

it is
Well
with my
Soul

NEW GENERATION CHURCH
21 Days of Praying & Fasting

Life GROUPS

"Growing BIGGER & smaller @ the same TIME."

LOOKING to grow in the area of discipleship this year? Get connected to a Life Group! Life Groups are sermon-based, discipleship studies consisting of people who assemble together for the purpose of prayer, fellowship, and in-depth study of The Bible along with its life lessons.

HOW

do I connect to a life group?

Connecting with a NGC Life Group is simple. Fill out the Life Group Connection Card, or you can go online to www.newgc.org/lifegroups to sign up.

WHICH

group should I connect ?

There are several groups to choose from and each group is led by a dynamic team of Life Group leaders who are eager to explore God's Word with you. Visit the website to find a location near you.

WHO

will be in my group?

Your NGC Life Group will consist of members from NGC, people in your community, visitors and friends.

WHERE

do groups meet?

NGC Life Groups meet either off-site or at our on-site location. Off-site groups meet in various communities such as in neighborhoods near you.

WHEN

do groups meet?

NGC Life Groups meet every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. January through May and then again in September through December.

NEW GENERATION CHURCH
www.newgc.org/lifegroups

Life GROUPS

get connected to a life group...

SIGN UP TODAY @

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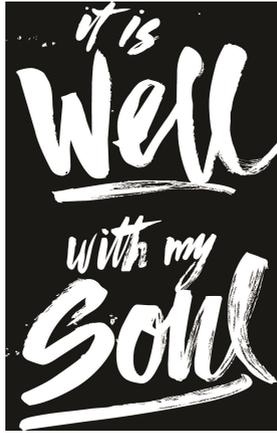


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PRAYER & FASTING

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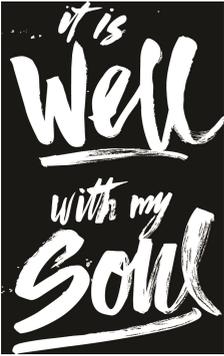
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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is indeed a blessing to transition into the year 2018! This year promises to be one of our very best yet! God Almighty, through the power of His Holy Spirit, will lead us into greener pastures, beside the still waters, and paths of righteousness (Psalm 23) for His glory, others' gain, and our growth. Is it "Well with Your Soul?" Over 2,000 years ago, there was such a precious price paid for our souls. "For he

hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). When we truly acknowledge, believe, and confess The Lord Jesus Christ; a radical transformation takes place in our hearts thus changing our lives forever (Romans 10:9-10,13; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:37). In spite of this world's calamities, along with its many stresses, strains and struggles, all born again believers can faithfully utter the words from a sincere transformed heart that, "It is Well with My Soul." The psalmist said it best, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, though the mountains shake with swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High"* (Psalm 46:1-4).

We can boldly confess, "My Soul is Well" because

1. **I have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.** (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; John 15:2,5; Romans 8:1-9)
2. **The Holy Spirit lives inside me.** (Acts 2:16-17; 2:38; 10:44-45; Isaiah 44:3-4)
3. **I am blessed regardless of my circumstances.** (2 Kings 4:26; Job 1:21-22; Genesis 29:1-6)
4. **My name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.** (Revelation 3:5, 20:12, 13:8, 21:27)

5. **I am a friend of God.** (John 15:13-15; I Samuel 18:1-3; Hebrews 4:15)
6. **I am heaven bound.** (Revelation 21:4; Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Peter 3:13)
7. **God's love toward me is unconditional.** (1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Matthew 22:36-40)

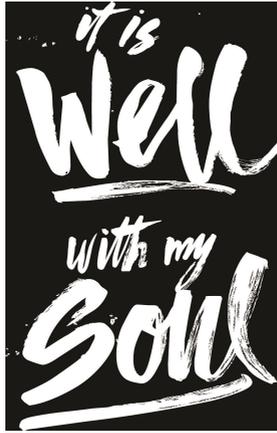
If it is indeed “Well with Your Soul,” embrace the newness and receive God’s best for your life starting this year and beyond. “The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul” (Psalm121:7). When it is “Well with our Soul,” we can boldly pronounce, “If God is for us, then who can be against us?” We can be fully persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31, 38-39). May the LORD bless you really good in 2018 and beyond!



In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Everage Thomas, III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Everage Thomas, III
Pastor



“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” - James 5:16b

PRAYER

When praying, make it your number one goal to know Jesus more intimately and experience Him like never before. Surrender all to Him, and believe that you can do all things through Him. Focus on His greatness, grace, and mercy. See your life through the filter of His love for you. The breakthroughs, miracles, and answers to your prayers will be byproducts of drawing closer to Jesus and growing in His perfect love.

