray and Fasting, we know we cannot rely on our own knowledge and understanding. We MUST have Your Loving Guidance and Imparted Wisdom to accomplish the goals You have set for us. May we consciously make time each day to talk to You but more importantly, may we take even more time to listen to what You are saying to us! Thank You for taking time to respond.

Tuesday, Jan. 5: To Draw Close to The Lord

Ask the Lord to reveal to you anything that would hinder your ability to come into His presence in a deeper way than you ever have before. Pray for the ability to see your sin as He sees it. Be brokenhearted over your sin and ask for forgiveness.

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully. (Psalm 24:3–4, NASB)

I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:5 NASB)

How Do I Draw Near to God?

How can I sincerely draw close to a God who is all-powerful, all knowing and fully aware of all the reasons I do not belong in His presence? Is it really safe? Is this really what God desires?

It is common in this Christian life to face serious insecurities when considering approaching God.

In my own life, I have experienced many dark seasons of feeling unworthy or uniquely disqualified from this privilege. Why the struggle? Because I know me! I know my failures. I know my inability to give God the righteousness He deserves. If I were Him, I wouldn't be pleased to have me come near.

Praise God...He knows we have these struggles. And, He has an answer.

First, my confidence in drawing near to God is not based on my performance. My confidence is in the performance of Jesus. Hebrews 4 tells us to come to God with boldness based on our full confidence in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.

And second, my confidence in drawing near to God is based on His love. I can trust His love for me. And strangely enough, the very things in my life that appear to disqualify me such as sin, weakness, failure, flaws, etc. - provide convincing proof of God's love. If someone says they love you, but are not familiar with your past failures or current weaknesses, you cannot be sure they really love you. But if they are fully aware of the "good" and the "ugly" and love you anyway...you are truly loved. Praise God! He knows it all and loves us anyway. My sin and weakness become my opportunity to really know He loves me. I can really trust His love for me.

Today we draw near to God. We do this by uncovering the "ugly" side. We confess our sin. We reveal the part of our life that puts His love for us to the test (at least in our minds). And praise God again; He proves His love. He forgives and loves us anyway.

PRAYER: Father, reveal anything in my life that would hinder my ability to come into Your presence. Help me see my propensity towards sin and help me change. Help me to see my sin the way You see it. Thank You for loving me in spite of my failures. Thank You for helping me to change.

Wednesday, Jan. 6: To Worship With A Whole Heart

I challenge you to Purpose to Worship the Lord with all your heart all day long. Despite all circumstances that might seek to diminish your joy, worship the Lord! Pray, Lord put me in the path of those who have a heart for worship and love to talk of Your goodness.

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly. (Psalm 111:1 NASB)

My heart said of You, "Go, worship Him." So I come to worship You, LORD. (Psalm 27:8 NCV)

To Worship With a Whole Heart!

In You, O God, I find my identity. When I come to seek You, I find that You are already here, seeking me. What gives my worship meaning is so much more than anything that I can do or say – it is You! You are the reason I came to exist, You are the giver of my next breath, and You are the reason for my continued existence. You are the reason I worship. I worship You with my whole heart.

I come to worship You because of who You are! You are the one and only true God! I bring you praise because of Your holiness. You are so gracious to us and You have already done more than enough for me to bring You thanksgiving. I worship You.

May my life bring glory to You, my Lord and my God. I want to worship You with my whole heart.

I am not ashamed to declare my love and adoration for You before others. All I am is Yours, and I belong to You. I am Your possession. May You be pleased with my worship.

I long to recapture a spirit of genuine worship, a personal revival of my whole being, heart, soul and spirit. Heaven and earth declare Your glory, O God, and so do I. All of creation submits to You, and so my life is surrendered to You. I am willing to do Your will.

How can I be in Your presence and not be changed? I long to be the kind of worshipper that You have been looking for, fully devoted to You. I worship You with my whole heart.

PRAYER: Humbly and yet confidently, I come into Your presence. I am relying on the promise of Christ, providing me the relationship with You as my Heavenly Father. Bring me fully into Your presence O God. Lead me more fully into Your will so that every day of my life will be worship, offering a living sacrifice to bring You glory.

Thursday, Jan. 7: To Set The Desire of Your Heart

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.
(Psalm 27:4 NASB)

Setting Our Hearts.

When it comes to setting our hearts in the proper place there may be no better example outside of Jesus than an obscure often forgotten figure in the Old Testament named Ezra. Ezra didn't lead the first wave of exiles back to Jerusalem, he led the second. He wasn't a powerful military leader, just a scribe. He didn't even show up in the book that bore his name until chapter 7 (out of only 10). But once Ezra arrived on the scene he arrived in force.

