

# Pastor George's Notes

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"Fasting"

January 1, 2012

- Preparing our church for a breakthrough with a corporate fast for the next 21 days.
- Beginning at 6pm tonight, the entire church is encouraged to fast and pray as we seek God's purpose and plan for our lives and this church family.
- We will be praying specifically over areas in our lives that we believe Holy Spirit is addressing.
- Please consider this time as one of the more important things we will do in all of 2012!

## Matthew 6:1-18 (MSG)

### QUESTION:

*Why are we beginning this year with a 21 day fast?*

### ANSWER:

*Corporately fasting in January is much the same precept as praying in the morning to establish the will of God for the entire day. I believe that, if we will pray and seek God and give Him our best at the first of the year, He will bless our entire year.*

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33).*

- Fasting is a short season that produces a lasting effect.
- Out of 365 days in a year, 21 days is not that long to take a break from your routine and experience a fresh encounter with God.
- We (our family, our church and our nation) need to humble ourselves and pray...as the word declares: "...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

## The promise of God is steadfast:

*"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb. 11:6)*

## Path to God's Power:

- We need the cutting edge back.
- We need the cutting edge back in our prayer life.
- We need the cutting edge back in our preaching and ministry.
- We need the cutting edge back in our church, our families, and our marriages.
- We need the cutting edge back in our jobs, our careers, our finances.
- We need God's supernatural power in our daily lives.

*The world needs a people of God who walk in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit that pulls down strongholds and sets the captives free. But, there are no "people of God" without there first being a willing "person of God." If you are tired of dull church, if you are tired of a cold, dry, barren relationship with Jesus, it is time to regain the edge. It is time to declare a spiritual fast. The Bible declares that "the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way." (Ps. 37:23). I believe God is going to establish who He is in your life again, afresh and anew. The victory that Jesus won against the devil when He fasted 40 days established a pattern for you and me to follow.*

## What Fasting Produces:

1. Fasting gets you in a position to receive personal blessing and guidance for your life.
2. Fasting enables us to regain the edge, so we can do far more by the Spirit of God than we could ever accomplish with our own strength.
3. Fasting helps us to break out of the routine in order to draw closer to God.

4. Fasting is a principle that God intended for all of His children to participate in. It's not a punishment; it's a privilege.
5. By making fasting a way of life, you can get closer to God and grow in your spiritual walk like never before.
6. Fasting is one of the most powerful weapons God has given us for our daily lives.

Through fasting, you can experience a release from the bondage of sin, restoration in your relationships, financial blessings, spiritual renewal, supernatural healing and so much more.

**In closing:**

*Another great promise, from the book of Isaiah, proclaims that the chosen fast will "undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free." We are living in tough economic times and I know that so many people are under a financial burden.*

**Isaiah 58:6-8 (NKJV)**

**6** " Is this not the fast that I have chosen:

To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,

To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?

**7** Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;

When you see the naked, that you cover him,

And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

**8** Then your light shall break forth like the morning,

Your healing shall spring forth speedily,

And your righteousness shall go before you;

The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

*As we come together to fast and pray, I believe that your burdens will be lifted and that financial blessings will be released into your life.*