FASTING

According to Vines Complete Expository Dictionary, the Greek word, nesteia, is “a fasting, fast” (from ne, a negative prefix, and esthio, “to eat”), and is used to define voluntary abstinence from food. Fasting is a powerful spiritual discipline that is designed by our loving, caring, sharing Heavenly Father for the purpose of connecting to HIM more intimately. Fasting is a way to demonstrate to God, and to ourselves, that we are serious about our relationship with HIM. We gain a new perspective and a renewed passion for HIM. Although this fast is only 21 days, denying the flesh of its desires will challenge you to trust God more readily instead of your flesh. Too often, the focus of fasting is on a lack of food. The purpose of fasting should rather be to take your eyes off the things of this world for the purpose of focusing completely on God.

Old Testament

- ◆ **Moses fasted** 40 days on behalf of Israel's sin: Deuteronomy 9:9, 18, 25-29; 10:10.
- ◆ **David fasted** and mourned the death of Saul: 2 Samuel 1:12.
- ◆ **David fasted** and mourned the death of Abner: 2 Samuel 3:35.
- ◆ **David fasted** and mourned the death of his child: 2 Samuel 12:16.
- ◆ **Elijah fasted** 40 days after fleeing from Jezebel: 1 Kings 19:7-18.
- ◆ **Ahab fasted** and humbled himself before God: 1 Kings 21:27-29.
- ◆ **Darius fasted** in concern for Daniel: Daniel 6:18-24.
- ◆ **Daniel fasted** on behalf of Judah's sin while reading Jeremiah's prophecy: Daniel 9:1-19.
- ◆ **Daniel fasted** regarding a mysterious vision from God: Daniel 10:3-13.
- ◆ **Esther fasted** on behalf of her people: Esther 4:13-16.
- ◆ **Ezra fasted** and wept for the sins of the returning remnant: Ezra 10:6-17.
- ◆ **Nehemiah fasted** and mourned over the broken walls of Jerusalem: Nehemiah 1:4-2:10.
- ◆ **The people of Nineveh fasted** after hearing the message of Jonah: Jonah 3.

New Testament

- ◆ **Anna fasted** for the redemption of Jerusalem through the coming Messiah: Luke 2:37.
- ◆ **Jesus fasted 40 days** before his temptation and the beginning of His ministry: Matthew 4:1-11.
- ◆ **The disciples of John the Baptist fasted:** Matthew 9:14-15.
- ◆ **The elders in Antioch fasted** before sending off Paul and Barnabas: Acts 13:1-5.
- ◆ **Cornelius fasted** and sought God's plan of salvation: Acts 10:30.
- ◆ **Paul fasted** three days after his Damascus Road encounter: Acts 9:9.
- ◆ **Paul fasted** 14 days while at sea on a sinking ship: Acts 27:33-34.

FASTING

What foods can I have during the Fast?

Foods to include in your diet during the Fast...

- ◆ **All fruits:** These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned (no added sugar). Apples, Apricots, Avocados, Bananas, Berries Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cantaloupe, Cherries, Coconuts, Cranberries, Dates, Figs, Grapefruit, Grapes, Grenadine, Guava, Kiwi, Lemons, Limes, Mangoes, Melons, Tangelos, Mulberry, Nectarines, Olives, Oranges, Papayas, Peaches, Pears, Pineapples, Plums, Tangerines, Raisins, Raspberries, Strawberries, Prunes.
- ◆ **Vegetables:** These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned (sodium-free). Artichokes, Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Zucchini, Turnips, Collard greens, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Ginger root, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Mustard greens, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Peppers, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Scallions, Spinach, Sprouts, Squashes, Sweet potatoes, Tomatoes, Watercress, Chili peppers, Brussels sprouts.
- ◆ **Legumes:** Dried beans, Black beans, Cannellini, Pinto beans, Split peas, Lentils, Black eyed peas, Green beans, Green peas, Peas, Kidney beans, Lentils, White Beans.
- ◆ **Nuts & Seeds:** All nuts (raw, unsalted) Sprouts, Ground flax, Cashews, Walnuts, Sunflower, Sesame, Almonds, Natural Almond Butter, Peanuts (includes natural peanut butter).
- ◆ **Whole Grains:** Whole wheat Brown rice, Millet, Quinoa, Rolled Oats, Barley Oats, Plain Rice cakes, Whole wheat pasta, Whole wheat tortillas, Popcorn (no salt) (see recipe in FAQ's)

