

January Consecration Fasting Primer

Biblical Fasting is refraining from food for a spiritual purpose. It is a normal part of a relationship with God. When you eliminate food from your diet, your spirit becomes uncluttered from the things of this world and incredibly sensitive to the things of God. Psalm 42:1-5 - David's hunger and thirst for God was greater than his natural food. Job 23:12; Matthew 5:6

Fasting help brings the faith to obtain open doors, miraculous provision, favor, and the anointed touch of God on one's life. Every assignment has a birthplace. When God has placed a dream inside of you that only He can make possible, you need to fast and pray. Good or bad, what's in you will come out only when you fast and pray.

Ecc 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Jesus taught the principles of the kingdom of God in the sermon on the mount. In Matthew the sixth chapter, Jesus addresses giving, praying, and fasting. Giving is the element of religion that deals with others. Praying is the element of religion that deals with God. Fasting is the element of religion that deals with self and the mortification of your flesh. Jesus sums up the whole area of religious responsibility. He instructs that just like giving and praying; fasting is a normal part of Christian life. When we relate giving, praying, and fasting to Solomon's principle in Eccles. 4:12; these concepts when practiced in a believer's life is a type of threefold cord that is not easy to break.

Mark 4:8,20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

When a seed is sown on good ground it will bring productive results. However, the amount of yield from those seeds on good ground depends on the desire of the believer to cultivate the faith in his heart. Prayer or any one "cord" of a threefold cord is relative to "thirtyfold" fruit. Combine praying and giving, some sixtyfold fruit and so on combine prayer, giving, and fasting make possible a breakthrough faith to release a one hundred-fold blessing.

Heb. 12:1 ¶ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, **and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, "Besetting sins" are attitudes or habitual sinful behavior that victimize and enslave people. Besetting sins is sin which takes away your will and holds your power to choose hostage. Forced to play a game where you always loose and then can't quit the game. Some are in bondage to alcohol, drugs, sex, and tobacco addictions. Others struggle

with compulsive eating, extra-marital affairs, and lying. Any sin that can't be broken with ordinary will power is a besetting sin.

A look at Matthew 17:14-21

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Jesus gave power to his disciples to cast out unclean spirits. Since this fact was established the disciples wanted to know why they could not cast the demon out of the boy... Matthew 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

Jesus final comment of response, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Jesus express to the disciples that faith was necessary, even faith as small as a tiny seed. However, Jesus fasted forty days and nights in the wilderness, led there by the Holy Ghost. That stubborn demon was not impossible for Jesus. The son of God fasted, knowing there were supernatural things that could only be released that way.

Matthew 6 and Daniel chapters 1 and 10. God delights in giving open rewards.

Dethrone King Stomach (Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17; 3:6)

With one meal Adam and Eve went from peacefully enjoying God's presence in the cool of the garden to fearfully hiding from his presence among the trees of the garden. There is a battle raging over who controls the appetite (inner desire) part of your life.

The cities Sodom and Gomorrah had the sin of rampant homosexuality throughout its borders. But that is not the whole of the biblical description.

Ezekiel 16:49 Your sister Sodom's sins were pride, laziness, and too much food, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. 50 She insolently worshiped many idols as I watched. Therefore I crushed her. (LB)

Sodom had no giving (poor and needy) and no praying (pride and laziness) going on. They were not only guilty of the sin of homosexuality, but also of gluttony (too much food). Their loyalty to "King Stomach" took them right into damnation (1 Corinthians 6:13).

Esau fell prey to "King Stomach" in choosing red lentils and bread over his promised birthright. The birthright automatically insured that Esau would receive a double portion of all of his father's estate (Genesis 25:34). God had a plan, a destiny, a will for Esau's

life, but his lust for food and instant gratification was more important (Hebrews 12:15-17). We cannot elevate anything above God (Matthew 6:33).

Numbers 11:4-7, 18-20, 31-35

God delivered Israel after 400 years of slavery in Egypt, millions of Israelites and a “mixed multitude” of others were led miraculously through the Red sea on their way to the Promised Land. God provided for their every need on their journey, even feeding them bread from heaven daily (Psalm 78:24-25). The manna provided such a perfectly balanced diet that there was not one sick or feeble person among them for forty years. However “the mixt multitude” yielded to intense craving and “fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?” For their murmuring and complaining the bible says, “The Lord heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it. 19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, 20 but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”” (NIV).

It is discerned that they had quail in such abundance that it was 2-1/2 feet deep. While the meat was in their mouth, thousands of them died via a plague because of craving for other food and was buried. The place was known as Kibroth Hattaavah, which means “The Graves of Lusters”. It became a memorial to those who ate themselves right out of the Promised Land.

Swatting Flies

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils (Matthew 12:24).

An accusation by the Pharisees blaming Jesus of operating with the power of Satan, or as they called him, Beelzebub which means, “lord of the flies”. As we view the text in a more figurative sense, observation of how a fly functions in nature, informs us about some areas of the demonic world. There is vulnerability in Satan’s kingdom which relates to the life span of flies. When you study any of the species, most of their reproductive cycles can range from a day to as many as forty days. In order to eliminate an infestation of flies from a crop, for example, you would have to spray pesticides for forty consecutive days in order to utterly destroy them. If you stop short of the full forty days, you will destroy only the existing generation, but the next generation will live on. Just as spraying pesticides for a full forty days wipes out an infestation of flies, when we enter into a season of forty days of fasting and prayer, we can break free of the bondages in our own lives and in the lives of the next generation.

