

2019

Here Am I **SEND ME**

I Want To Be A Witness For The Lord

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Isaiah 6:8

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**
"Growing BIGGER & smaller @ the same TIME."

get connected to a life group...

www.newgc.org/lifegroups

**Groups Start Back in
February**



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NEW GENERATION CHURCH
21 Days of Praying & Fasting

POWER TO WITNESS



Pastor E. Thomas, III
& Lady Laura

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Praise our Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent God through whom all blessings flow. As we confidently enter into 2019, a year that promises to be a year of destiny, let us do so knowing that our God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ever ask or think according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20).

Our limitations are annihilated through the awesome, wonderful working power of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. Fear, doubt, past failures, and even current challenges are defeated as we lay at the feet our loving, caring, and sharing Heavenly Father. How desperately we need to embrace the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Oftentimes, it is only in our moments of hopelessness that we can envision by faith the need for the mighty hand of God, and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to intervene in our life circumstances.

Our Lord Jesus expressed the need for this power to be His witnesses. Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you will be witnesses unto Me." Jesus promised His disciples that the power that they would need to be witnesses of Him would be given to them when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Today, we have the same wonderful working powerful on the inside of our earthly temples (1 Corinth. 3:16-17). This power, along with our willingness to obey our Lord when called upon, regardless of the challenge, will give us the courage and passion to say, "Here Am I Lord, SEND ME."

The incredible story is told about John Harper. Who while aboard the Titanic, John led many passengers to faith in Christ. One young survivor, told of John's persistent witness. As the two were tossed around by the waves, John inquired twice as to whether the young man had accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Each inquiry brought the answer of "Not yet." John vanished beneath the waves. The young man later turned to Christ, and in a church gathering recalled his conversion, and concluded, "I'm John Harper's last convert."

Do you consider sharing the gospel message with others' to be a priority in your life? Do you know family members, co-workers, or friends who do not know the Lord? Have you ever shared the gospel with them? Have you invited them to church? The word of our Lord in John 4:35 says, "Do you not say, There are still four months until the harvest? I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ripe for harvest." Let's make 2019 a purposed year in which, the body of Christ, through the Power that works in us, commit to plant and water while trusting God Almighty to provide the increase. Let us say, "Lord, Here Am I, Send Me, I want to be a witness for you." When we make ourselves available, He will empower us to win souls for His Glory, others' gain, and our growth. May the Lord bless you real good in 2019!

In His Name,

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

Pastor Everage Thomas, III

NEW GENERATION CHURCH

21 Days of Praying & Fasting

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

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 who gives you strength (Philippians 4:13). Focus on His greatness, grace, and

mercy. See your life through the lens 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.

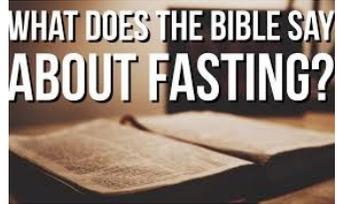


FASTING

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. Enter into this fast for His glory, others’ gain, and your continued spiritual growth.

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 types of foods can I have 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.

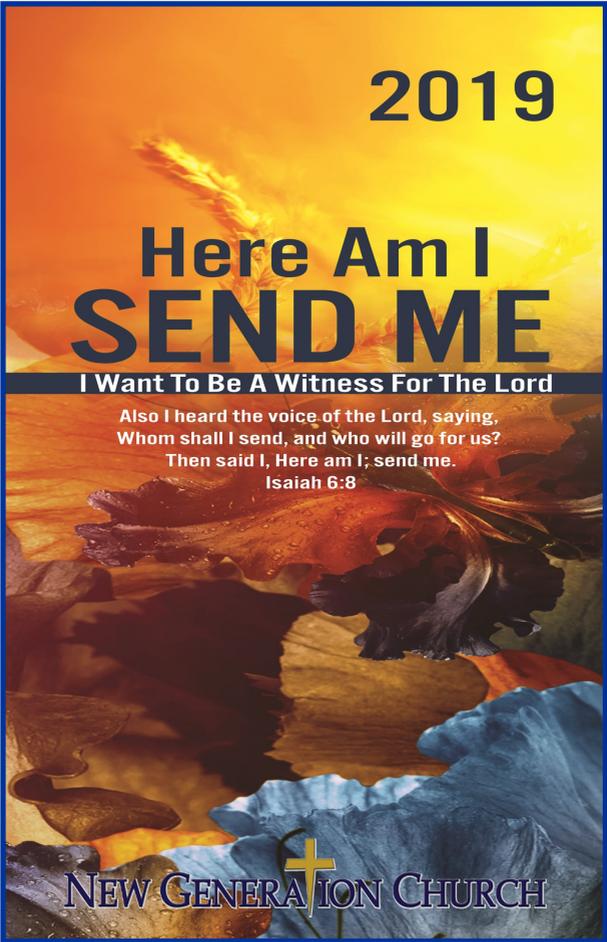
Fasting requires precautions. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, have a diagnosed medical condition, or on prescription medication, please consult your physician first. It is very important for you to use wisdom during this fast . (Matthew 7:24-27).