Foods to avoid on the Fast: Juices with added sugar or preservatives, Flavored water or sparkling water , Crouton or bacon bits, Skin on Fish or Chicken, Sugar ,Mayo, Bread, crackers, Caffeine (coffee and sodas), Salt/Sugar, Junk Food (chips, pretzels, cookies, etc.) , Fried Foods, Fast Foods, Candy (gum, mints (sugar free ok), etc), Butter, Beef, Shrimp or Pork

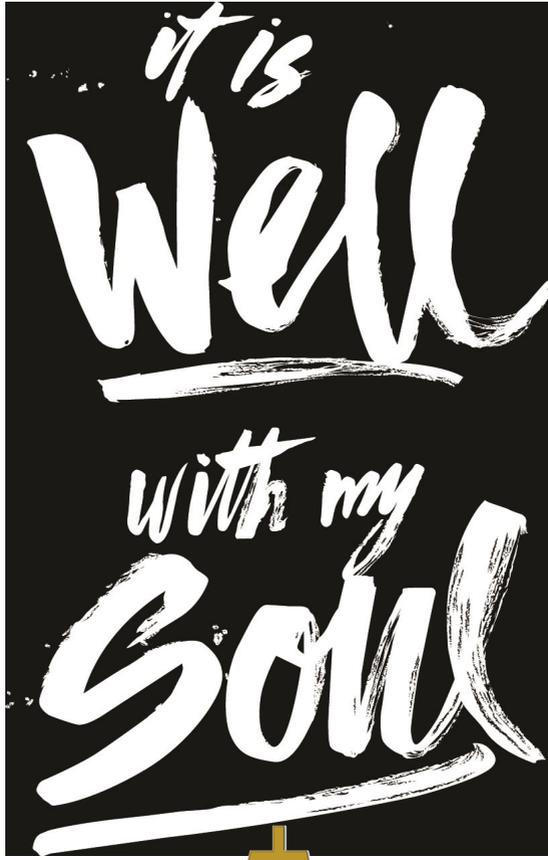
Fasting requires precautions. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, have a diagnosed medical condition, or on prescription medication, please consult your physician first. It is very important for you to use wisdom during this fast . (Matthew 7:24-27).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- ◆ **What about prepared foods?** Read the labels of all prepared foods. Remember the Fast is sugar-free and chemical free. So, if you use any canned fruits, vegetables, packaged foods, or prepared sauces read the label to be aware about just what is in there.
- ◆ **What about pasta?** Make sure the label says whole grain pasta with no additives (watch for sugar). Whole grain pasta offers 7 grams of protein per serving (3/4 cup of dried pasta).
- ◆ **I know it says raw, unsalted nuts, but what about roasted nuts?** The goal would be to stick to raw, unsalted nuts. But these are harder to find so in a pinch. Just make sure you get plain roasted, unsalted nuts with no preservatives.
- ◆ **How do I get enough protein in my diet while on the fast?** The following are protein-rich foods that are allowed on the Fast...almonds, sunflower seeds, lentils, quinoa, brown rice, split peas, whole grains, and tofu.
- ◆ **What kind of peanut butter is allowed?** A natural peanut butter with no additives...watch for sugars including molasses. Smucker's creamy natural peanut butter has nothing but peanuts in it.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- ◆ **What about popcorn?** Corn is listed in the vegetables to eat list. You can use a pot on the stove...here is a recipe. 1) Put two tbsp. of olive oil in the bottom of a large pot. 2) Add enough popcorn to cover the bottom of the pan. 3) Turn heat to medium high. Look for the first popcorn kernel to pop. 4) Put the lid on the pot. Using potholders shake the pot over the burner. 5) Continue shaking until you no longer hear kernels popping. Remove from heat.
- ◆ **How can I identify whole grain foods?** Typically if the ingredient lists "whole wheat," "rolled oats," or "whole corn" as the first ingredient, the product is a whole grain food item. Another way to identify whole grains in the foods you eat is to look in the nutritional facts information and check if the food item contains dietary fiber. If it contains a significant amount, it most likely contains whole grains. "Wheat flour" is not a whole grain and therefore does not indicate a whole grain product.
- ◆ **What about salad dressing?** Red Wine Vinegar, Olive oil and lemon or lime are options.
- ◆ **Do I need to eat organic foods while on the fast?** No, but it is suggested because organic foods are produced without the use of feed or fertilizer of plant or animal origin and without employment of chemically formulated fertilizers, growth stimulants, antibiotics, or pesticides.
- ◆ **Where can I go out to eat?** You can go anywhere and order cautiously, asking lots of questions to the wait staff, knowing ahead of time that you may be ordering a salad with olive oil.
- ◆ **What about bread?** We are recommending the Ezekiel bread found in the freezer section of your grocery/health food store.