We learn that the hand of God was all over this man. (Ezra 7:6,9,28). That he successfully led 5,000 people with 30 tons of precious metals on a 4 month, 900 mile journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. (Ezra 8) That he was supremely concerned about holiness and the purity of God's people. (Ezra 9) And that he ultimately led God's people to repentance like few other scenes we read in Scripture. (Ezra 10)

So what's the point? The point is that all of Ezra's success can be biblically directed back to the place where he set his heart. Before the successful journey that led to all the holiness, purity, and repentance we learn this:

This is the key to Ezra's life of leadership and a clear guide to success with God in our own lives. Set (RESET) your heart to the study of God's word. Set (RESET) your heart to doing God's word. And set (RESET) your heart to giving God's word away.

The world needs more people like Ezra. Where will you set your heart?

PRAYER: Father, I want You to be the top priority of my life with nothing even close coming in second place. Help me Father to love You more than I ever have before. I want You to fill my heart, all of it, so there is no room for anything else with You having all my affections. I am praying earnestly for a RESET in my life!

Friday, Jan. 9: To Walk in Wisdom and Revelation

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

(Psalm 43:3, NIV)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and the incomparably great power for us who believe.

(Ephesians 1:17-18, NIV)

To Walk in Wisdom and Revelation.

Too often we slide slowly into the norm of pretending and stay there unaware. With this strange statement I mean that as Christ Jesus has resurrected our souls by His grace we know that light and life only come from Him. We are convinced of this emphatic truth.

We've looked elsewhere for life and have been awakened to its emptiness. But sadly we often return there - slowly, and slink into the gray of unintentional motion, conditioned responses and banal routine.

Lord Jesus...Open our eyes!

James, the leader of the Jerusalem church, reminds us that when we lack wisdom, we should ask it of God who gives generously. In Psalm 43, the Psalmist confesses that God's light and God's truth are the only reliable leaders, for they bring us to where He is.

God of Heaven...Lead us with your light and truth!

As we continue our way into this consecrated season of prayer and fasting, we are coming together as One family praying that God would lead us - open our eyes - and gift us with the moving power of His Spirit in a fresh and a new awakening way. This prayer is a heart-felt desire to return to True Reality, God's light and life. We know that Christ Jesus has resurrected our souls by His grace and that light and life come only from Him.

Light and Life come only from Jesus. Wisdom and Revelation come only from Jesus.

PRAYER: Father, we ask You to open our eyes to see Jesus more clearly and *Your ears to hear the things we should speak to. We pray for a Spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know Jesus more deeply and have a profound understanding of the hope that is in His heart for us.*

Saturday, Jan. 9: To be Filled with Power and Purpose

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. For you have heard my vows, O God; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. (Psalm 61:3, 5; NIV)

My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes. (Psalm 92:11; NIV)

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 (Rom. 15:13, NIV).

PRAYER: Father, we ask today to be filled with and controlled by Holy Spirit. We pray for the supernatural works of Jesus to be manifested in our lives and that those around us will be transformed as they seek to know the powerful God that we so willingly serve. We pray that we would fulfill God's purpose in our generation and that the very course of history would be changed not only because we have lived, but that Jesus Christ has lived in us!

Sunday, Jan. 1: To Find and Fulfill Your Destiny

... lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:24; NIV)

You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. (Psalm 18:36; NIV)

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. (Psalm 37:23; NASB95)

Our heart has not turned back, And our steps have not deviated from Your way. (Psalm 44:18; NASB)

Finding and Fulfilling Our Destiny.

So often we are the one to decide what we want to be or do with our life. As children we are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?”

There is an unspoken pressure to decide and then somewhere around your junior or senior year in high school it becomes spoken with a deadline affixed to your sophomore year in college. But, finding and fulfilling our destiny can only be done in God.

Joseph was given a dream, David had an encounter with a prophet and Joshua had a mentor. In all three cases God conveyed His plan into the lives of these individuals.

Jeremiah wrote that God has a plan for your life and when you seek Him you will discover your destiny (Jeremiah29:11-13). You will also find out His plan is far superior to yours.

Holding on to the dream is tough when you face prison time and accusation like Joseph did. The words of the prophet can fade away when you find yourself hiding and living in caves, as David did; the disciplines of your apprenticeship imparted by a mentor can become a lonely place when he is gone, that's is what Joshua discovered.

However, all three experienced what Mary said in Luke 1:37, **“no word from God is without power”**. It is only the word from God that can sustain you in the long term. His plan for our lives is better than our own. The greatest joy, fulfillment and success come when we seek Him about the direction for our lives and commit to follow His plan for us.

PRAYER: Father, it is our desire and fervent prayer today that You would share with us the plans that You have for our lives. We ask that You would give us the next step in Your Divine plan for our life and we will make a commitment to You today to follow Your plan for us not just for today, but forever.