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.



DEVOTIONAL

READ Consistently

PRAY Often

EXPECT Change

DAY 1

BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS

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 their life, in a storm, heading for a storm, or just coming out of a storm. The extraordinary 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. This was followed by an attempt to take his own life. Paul and Silas encouraged him to BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus. They spoke the Word of the Lord to this depressed jailer, resulting in him and his family being saved and then baptized.

In spite of the severe persecutions and jail time, Paul and Silas embodied what it meant to be used of The Lord to bring others' to Christ. Do not allow your circumstances to rob you of the opportunities to be a witness for Jesus. 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. For this reason, regardless of the gravity of our situation, we can say, "Here am I Lord, SEND 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 2

SALT



Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. — Matthew 5:13

Today's Focus: Have you ever tried to order popcorn at a movie without ordering a drink? If the answer is yes, it was definitely a salty experience. Our Lord uses a very powerful metaphor to explain the impact the believer can have in the world. He teaches that we are the salt of the earth. The idea here is that our presence in the world will create spiritual thirst so that we can offer people the living water— Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. We are His witnesses in the earth, and therefore should have a passion and zeal to win souls. “He who wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30). The Lord is looking for witnesses. A witness is a person who testifies for a cause or has personal knowledge of a particular event that has taken place. God gives us all a platform to be a witness and help create a spiritual thirst in the hearts of those we influence. Begin to observe your surroundings, being sensitive to the opportunities that the Holy Spirit has created for you to bring God’s flavor into the lives of others.

3 KEYS

- 1) Be **sensitive** to the direction of The Spirit.
- 2) Be **swift** to the demands of The Spirit.
- 3) Be **steadfast** in the desire of The Spirit.

Today's Scripture Reading: Colossians 4:6; Mark 9:49-50; Hebrews 6:4-6; Proverbs 11:30; Matthew 28:18-20

DAY 3

BEGIN EVERY DAY WITH “GOOD MORNING,” AND EVERY EVENING WITH “GOOD NIGHT”



From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised. – Psalm 113:3

Today's Focus: How we start something, is just as important as how we finish it! Starting our day with The Holy Spirit requires “**our consecration that determines His participation.**” Why is starting our day with the Holy Spirit so important? When we start our day with Him, we have just done the most important thing we will ever do for the entire day. We have just removed the pressure from ourselves of having to do something “More Right” than we have already done for the day. We begin to truly understand, that we cannot figure out what only God can work out. The exceeding joy of our first moment with Him relieves the stress of living up to any other standard. Everything else is second at best because He has first place!

Furthermore, when we end our day with Him, we are committing the things we can change into the care of the “One who is strategizing” through every step of our lives. He has given us ability in our inability and we are committing the things we cannot change into the care of the One who is working all things out for our good. We have just removed the pressure from ourselves of having to sleep with the burdens that He promised He would bear, if we cast them “On Him.”