NEW GENERATION CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL

READ Consistently

PRAY Often

EXPECT Change

DAY 1

YOU ARE SO VAULABLE

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are brought with a price therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

– 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Today's Focus: Did you know that you are most valuable to our Loving, Sharing, and Caring Heavenly Father? To try to put this in some type perspective, consider the following. Sold at Serendipity 3, an upscale restaurant in New York City, serves what they consider a deliciously expensive hamburger held together with a solid gold, diamond-encrusted toothpick. Cost, \$295. Recently, a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO became the most expensive car ever when it was sold in the United Kingdom to a private collector for \$35 million. In an auction in New Zealand, a single feather from the extinct Huia bird sold for \$10,000. Your soul, PRICELESS. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Recognize that you have been bought with a price, and no earthly value will ever equate to the value of your soul. The next time Satan tempts you, remind him that you have already been purchased by the precious Blood of Jesus.

Today's Scripture Reading: John 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:21-22; Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:20; 1 Peter 2:1-9

DAY 2

YES, REST FOR MY SOUL!

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. – Matthew 11:29

Today's Focus: Are you always tired? If not correctly balanced, the stresses of relationships, jobs, and countless other obligations can quite simply wear you out. Oftentimes, this type of tiredness can be remedied with a good sleep or some time spent away. But what do you do after a great sleep, or when you return from a relaxing vacation? Relaxation methods, some medications, and other self applied remedies only bring temporary relief to this type of fatigue, but never total transformation. There is a tiredness that goes beyond the surface of the physical realm and into the soul realm. True healing of this type of fatigue comes only by finding rest in Jesus Christ. "You will find rest for your souls is an echo of the Hebrew text of Jeremiah 6:16, where it is the offer of God to those who follow his way; Jesus now issues the invitation in his own name!" (France) Examine your heart. If your yoke seems difficult, burdensome, and heavy, then ask, "Have I received the invitation to let Him bare this challenge with me, or am I trying to do it all by myself?" Rest for your soul is experienced only when you take on the yoke of Christ. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

Today's Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:10-14; Hebrews 5:1-9; Luke 6:46-49; 1 John 2:1-6; Proverbs 3:17; John 16:33

DAY 3

LET US PRAISE THE LORD

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. – Psalm 34:1-2

Today's Focus: Do you praise God unconditionally? Have you settled in your heart to give God praise in spite of what is going on in your life? The condition of your soul is linked to the effectiveness of your praise. If your life is not overflowing with praise to The Lord God, it may be that you are losing an appreciation for His amazing grace on your life. Unfortunately, many Christians are waiting on God to do something before they even offer Him a sacrifice of praise.

The truth of the matter is that He has already done enough, and when it is well with your soul, praises are released from a heart that is founded upon the promise that He will never leave me nor forsake me. (Hebrews 13:5b) You should never have challenges thinking of reasons why God deserves your praise. As you think back over your life, take time and recount the blessings that He has lavishly poured out on you, your family, and friends. Remember how He answered your prayers, and gave you patience to endure the very thing that you thought was going to destroy you, but ended up making you stronger. Make a bold declaration that nothing or nobody can steal the praises that God has placed in your mouth! Praise is not only what you do, it is who you are at all times.

Today's Scripture Reading: Psalm 34:1-22; 42:1-11

DAY 4

THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE WORLD

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:2

Today's Focus: If someone handed you a four dollar bill to pay for groceries, you would probably look at them strangely and give it back to them. Why? There is no such thing as a four dollar bill. Even though it may have the appearance of real money, it is will never spend. The lure of the world system is real and unfortunately has found itself in families, communities, and even churches. When we know God's truth, it is easy to identify what is not of Him. Today, examine habits that you may have formed that may resemble worldly behaviors. Start with your thinking and addressing other areas such as your language, television selections, friends, and plans. Is God glorified in these things? Include any areas of challenge in this fast and trust God to empower you to no longer be conformed to this world. Remember, we are in the world, but not of the world.

Today's Scripture Readings: 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:3-15; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Revelation 2

DAY 5

HIS BREATH

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. – Genesis 2:7

Today's Focus: The story is told of a prideful man who one day challenged God to a man making contest. He argued with God that he could make a man. The day came when the challenge was to take place, and the man proceeded to get in position to challenge the Creator of all things to a man making contest. On your mark, ready set, GO! As soon as the man attempted to reach down to grab some dirt in the earth, God stopped him and said, "You are going to have to use your own dirt." The Psalmist said, "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1) Even the very breath we inhale and exhale is from God. How are you utilizing the breath that He placed inside of you? Only man is a living being made in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) The word breath in Hebrew is *ruach*. *The word imitates the very sound of breath, and is the same word for Spirit (pneuma).* Take time and examine how you are responding to the gift of God's breath. *Is He glorified? Have you used this tremendous gift for selfish gain? Reflecting over the awesome truth that The Spirit of God has made us, and that the breath of the Almighty hath given us life, (Job 33:4) is humbling thus causing us to respond by simply saying, "Here I am LORD."*