And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him (Mark 1:13).

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me (John 14:30).

Satan was considered “the ruler of this world” having usurped Adam’s authority. But he had nothing in Jesus. Jesus had defeated him long before, when he did not fall for any of the devils temptations in the desert (Hebrews 4:15).

If you have been trapped in bondages that you have tried to eradicate, only to have them come back again and again or you have lived free from the effects of those sins but you are seeing the cycle repeated in your children, it may take more than a flyswatter to remove an infestation of Beelzebub’s minions.

Significance of Forty

Throughout the Bible, the number forty represents cleansing, purifying, and preparation. The flood in Noah’s day was forty days to cleanse the earth of wickedness.

Moses fasted forty days on two occasions: First while receiving the Law of God, the Ten Commandments and second interceding for the sin of the people. Nineveh was given forty days by Jonah to repent or expect judgment. The people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them (Jonah 3:1-9). Elijah fasted forty days after the defeat of the 850 prophets of Baal on Mt.

Carmel. An angel fed him that he might receive strength. He spoke with God and received new direction. The oppression of the enemy was broken, his doubts and insecurities were removed. The word he received affected the next generation (1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 9:36-37).

Flies represent demons in the scriptures. When we observe the symbolism of the bible concerning the spirit world many animals are used to demonstrate demonic activity. In Matthew 13:4, 19. When the seed of the word of God is sown, the fowls of the air come to eat it up. When Jesus said, “They will take up serpents” (Mark 16:18), he was referring to demon powers. The Bible talks about treading on snakes and scorpions (Luke 10:19). David foretells Jesus experience on the cross saying, “Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me” (Psalm 22:12). These demon spirits attach themselves to our lives as generational curses, bondages, strongholds of the mind, lust, perversion, and addictions of every sort. We do not want to “swat at flies for a few days” when they are in our faces. They go away for a while, but keep coming back. We want to clean house.

Solomon wrote, “Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour (odor)... (Eccles. 10:1a). Flies would get into the special anointing oil.

They'd get stuck in it, die, and spoil the fragrance. Flies hinder the anointing in your life. Your worship gets polluted by flies of lust and perversion. God desires us to walk in that pure anointing that pierces hearts, breaks yokes, delivers from bondages, and heals the sick. It's time to get rid of the "flies" in your marriage, your mind, your house. They cannot stand the power of the Holy Ghost and the intimacy of the presence of Jesus that comes from forty days of consecration bombarding heaven.

God's Coming to Dinner

Psalm 50:12-15 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

A mother can be an excellent cook; but if she gets caught up in other things that all she ever puts on the table is microwave dishes every night of the week, I don't think it would take very long for us to find somewhere else to eat. What if God were hungry and all we have to feed him is our same dull religious routines day after day?

God told Israel. "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He does not need our routines or heartless activity. He does not want our "leftovers" when he can get "fed" elsewhere. True worship that comes from our hearts feeds Him and satisfies Him; it is something that He desires and deserves (John 4:23-24). The discipline of fasting breaks you out of the world's routine (Romans 12:1-2). It humbles you, reminds you of your dependency on God, and brings you back to your first love. God desires to move powerfully in your life. His plans for you are always progressing and developing. He desires to speak to you as one would speak to a friend.

Genesis 18

Abraham worshipped God, obeyed His call to go to a land that God would show him. He left everything behind. His faithfulness had fed God for many years; and then suddenly he the opportunity arise to feed God in a natural sense (Genesis 18:4). To dine a good gift from God because it is the source of fellowship. The mealtime is when all of those independent activities stop and we come together and we enjoy each other and it's always been that way. When you feed God, He will tell you things that He may hide from others. After they ate, God told Abraham, he and Sarah would have a son in a year. He shared the plans for Sodom and Gomorrah. With being in this intimate place with God; Abraham was able to intercede for the righteous found in those wicked cities.

John 4:23-34

The words of Jesus set the woman at the well free. She was living with a man who was not her husband. Her relatives had routinely worshipped in Samaria, but had been told they were to worship in Jerusalem. After conversing with Jesus, she ran back to town telling everyone to come see a man who told me all things that I ever did (John 4:29). The town came out to see, hear, and worship Him. In the meantime the disciples returned with food, but Jesus replied that He was not hungry. He said, "I have food to eat of which you do not know... My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work." (John 4:32, 35). It appears the worship of that woman had so satisfied Jesus that He was no longer hungry for natural food.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Mark 7:24-30

Hungry people are desperate people. The Greek woman was hungry and it did not matter how Jesus addressed her. Her faith was persistent. Many of the children who had sat at the table had not shown any hunger; Jesus honored her request.

Acts 10

Cornelius heart was stirred with a great hunger.

Matthew 12:1-8

God honors what others call "unlawful" hunger. When you hunger for God; God will break the rules of man and cause his favor to come upon your life. Anybody can be normal. Normal is overrated. The Bread of Life is in your grasp.