Today's Scripture Reading: Psalm 27; Psalm 113; Isaiah 49:13; Isaiah 59:19; Malachi 1:11; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Samuel 30:6; Mark 4:38

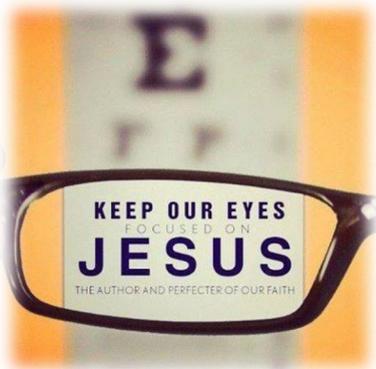
DAY 4

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 he chose to get in compliance with God's truth. In spite of being surrounded by opposition from every direction, he never took his eyes off of 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, Psalm 11:18; Psalm 34:15; Psalms 121:1-2, Psalms 123:1-2, Psalms 141:8, Jonah 2:4; 2 Chronicles 20:1-20; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; Matthew 6:22; 2 Kings 6:17; Proverbs 20:12

DAY 5

PRAY WITH HIM, NOT AT HIM

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.—Romans 8:27

Today's Focus: Praying to God, in the name of Jesus, in the power of The Holy Spirit, allows us the critical exit out of our natural, and escorts us into a realm of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit prays on our behalf, for everything in the right timing, for the right purpose, at the right place, for God's glory, others' gain, and our growth. What happens when we pray with Him? He prays the purpose of God for our lives. God is a God of providential purpose, and the Holy Spirit is praying the providential purpose into existence. What happens when He prays the purpose of God for our life? Our prayers get answered, because God's purpose is something He greatly honors.

It is impossible to doubt anything that the Holy Spirit prays through us, because faith is released anytime we say something He is saying. What makes praying in the power of the Spirit so much more incredible is that He is birthing every word through us. We know not what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit makes intercession for us with a great boldness. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide into deeper, more specific, and enriched prayers. Prayer involves not only praying in the power and boldness of the Spirit, but also listening to what He is saying. The blessings manifest when we step out by faith and obey what the Spirit is saying.

Today's Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-28; 2 Corinthians 12:5-10; Hebrews 4:15; Luke 11:1; Psalm 10:17; Ephesians 2:18; Jude 1:20

DAY 6

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, you would probably look at them strangely and give it

right 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 manifested severe consequences in families, communities, and even churches. When we know God's truth, it is easy to identify when something is not of Him. Today, examine habits that you may have formed 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; 1 John 4:4-5; 2 Peter 2:20; Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 4:22-24; Titus 3:5

DAY 7

SPIRITUAL FRUIT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.—Galatians 5:22-23

Today's Focus: Have you ever seen an apple tree produce oranges? No, never. The reason you will never see an apple tree produce oranges is because since the very beginning, the seeds inside of all fruit were designed by God to produce after their own kind. "And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was good*" (Genesis 1:12). As a believer of Jesus Christ, the capacity to produce spiritual fruit is inside of all of us. When we abide in Jesus, there are three characteristics that should be obvious as it pertains to spiritual fruit:

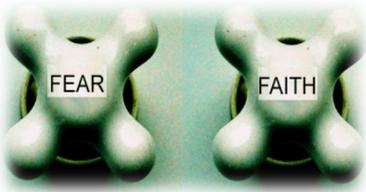
- 1) **spiritual fruit should be visible.**
- 2) **spiritual fruit is a product of the root.**
- 3) **the fruit produced should always be used to benefit someone else.**



How is your spiritual harvest? Which areas need pruning in your life? What would someone experience if they picked from your tree? Be honest. Allow Him to prune you beginning today.

Today's Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:11-12; Galatians 5:16-18; Psalm 1:3; Psalm 92:14; Matthew 12:33; John 15:1-10; Ephesians 4:29-32; Ephesians 5:9; Colossians 1:9-10; Titus 2:1-12

DAY 8



LIVING FEAR FREE IN A FEAR FILLED WORLD

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.—Genesis 3:16

Today's Focus: Where does fear come from? The originator of fear is The Devil. His goal is to bring fear in an attempt to challenge us to doubt God. Four things that we need to remember about doubt: 1) Doubt robs our faith 2) Faith will never increase where the presence of doubt exists 3) Doubt is what causes us to fear, and 4) Fear is camouflaged through our doubts. However, behind our fears rest some of the greatest opportunities of our lives. The Bible says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). We can only live a fear free life when we live our lives from the faith realm. Faith drives out fear, and invites confidence, tenacity, and a great clarity of purpose into our lives. Faith talks in the language of God while doubt communicates in the language of man. As we enter into this new year, let us do so by never Forgetting the greatness of our God, let us always Envision the best and never the worst, let us not Accept defeat before fighting the good fight of faith, and lastly let us ensure that we never Reject God's way of deliverance.