Today's Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:21-22; Psalm 100; 139:14; Isaiah 2:22; Acts 17:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:35-45

DAY 6

ROCK OF AGES

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.— Psalm 18:2

Today's Focus: In Matthew 7:24, Jesus said, “a man who takes the words of God and builds them into his life is like a wise man who builds his house on a rock.” It takes an intentional effort to attach a foundation to a rock. A house that is built on sand provides instant comfort, but leaves its occupants in a vulnerable, unsecure position. Conversely, the person who builds on the rock will enjoy peace, courage, and tranquility. Whichever storm comes into your life, the foundation that you are standing on will determine the outcome. The winds and the waves of life are promised, but if you are on the right foundation, trouble does not last always (John 16:33). This year, begin to build Jesus' truth into your life, so that no storm can unsettle you. What is your foundation built on? Let God begin the renovation process in your life to make all things new.

Today's Scripture Reading: Psalm 62:1-7; Psalm 91; Isaiah 32:2; Psalm 144:2; 2 Samuel 22:1-3; Proverbs 18:10

DAY 7

IT'S YOUR CHOICE TO REJOICE

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. – 1 Peter 4:13

Today's Focus: The word "JOY," carries the meaning of inner gladness; a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful and rejoicing behavior. Joy is not predicated upon outside circumstances, but is an attitude which focuses on the promised victory obtained through our Lord. Furthermore, joy is gladness not based on situations. It is much more than happiness. It is not based on financial success, good health, or popularity.

By believing in God, obeying His will, receiving His forgiveness, participating in fellowship with other believers, ministering to others, and sharing the gospel, Believers will experience true joy. It is comforting to know, that in the midst of our circumstances, The joy of the LORD can cause us not to focus on pain or discomfort, and to receive provisions for our change and healing.

Today's Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:13; Acts 5:41; Luke 6:22-23; James 1:1-5; Romans 5:3; 8:17; Revelation 1:1-7

DAY 8

MY SOURCE

Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. – Ecclesiastes 5:19

Today's Focus: God is never opposed to us having things. However, He is opposed to things having us. The very first commandment that God gave Moses was to have no other gods before Him. Unfortunately, many people today have turned their cars, jobs and even their spouses into a god. We were created to have dominion over the creation and not the creation to have dominion over us. It is imperative to keep in mind that God is the source for all of our provision. He uses resources such as our jobs, businesses, investments, other people, and the like, as conduits to bless His people. Learn to embrace and enjoy the blessings of God. He has “plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Is there something or somebody currently in your life replacing God as the source? Today, make a commitment to replace whatever or whomever it is with the gift of God to prosper at whatever you put your hand toward.

Today's Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 48:15; Exodus 20:3; Psalm 1 (entirety); 23 (entirety); Philippians 4:19

DAY 9

A FOOLISH TRANSACTION

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? – Mark 8:36-37

Today's Focus: Exchanging a precious soul for the riches of this world is indeed a foolish transaction. Here are three reasons why this can be considered FOOLISH. Firstly, when examining all of history, nobody has ever gained the whole world. Pharaoh, Judas, Alexander the Great, Hitler, Saddam Hussein, just to name a few, all fell short in pitiful attempts to conquer people, nations, and riches. Judas sold out Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). In his moment of hunger, Esau committed a foolish transaction by selling his birthright to Jacob (Genesis 25:29-34). Secondly, it is foolish to exchange your soul for worldly gain because you cannot keep what you have gained forever. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out (1 Timothy 6:7). The Psalmist clearly states, "Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him" (Psalms 49:16-17). Lastly, it is a foolish transaction because the world can never satisfy you. Jesus said, "no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Today's Scripture Readings: Philippians 3:1-9; Matthew 24:44-46; Proverbs 28:20; Matthew 25:14-30

DAY 10

A SOUL DISTRESSED

And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. – Mark 14:33-34

Today's Focus: Who can know the depth and intensity of the heart of God? No one can measure His sorrow over an unrepentant sinner or His joy over a spiritual rebel who relinquishes everything to Him. We can begin to understand what is on the heart of God only when He shares His heart with us (Amos 3:7).

Are you aware of the fervent emotions in the soul of our Lord, as He carries the weight of the world? The disciples were unaware of the deep anguish in the heart of Jesus. He willingly shared His heart with them. The disciples often seemed disoriented to what Jesus was feeling. When He took delight in young children, His disciples attempted to chase them away (Luke 18:15-16). When Jesus had compassion for a woman living in sin, they acted confused (John 4:27). While Jesus wept at the hopelessness of those facing death, His closest friends grieved as if Jesus had no power to raise the dead (John 11:1-44).

