

# **FASTING**

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## 1. THE IMPORTANCE OF FASTING

We are going to look at what the Word of God says about fasting. It is an important key in the Christian life and prayer. We will specially focus on different aspects of fasting in relation to prayer and the whole of the Christian life. What does His Word say about fasting? Turn to Gen. 3 where we see the serpent tempting the woman and the woman was with the man as they were standing there before the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Remember it was a physical tree. But God has given His Word and God Word says, “Don’t eat of that tree. In fact, God has created many other trees in the Garden of Eden. It just like the devil makes you forget about the million of things that God has given and makes you focus on the one thing that you think God should do and has not done. There are hundreds and millions of ways that God has poured on us His love and blessing. God said I have given you every tree for food. And here is the silly old devil coming through the serpent and told Eve to look at that one single tree out of all the many, many other trees in the Garden of Eden. And here they are all paying attention to one insignificant little tree. And that is the way the devil is. That is the devil’s nature. And I encourage you not to keep looking at those things that should be done and should have not been done. You must count your blessings one by one and then you would see what God has done. Don’t forget the many blessings that He has given onto you. And when you look at one another and relate to one another don’t look at the one tiny point in the other person that is the flaw or the character or weakness and forget about the other things that God has placed in his or her life. Each one of you is beautiful. Turn to one another and say I like you even though sometimes you are nasty I still like you because I see more good in you than any other things. That’s the nature of God. God sees some things in your life that is worth redeeming. He sent His Son all the way to redeem you and I. He saw something in us to make something beautiful out of all of our ugly confusion.

In the Garden of Eden, here was the woman with the man. And this is what the serpent said in Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman. “Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” God did not say that. But the devil was trying through the serpent to get the attention of one tiny tree. And the woman said God has said that you shall not eat of this tree of knowledge of good and evil which is in the midst of the garden. The woman said God said don’t eat and don’t touch. She added to God’s words. God just said don’t eat. She said God said don’t eat and don’t touch. As usual, the snake always gets longer. In verse 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food. Now the woman saw that the tree was good for food. Her appetite was drawn out. Her flesh came out. If you sin its because of your flesh. Her flesh got pre-eminence over the commandments of God. So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes. That means it must be quite a lovely looking fruit. Some fruits look very lovely; some fruits don’t look very lovely. This was one of the fruits that look nice. And a desirable to make one wise.

Now that part was a deception. The devil told her this would make you wise. So, she reasoned within herself. Now observe how the sin came into the world. Her action followed. She saw, she liked it and she ate it. She acted on what she saw. She took that fruit and she bit it with her physical mouth. And the moment it entered her system it was not because of the fruit alone but the act of eating. Do you know sin came into

the world by the mouth? The woman ate and her dumb husband was next to her didn't rebuke the devil. God said to them to take authority over everything, including that creep. He didn't take authority. He was standing there next to the woman. The woman took the forbidden fruit and gave it to her husband. The husband ate it and sin came in immediately. Sin came into the world through the act of eating. The act of eating caused disobedience to God's command. It was a natural command broken. It was a spiritual command broken. God says that I have given this command to prove your obedience to Me. So, sin came into the world through eating. The organ of eating has been an opening for sin to come into the world.

Many thousands of years later Jesus came along the scene. He came to redeem the world. When He started His ministry, the same old devil came to Jesus and he has not changed through the ages. And Jesus has fasted for 40 days and 40 nights without food. Jesus had fasted, spent His time with God and the 40 days fast was over. Here comes the devil, now through the 40 days of fasting He was also tempted. Now at the conclusion, He was still tempted. And this is where the devil came in Lk. 4:2 Being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterwards when they had ended, He was hungry. He was physically hungry and here comes the devil, the same devil. It was the different place and a different time and with a different person but it was the same temptation. He told Jesus to turn these stones into bread and eat them. It was the same temptation of the physical body. For some of you the devil will come while you are in the wilderness praying 40 days and 40 nights. After the end of your 40 days and 40 nights, you come out looking like a piece of bamboo. The devil comes and says turn this stone into a hamburger. It was the same temptation, but for some of you he may have to refine his temptation. Some of you God told you to fast. And then you came and the devil said turn this strings into spaghetti.