Today's Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 34:4; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 2:15; Luke 10:19; Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38; 1 Peter 5:7

DAY 9



THE DANGER OF GOSSIPING

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 1 Peter 3:10

Today's Focus: Four preachers were at lunch together and wanted to have a time of confession. They were talking about their various failures. One preacher said, "Well, you know, I sometimes watch movies I shouldn't watch." Another preacher said, "Well, you know, I occasionally go to the casino and gamble. I tell people that I go for the food, but I really go to gamble." The other preacher said, "You know, when I'm by myself, I smoke cigarettes, and cigars. The fourth preacher said, "Well, my sin is gossip and I can't wait to get out of here." The Hebrew word translated "gossip" is defined as "one who goes about as a talebearer or scandalmonger." A gossip is a person who has been given privileged information about people and proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it. Gossip is disguised as a friendly invitation for fellowship, but contains a disastrous disease inside. Are you a gossip? Do you fellowship with others just to get the newest and latest tidbits, and juicy details about someone else? Remember, someone who gossips to you will most certainly gossip about you. Be careful this year to guard your mouth and use it to glorify God rather than tear down others. We will give an account for every careless word spoken at the day of judgment (Matthew 12:36).

Today's Scripture Readings: Exodus 23:1; Psalm 34:19; Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 26:20-22; Proverbs 19:18; Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 20:19; Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 18:8; Ephesians 4:29-31; James 3:5

DAY 10

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 11

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 12

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

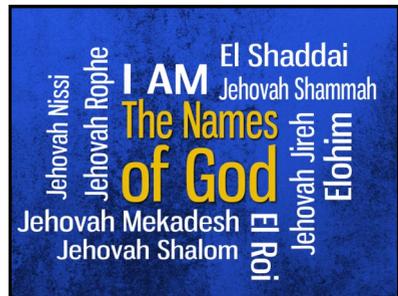
Jehovah Elohim Tsebaoth – LORD God of host

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 13



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 you are 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;

DAY 14

BELIEVER'S MATURITY

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.—Hebrews 6:1-2

Today's Focus: In order to go unto perfection or maturity in our understanding of doctrine, we need to move beyond, but not away from, the elementary teachings to a more complete understanding of the Faith. Mature Christians should be teaching and demonstrating through a lifestyle of holiness, the foundations of the Faith to new believers. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need for milk, and not strong meat" (Hebrews 5:12). The level of our maturity is important to our loving, caring, and sharing Heavenly Father.

The Level of Our Maturity is the Level of Our Ability to:

1. HEAR FROM GOD, STEP OUT BY FAITH, AND OBEY WHAT HE SAYS
2. TRUST GOD WHEN THINGS GO WRONG
3. YEILD YOUR WILL IN SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE WITH HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS
4. ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER
5. FORGIVE AND GET OVER THE OFFENCE
6. GIVE (WE ESTABLISH OUR LIVING BY OUR GIVING)
7. BE FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE, AND TEACHABLE
8. KEEP FOCUSED ON YOUR PURPOSE, AND STAY IN THE POSITIVE LANE
9. KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT
10. LET GO IN ORDER TO GO ON

DAY 15

HIS PLAN IS GREATER



"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." - Jeremiah 29:11

Today's Focus: Jeremiah 29:11, is one of the most comforting scriptures in all of the Bible. This was a Word for those who were taken captive by the Babylonians. Jeremiah told them to settle down in Babylon, build houses, plant gardens, and not to hope for a speedy return to their homeland. God also communicated through this prophet that the people would be there seventy years, and encouraged them to not listen to false prophets who spoke otherwise. Despite the situation we find ourselves in, *God's thoughts toward His children are always thoughts of peace and not evil.*

Settle in your heart today to listen to the One who understands our situation better than anyone else in the universe. He will deposit a plan in our hearts thus causing us to rejoice, even in the midst of hardship. When you are down to nothing, remember that God is up to something. He has a plan for us to overcome and continue to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