You can choose to be alert to the heart of God. As you seek to understand what God is feeling, He may share with you the intensity of His heart. When you are around other people, God may sensitize you to the love He feels for them. When you see others suffering, you may feel the compassion Jesus feels. When sinners return to God in repentance, you may share the Father's joy. You will react to evil the way Jesus reacts. If you remain alert in prayer, Jesus will share His heart with you.

Blackaby, Experiencing God Day-By-Day, p. 104

DAY 11

CHANGING RULERS

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. – Proverbs 22:7

Today's Focus: Debt is an interferer of your present, a destroyer of your future, and a robber of your destiny, but it does not have to be this way. “For a Christian, a Believer of Jesus Christ, it is not normal for him or her to have illegitimate debt.” You are in illegitimate debt when you do not have enough money to pay your bills and are living above your means. In fact, the Bible calls this wicked. “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.” (Psalm 37:21) The Message version of Proverbs 22:7 reads, “The poor are always ruled over by the rich, so don’t borrow and put yourself under their power.” To escape from the GRIP of debt, you have to have a plan. Before you continue this new year, STOP and develop a solid spending plan. Commit your plan to the LORD and allow Him to establish your ways. As a son or daughter of the King of kings and Lord of lords, make a commitment to represent Him well in your stewardship. (*click this link for plan template*)

Today's Scripture Readings: Proverbs 15:27; Proverbs 28:25; Luke 12:15; Luke 16:10-13; Proverbs 6:6-11

DAY 12

DON'T TAP OUT NOW

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.
- Psalms 139:13-16

Today's Focus: The very moment that you accept The Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, God deposits within you a divine nature. Divine nature is the nature of God deposited inside the believer in seed form. Inside the seed lies spiritual potential. It is all in the seed. When a seed of corn is planted, in that seed is all the potential of a stalk with a bunch of ears. The seed of an olive has inside of it multiple vines that will produce even more olives. An acorn has all the makings for a huge oak tree. Planted seeds grow, with the help of a little water and sunshine, into so much more than originally visible. We grow too with the help of water (The Word), and "Son shine." Don't tap out of life situations and challenges, but rather embrace them as part of your growth process in order to fully mature into fulfilling your greatest potential. You are not only capable of doing all things through Christ Jesus, but also most valuable to Him than you will ever know.

Today's Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 92:1-5; 104:24; 111:2; 2 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 13 (entirety)

DAY 13

EXCEEDINGLY & ABUNDANTLY

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

Today's Focus: Have you been trying to make life and behavioral changes by your own power? When we measure problems by our capacity to solve them, we will always fall short. However, when we yield to the awesome power of The Holy Spirit, a tremendous capacity to overcome is manifested right in the midst of the circumstance. Paul uses the Greek word *dunamis* for power in this verse. *This is our English word for dynamite. Unfortunately, many of our challenges and defeats are of our own power, and not the power of The Holy Spirit. When Zerubbabel was looking at the mountains of rubble and wondering how the walls of Jerusalem could ever be built again, the word of the Lord came to him saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6) Before Jesus released the Church to minister to a dying world, He first told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with this power (dunamis) from on high. (Acts 2) Stephen was empowered to do great wonders and miracles among the people. (Acts 7) Today, examine present challenges that you have attempted to solve by your own power, and not the power of The Holy Spirit. Yield to His power, stand and watch as you become a witness to the exceedingly and abundantly effects of obedience. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).*

Today's Scripture Readings: Psalm 36:1-9; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Romans 11:38; 16:27; Philippians 2:11; 4:20; Hebrews 13:15-16; Jude 25

DAY 14

Names and Titles of GOD

Adonai – Lord, master, the ruler

Elohim – God, the strong Creator

Jehovah – Lord, the self existing one

Jehovah El Elohim – the Mighty on, God, the LORD

Jehovah El Elyon – the LORD God Most High

Jehovah El Emeth – LORD, God of truth

Jehovah El Gemuwal – the LORD, God of recompense

Jehovah EloheAbothekem – the LORD, the God of your fathers

Jehovah Elohe Yeshuathi – the LORD, the God of my salvation

Jehovah Elohe Yisrael – the LORD, the God of Israel

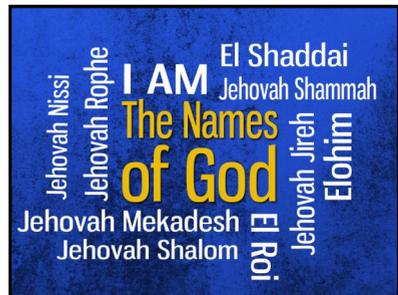
Jehovah Elohim Tsebaoth – LORD God of host