I remembered the first time I fasted 3 days and 3 nights without food and water. The Lord told me to do it. I was in a small town in the Baptist church there. The Lord told me to fast 3 days and 3 nights. I had the impression coming. Now I want to make it clear to you that the Lord did not appear to me in a vision. He did not send a thunderbolt down and said to me to fast. He did not send an angel to me, unroll the scroll and say, "Thus says the Lord of heaven, fast." He did not say all these things to me. He did not give me a dream about fasting. All I had was a tiny still small voice inside my heart that says fast 3 days and 3 nights. You know what I did. I was young in the ministry I said, "Devil get thee behind me." You know the Lord can be persuasive but if you choose not to obey Him, He is not going to hang on your back forever. But if you keep on resisting Him He will move off. I am talking about the Holy Spirit wanting to bring you into something and if you refuse, He won't push you, He leads you but He won't push you. And there was another Baptist brother and he was staying in the church with me. He was from a town further down. He used to come and spent the weekend in the church where we had meetings. He used to seek the Lord together with me. And he was staying in the same dormitory with me in the church, when I said no to the Lord, I did not want to obey that. I have never done it before and I know that it's going to take some determination to pull through that kind of fast after all the nice food around. And it happened that the chef was a super cook. When I said no to the Lord, the Lord went over to this brother and the Lord whispered in his spirit to fast for 3 days and 3 nights. He had that impression and it came to him. One of us had to do it. I want you to know that if you don't obey God, God is going to

get somebody else. Nobody is indispensable. God can choose His own people. If you are not going to obey God and receive blessing God is going to choose somebody else. He was going to obey God. He came down and the first thing his eyes fell on was the fried rice. He succumbed to that delicious fried rice and that was the end of the fast. How sad the Lord must be. He was trying to get us to do simple things like that. He had to struggle with us. When he gone down and ate the fried rice I was still upstairs in my dormitory room. When he disobeyed the Lord, the Holy Spirit came back upstairs and said, "Fast 3 days and 3 nights." So I checked within myself and asked, "Is that you Lord?" I heard the answer, "Yes." You want me to fast 3 days and 3 nights?" "Yes." So I came downstairs and I saw the same fried rice, but something held me back. I sat down with them and I said, "The Lord told me to fast 3 days and 3 nights. I want you brothers and sisters to help me." The moment I said that, the brother who was eating his fried rice almost got choked. He was repenting away to the Lord and finally we all got it and said to him that he was the one who was supposed to fast. And I decided to obey God and all of them supported me. And it was during the third day I was weak; no water, no food touched my lips. They used to come and pray over me. And that was in that time of my fast that I had the vision of the two mountains that I used to share about.

When the devil comes, he always attacks you in the area of your flesh. When Jesus Christ was facing the devil, the devil said, "Turn these stones into bread." The first Adam was in the garden with all the lovely fruit trees. He was tempted by the devil to eat. He ate and he fell. The second Adam Jesus Christ came He was in the wilderness, He was tempted, He did the opposite thing He fasted, and He came out victoriously. Fasting will deal with your flesh. Let me emphasize that unless you have victory over your flesh you will not be able to demonstrate victory in your ministry, in your life, in any other areas of your life. Unless a man or woman takes authority over their own bodies, how can they take authority over other people's bodies and command sickness to come out? Unless you overcome your own flesh you can never overcome the flesh the devil may work in others. Unless you overcome the flesh, the world and the devil in your own body, you can not overcome the flesh, and the world in other people. So, Jesus Christ knew the importance of fasting. He knew how important fasting works to the success of His whole ministry. You do not find that God told Him to fast. You only find that God told Him to go into the wilderness. Fasting was His personal decision He made with God. He knew that the way and the things of the Spirit are through the avenues of fasting. It's the opposite way from the Garden of Eden.