Today's Scripture Reading: Isa 14:24; Isa 30:19; Isa 40:2; Jer 15:11; Jer 31:17; Ezek 36:37; Zech 13:9; Acts 27:31; 1 Cor 10:13

DAY 16

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: marvelous 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 unperfect; 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 17

A HEART FOR CHANGE

...from henceforth thou shalt catch men.—Luke 5:10 b

Today's Focus: April 15, 1912, was one of the great tragedies of the twentieth century. The Titanic sunk. This large ship (which many believed was unsinkable) hit an iceberg and of the 2,223 people onboard, 1,517 died. There is another tragedy with the Titanic. Most of the lifeboats that saved people from death were only half filled. There were unwilling to turn back and share in their salvation. This is a sad commentary that is unfortunately playing out even today amongst born again, sanctified, and Holy Ghost filled believers. According to an article from *Street Level Evangelism*, entitled "Where is the Space for the Local Evangelist?," The Church has much room for improvement in area of evangelism.

- Ninety-five percent of all Christians have never won a soul to Christ.
- Eighty percent of all Christians do not consistently witness for Christ.
- Less than two percent are involved in the ministry of evangelism.
- Seventy-one percent do not give toward the financing of the Great Commission.

Because Jesus has all authority, we are therefore commanded to go! It is His authority that guides us, and His authority that empowers us. His work and message will continue to the world through his disciples.

Today's Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 9:36; Acts 4:12

DAY 18

BUILT ON A ROCK

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. —Matthew 7:24

Today's Focus: The Christian life is hard work. Living as a believer of Christ Jesus involves systematically striving to implement the truths of God's Word into your life. Spiritual depth and maturity do not come without consistent effort.

Jesus had just concluded the Sermon on the Mount, which sets forth some of the most profound truths ever spoken. The Son of God had clearly explained the kind of life that is pleasing to the Father. Yet Jesus know, even as He was concluding His sermon, that some of His listeners would leave and never apply a word they had heard.

Jesus said that 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. Rocks are hard to build on. It takes great effort to attach a foundation to a rock. A house built on sand provides instant comfort; building on a rock is laborious and tedious. Building on sand leaves the builder in a vulnerable position, while the one building the rock is secure.

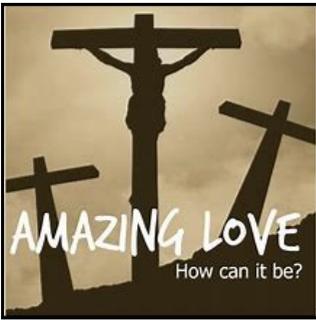
How can you tell what kind of foundation a life has been built on? Watch to see what happens when a storm comes. A life built upon the Word of God will withstand the very storm that sweeps away the life that did not heed God's Word. There are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity. Maturity comes only through hard work and obedience to what God says. The next time you hear Jesus speaking, begin immediately to firmly build His truth into your life, so that no storm unsettle you.

DAY 19

AMAZING LOVE

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8

Today's Focus: The whole human race is found guilty under God's law. No one is exempt from the penalty of the law of sin and death. There is none righteous, no not one. (Psalm 14:1-3, Romans



3:10-12) What is amazing about the greatest love story ever told, is that love was demonstrated towards a people who really deserved to die. The story is told about a man who was found guilty of a crime that he indeed committed. As he stood before the judge to receive his sentence of death, the judge began to do something very unusual. The judge issued

the sentence, took off his robe, and then came down from his bench to where the guilty man stood. He whispered in his ear, "I will take this punishment for you my son. Go, live and let others' know that this gift is available to all who receive me." Our Judge came down from heaven to earth, he was made sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. This has given us a clear path to abundant and eternal life. Hallelujah to The Lamb of God!

Today's Scripture Readings: Rom 5:20; 3:5; John 15:13; Eph 1:6–8; 2:7; 1 Tim 1:16; Isa 53:6; 1 Pet 3:18; 1 John 3:16; 4:9, 10 ; Gen 22:2; Gen 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21

DAY 20

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 21

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 are singing the same parts, but rather because they add their own unique flavor to the same song. Examine your heart today and pray to the Lord that He helps you align 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, then your family, your church, your community, and city.

Today's Scripture Reading:

10 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



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.

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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

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