Jehovah Elohim – LORD God

El Bethel – the God of Bethel (the house of God)

El Elyon – God Most High

El Elohe Yisrael – God, the God of Israel



Today's Scripture Readings: Psalms 97:5; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:4; Joshua 22:22; Genesis 14:22; Psalm 31:5; Jeremiah 51:56; Joshua 18:3; Psalm 88:1; Psalm 41:13; Genesis 2:4; Genesis 3:9-13,23; Exodus 3:14

DAY 15

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. – Psalm 23:3

Today's Focus: One of the most important keys on any computer keyboard is the F5 key. The primary purpose of the F5 key is to refresh a stagnant program to its most current and accurate settings. Without ever pressing the F5 key, a user can remain at a screen that depicts a false image of what is really happening behind the scene. Your screen may say defeated, but when you press F5, it says VICTORY. Sometimes you may be stuck at loss, but when you press F5, it says GAIN. When you feel like giving up, press F5, then you realize that God is just starting. It is only when the F5 key is pressed that a user can experience the REFRESH.

Has your soul grown weary? Does your soul need to be refreshed? The Shepherd knows your every need, even before you ask Him. Whether you find yourself in the deepest valley, or at the highest mountain top experience, The Good (John 10:14), The Great (Hebrews 13:20-21), and The Chief (1 Peter 5:4) Shepherd takes great pleasure in assuring that your needs are met. He understands your burdens of life, persecutions of life, and how carrying the challenges of others can wear you down. He will never place more on you than you can handle. When you press the F5 key, He strengthens you through His powerful Word, through the comfort of others, and even in your current as well as future circumstances. Today, ask The Shepherd to refresh you and patiently wait in expectation as He fulfills His promises in your life.

Today's Scripture Readings: Psalm 19:7; Psalm 51; Hosea 14:1-9; Proverbs 8:20; Isaiah 42:16; Ephesians 1:1-14

DAY 16

“IT” IS TURNING AROUND FOR ME

Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:30-31

Today’s Focus: People are in one of three places as it relates to life. In a storm, heading for a storm, or just coming out of a storm. The incredible salvation experience for the jail keeper and his family demonstrates the power of the cross to turn around any situation. The jail keeper asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Notice that he asked this question in the middle of a crisis situation. The whirlwind circumstances that surrounded the jail keeper included a great earthquake that destroyed his place of employment, and an attempt to take his own life: Paul and Silas encouraged him to BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus, and they spoke the Word of the Lord to him and his family, and baptized them. Whatever your experiences are in life, learn to say with confidence that “This crisis cannot last in my life!” God specializes in turning around situations that seem insurmountable. Boldly confess, “God is turning “it” around for me!”

Today’s Scripture Readings: Acts 2:38-39; 4:12; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 5:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 10:1-5; John 14:1-6; Isaiah 45:22; Mark 16:16; John 3:15-16; 36; Romans 8:35-39

DAY 17

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! Isaiah 6:3

Today's Focus: It is impossible to truly worship God and remain unchanged. Isaiah was able to see The Lord in another dimension because what once hindered his view of The Almighty God was no longer there (Isaiah 6:1). When God is exalted, a clearer view of sin and a more realistic view of self becomes crystal clear. "The issues of life flow from the heart" (Proverbs 4:23). Real change happens from the inside out. Authentic worship is not predicated on how high you can jump, how fast you can run, or how loud you can scream. A key indicator of a true worship experience is a changed heart. A changed heart will lead to right attitude, right actions, and right relationship, all because you are in right standing with God The Father through Jesus Christ. Let us exalt his name together with a sincere heart in authentic worship that is pleasing to Him.

Scripture Reading: Revelations 4:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Exodus 15:11, Psalms 24:7-10, Psalms 72:19; John 1:41; Acts 4:27; Acts 10:38

DAY 18

THE EYES HAVE IT

O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

- 2 Chronicles 20:12

Today's Focus: Did you know that the words COMPLAINT and COMPLIANT are almost spelled identically the same? The difference is where the "i's" are placed. Where are your eyes placed? If you often find yourself in complaint mode instead of compliant mode, it may explain why you are stuck. Begin focusing your attention on being compliant with God's word instead of complaining about what he or she did ten years ago. King Jehoshaphat had every reason to complain about his situation, but chose to get in compliance to God's truth. In spite of being surrounded by opposition from every direction, he never took his eyes off God. Remember, "the battle is not yours, it is the Lord's." Focus on who He is and begin praising Him for His mighty works. Choose today to magnify your God, and no longer your problem.