And there is a place in the perfect will of God where you will never enter unless you fast. Every one of us got the will of God in our life. The perfect will of God for your life, the reason why you are born into this world, the reason why God made you, you even before the foundation of the world He knew you before you knew Him. In the total will of God for your life there is an area of the perfect will of God that you will never enter into unless you overcome the flesh with fasting in your life. Lets say, this dark blue carpet here represents the will of God for your life. But as long as you never learn fasting in your life, you will always be down here, year after year after year. And there will be many times in your personal Christian life that you will always wonder why can't you enter further. There will be something inside your spirit that says, "I know there must be something more to my life than this. I know that there is something more that God is asking me to do before I meet Him face to face. But I don't know how to go about it. I don't know how to enter into it." Brethren the only

way to enter into the divine perfect will of God in your life is to fast. When you fast, you began going into that area. You are moving into that realm of the perfect will of God that God wants you to have in your personal life. There is no other way you can enter into the fullness of the perfect will of God unless you learn the secrets of fasting and praying.

Jesus Christ was perfect. He was perfect in spirit, soul and body. But yet, He has to do the same things. He was our Savior and our example. He has to do the same things that we have to do. He has the perfect soul and body and yet He has to fast. The bible tells us here in Lk. 4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. He was filled with the Spirit. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River the Baptist. He came out from the Jordan the Spirit of God came down on Him like a dove descending resting upon His whole being He was filled with the Holy Spirit. And the first thing the Holy Spirit told Him go into the wilderness. Isn't that amazing? That the first thing the Holy Spirit says - go into the wilderness. You would expect after you are filled with the Holy Spirit you would say, "Here I come where is the ministry?" And this is where many people failed to realize that that's not enough. When you are filled of the Holy Spirit, remember that the power of the Spirit of God on your life is to change you first. It is to enable you to overcome your flesh. And let me say this too your flesh is your greatest enemy, even greater than the devil. The devil is nothing. Heb. 2:14 tells us He has destroyed the devil. It's your flesh that is your worse enemy. So, this flesh of ours has to be dealt with. So there, the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus and sent Him into the wilderness. Let me tell you why He went into the wilderness. He went into the wilderness to overcome His own flesh. He had a flesh to be dealt with. Somebody says, "I thought that Jesus' flesh wouldn't sin." The bible says in Hebrews He was tempted like you and I in every way. Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who can not sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin. Notice that He was in all points tempted. And every temptation that comes to the Christian comes through the flesh. Jesus was in a body of flesh. The devil tempted Him. The first task that Jesus had when the Spirit came on Him was to demonstrate the overcoming of the flesh.

Let me give you another verse Rom. 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh. Let consider this for a moment. What the law could not do. Why did the Old Testament people failed? It is because the law did not overcome the flesh. Look carefully Rom. 8:3 For what the law could not do. That is talking about the Old Testament. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh. The law could not deal with the flesh only the Spirit can. Only the law of the Spirit of life can overcome the flesh not the letter of the law. And so, the reason why Jesus received the filling of the Spirit was to overcome the flesh in His life. That was His first task Let's continue reading God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. Jesus had to go through those temptations but blessed be God He did not fall. So here He was in the Jordan; He received the Holy Spirit coming upon Him and His first task was to overcome the flesh in His life. And how did He overcome the flesh? The best way to overcome the flesh is through fasting. That is why only you and you alone are responsible in that area which nobody else can do for you. No amount of intercession by other people, no amount of laying on of hands by other people on you, is going to overcome the flesh in your life, which you are responsible. And the bible exhorts us to discipline the flesh. Jesus through the power of the Holy

Spirit overcame His flesh through fasting and praying. If you have the Holy Spirit He enables you. The power of the Holy Spirit sustained Him for 40 days and 40 nights. Did He feel hungry? He did at the end of the fast the bible tells He felt hungry. But what made Him do it? His body cried out in hunger but Jesus overcame the flesh. He will not allow the flesh to rule Him. He will not allow the flesh to tell Him what to do in His life. You read all over in the New Testament that we are to deal with the flesh. All the problems they have in the church in the New Testament was because of the flesh. How nice to get rid of the flesh. There is a way, by fasting and praying.

Notice in Lk. 4:1 the Holy Spirit did not tell Jesus to fast. It only says that He was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. It did not say that He was led into the wilderness to fast. Even a cross reference of Mark and a cross reference of Matthew 4 will tell you that He was led or He was driven into the wilderness in order to be tempted. It did not say that He was led inside in order to fast. Then the question is, why did He fast? Jesus knowing the laws of the Spirit knew that the only way to deal with the flesh, to chasten the flesh and our soul is through fasting. So by His own choice He chose to fast. And He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, which I do not recommend that you start there. Don't try to be a hero. Some people are desperados. They think that they can jump. The bible never says to ump in faith. The bible says walk by faith not by sight (II Cor. 5:7.) So you walk you do not jump.

I heard of one brother who was formerly in the Baptist ministry, though now he is in the independent ministry. He is in Singapore. He was so hungry for God that he tried the desperado tactic. So, he went on a liquid fast for 40 days and 40 nights. First day he got on well, one week passed after about two and a half weeks he just black out and instead of the Lord coming in glory he had the ambulance coming in siren. The next moment he woke up, he thought that he was in glory. But he looked around he saw that he was in hospital. He tried the desperado tactic and he failed. Now please be balance. We are talking about the importance of fasting here. Jesus Christ was fasting 40 days and 40 nights and notice what happened at the end of the fast. In Lk. 4:14 after He overcame the devil Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit. Then in verse 16, He went into the synagogue. Verse 18 he says The spirit of the Lord is upon Me. The anointing was there. **There is a difference between receiving the filling of the Spirit and receiving the power of the Spirit.** The filling of the Spirit enables you to overcome the flesh. The first thing you must do is overcome the flesh. When you overcome the flesh in your life then you can overcome the devil and all his works. When Jesus overcame the flesh in His life doesn't mean He had no more temptation. He had temptation from time to time. But He lived a disciplined fasted life. When Jesus Christ returned from the fast great power was on Him to exercise authority over the devil. The power of God is free bought for us by Jesus but the power of God will not be released on unsanctified flesh. The prophecy of Joel says that the Spirit of God will pour out on all flesh. But let me tell you those flesh are the flesh that is subjected to Christ. If the flesh did not subject to Christ, the Spirit of God will not come on those flesh because if He does He will kill you. The power will kill you if it is unsanctified. So, in His mercy, He withholds that power until we overcame the flesh. So, when the power comes on us we won't die but rather the power will flow through us to bless others. So there is a key of fasting and praying. The key to going into the perfect will of God is in fasting and praying. After the time of fasting you will find Jesus demonstrate great power, great authority because He fasted.

Lets look at Paul when he was converted you know what he did in Acts 9. The first experience of the Lord was fasting and praying. Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. For three days, Paul fasted without food, without water. He was in such a condition, stunned by the revelation of Jesus and the first thing he did in his ministry was not to cast out devils. The first thing he did in his ministry was not preaching. The first thing that he did in his ministry after he was born again was to fast and pray. He sought God with fasting and praying. And when fasting and praying comes, the Lord comes. As I was reading this Holy Bible and came across this fact, I asked God, "Lord, why is it that in the early church they seem to have more demonstration than the present church? Remember nothing comes without sowing in the Spirit. They sowed in the Spirit. They dedicated themselves to the things of God and God moved. Let me show you, you just concentrate on the book of Acts and some of the miraculous things that God did simply because they fasted. The early church was a fasting church. I think today's church is not fasting enough. Today's church sounds like eat, drink and be merry and then be buried. The early church seems to be fasting and praying all the time. I am saying that the whole church of Christ needs more fasting and praying. We are doing less and less of it when we should be doing more in these last days.

So here, in the book of Acts one of the greatest ministries that ever arose in the New Testament was the apostle Paul. He wrote one third of the New Testament. Think of the anointing of God on his life. But he started fasting and praying. **I have never met a man of God used mightily by God today who has not learned fasting and praying.** Yet, I am surprised that people are not taught to fast today. It is so important and yet it is a mystery why many Christians are not taught to fast. They fasted not because they are taught not, for the doctrine of fasting comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So, we have Paul fasting and every time they are in trouble, they fasted. Every time they are not in trouble, they also fast.