Today's Scripture Reading: Psalms 25:15, Psalms 121:1-2, Psalms 123:1-2, Psalms 141:8, Jonah 2:4; 2 Chronicles 20:1-20; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

DAY 19

CALLED TO SERVE

That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage. – Matthew 20:28

Today's Focus: God has assigned you a divine purpose and your fulfillment of that purpose should result in a benefit to others. When God created you, he blessed you. You are called to serve, and blessed to be a blessing in the earth. Here are eight blessings we experience by serving others. Ask God how you can serve Him better while also being a blessing to others. Start serving today.

1) Serving allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts. 2) Serving allows us to experience miracles. 3) Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience. 4) Serving helps us to become more like Jesus. 5) Serving surrounds us with other Christians who help hold us accountable. 6) Serving increases our faith. 7) Serving allows us to experience God's presence in new ways. 8) Serving is encouraging and allows us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Today's Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:40; Luke 22:27, John 13:4-17, Philippians 2:4-8, Hebrews 5:8, Isaiah 53:5, John 10:15, Romans 3:24-26, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 2:24

DAY 20

THE COMMAND FOR BLESSINGS

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity... for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

—Psalms 133

Today's Focus: Unity has to do with same purpose. For example, if a praise and worship team is singing in great harmony, it is not because they're singing the same parts, but rather because they add their unique part to the same song. Examine your heart today and pray to the Lord that He aligns you to His purpose for your life. He commands blessings where there is unity. Invite the Holy Spirit to enter into your heart today, to begin restoring the spirit of unity, starting with you in your family.

Today's Scripture Reading: Principles of Unity: (1) Speak the Same Thing-I Corinthians 1:10, (2) Have the Same Mind-I Corinthians 1:10, (3) Have the Same Judgement-I Corinthians 1:10, (4) Have the Same Love-Philippians 2:1-3, (5) Show the Same Earnest Care-2 Corinthians 8:16, (6) Have the Same Spirit-I Corinthians 12:4, (7) Walk in the Same Steps – 2 Corinthians 12:18, (8) Have the Same Spirit of Faith-2 Corinthians 4:13, (9) Walk by the Same Rule-Philippians 3:16, (10) Show the Same Diligence-Hebrews 6:11

DAY 21

FINDING COMFORT

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Today's Focus: The Apostle Paul certainly knew about tribulation, but also trusted the comfort of Almighty God. God is the default Comforter. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, the pains that we experience in life drive us closer to comfort instead of drawing us farther away. With that said, we receive the most comfort when we make ourselves available, and are used by God in comforting others.

When a woman is in labor, she is in pain. In this situation, no one really knows exactly how long the pain will last. The husband is there, holding her hand, wiping her forehead, and giving her some encouraging words. That is all he can do. He is limited. Holding her hand does not change the pain. He is just there to comfort her. God desires to birth something new in your life this year. It is something much larger than what you are even thinking. His desire is to not only comfort you, but connect you with others who can walk with you as you go through the birthing process.

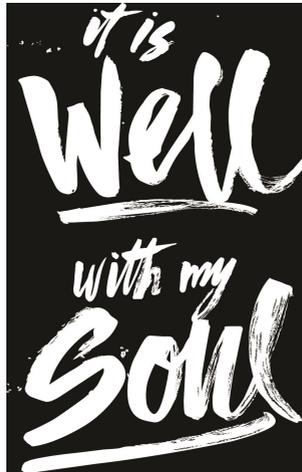
Today's Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-12; Isaiah 43:1; 2 Corinthians 7:5-7; 1 John 3:13-20; Isaiah 40; Philippians 2:1; Psalm 119:82

Praise The Lord for completing the fast!

Receive the changes that God has allowed to take place in your life. He desires to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ever ask or think according to the power that worketh in us! (Ephesians 3:20)

ENDING YOUR FAST

If you so choose, gradually introduce those foods you may have eaten before the fast. It will take time for your stomach and digestive track to adjust. Partake in smaller daily meals and light snacks. Exercise wisdom moving forward. Consider a lifestyle of healthier food choices moving forward.



New Generation Church

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Life***GROUPS**

"Growing BIGGER & smaller @ the same TIME."

iServe
NGC Ministry of HELPS
1 Corinthians 12:28

Prayer@9

2 Chronicles 7:14

Saturday's @ NGC

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STAY INFORMED!

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Reply STOP to cancel.
HELP for help.
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To subscribe, text NGC to 31996

Tonight's service is cancelled due to the weather

GENERATION 2020
1 Corinthians 13:13

it is well with my soul

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