Lets look at Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. These people were not even born again. And it was the first time they heard the gospel. Imagine a miracle took place. They were born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit in the same moment. That was a power anointing that God put. Peter did not even have time to lay hand. In fact being a Jew with the Gentiles, he probably wouldn't think of doing that. But there is more than just a sovereign act of God. Some time people just take the word sovereign and abuse it. They say God is sovereign. But what they are saying is that God does it whenever He feels like it. That is misuse and an abuse of the term, the sovereignty of God. God is sovereign but there is something that He asked us to do and says, "If you do it I will bless you." I said wouldn't it be nice if this same anointing comes when the presence of God just fills the atmosphere and people who are not born again just born again they didn't even have time to pray the sinners prayer. The preacher was still preaching and the Gentiles got born again and get baptized in the Holy Spirit. We could lead millions to Christ that way. The altar wouldn't have space to contain them if they came forward if that kind of anointing comes. The Holy Spirit helped me see what Cornelius did. Look at the price he paid for the revival in his home. If you want God to send revival to your home, fast and pray. If you have been praying for your home to be changed and nothing seems to be happening fast and pray. Cornelius was fasting and praying his whole life. In chapter 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God

always. He was a very devout man but he was not born again. An angel came to him. When he saw the angel he said, "What is it Lord?" The angel said in verse 4 Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. But this passage didn't say that he fasted but I want you to read on. When Peter came to his house Cornelius said this to him in verse 30 So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing. That was the angel of God. Cornelius was a man of fasting and praying even though he did not know God. But one thing is marvelous is this. The angel told him even though he was not born again your prayers and your alms have come before God. But he was not born again so what did God do? God sent him the gospel. He was so hungry for God that he was like a magnet that the gospel had to come to him. If you would fast, pray, and seek God sincerely you would see a greater demonstration of the power of God in your family, in your home fellowship, in the meetings that you minister.

Turn to Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayers was offered to God for him by the church. Constant prayer means that they had round the clock prayer without food continually praying. When Peter was released, he went to the house they were still praying. They went deep into the things of God. They dug deep into the realm of the Spirit. And God sends an angel. Why didn't God send more angels today? People are not fasting and praying like they should. They should get hungry for God, get on their knees before God, pray and fast onto the Lord. He will make you powerful in the prayer closet. Now they did not just fast and pray when they were in trouble. It seems to be a regular thing. I don't want to give you the impression that they fast and pray whenever they are in trouble. No, they were a church that has a disciplined fasting and praying.

Acts 13:1-2 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers; Barnabas, someone who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted. See the word fasting there. If you think that only in the Old Testament there was fasting, you are wrong. The New Testament has a lot to say about fasting. I once asked God, "Lord, why did you use Paul so much?" The Lord referred to the book of Corinthians where Paul says that he was in fastings often. He was a man who fasted and prayed and that is why his ministry was powerful in God. Here we have, there was nothing going wrong in the church of Antioch. Everything was going right. Everything was fine and they still fasted. Don't just fast because something goes wrong. Don't just fast when the crisis of the problem hits you. You must make a practice of fasting even when everything is going well, like clock work. Here the church was growing everything was going fine people were being blessed and they had tremendous unity together. Yet in verse two As they ministered to the Lord and fasted. They fasted because they love Him. They fasted because they dedicated themselves to Him. It was a regular habit to them to fast and seek God. It was a doctrine in the early church but somewhere in the Dark Ages the habit and discipline of fasting was lost. We have to get back the doctrine of fasting and praying.

Let me cross reference to other scriptures in I Cor. 7 even though it seems as if Paul was talking about another subject. Verse 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer. Here he is not talking about a crisis, a problem, he is talking about a continual fasting and praying.



And through experience, I find that it is better to have a regular fast where you seek God and love God and minister to Him than to have desperado attempts. Although according to your needs, at times you can go for those. But you must be a regular faster and a man of prayer. God wants more of that.

II Chron. 20:1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar (which is En Gedi). And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. They were facing a big giant national problem. The army that came against them was more than they could match. Militarily speaking they were no match for the Moabites. They knew if they fight with carnal weapons they would lose. But the weapons of our warfare are not carnal they are mighty in God. They are not carnal weapons. So Jehoshaphat said, "Let's everybody fast, let's seek God." In that kind of situation, if they didn't seek God, they would also die. So, it's better to seek God. They have not much choice. When the problem surround you like a mountain – go on a fast, seek God with all your heart.

It seems some of the biggest mountains moved in my life when I fasted. Sometimes, you have done all you can. You have confessed the Word. You have put on the armor of God, you are standing on the Word and the mountain doesn't seem to move. You asked, "What more can I do? Let me tell you, fast and pray. Some times, I got down on my knees and I told God, "Lord, I am not going to move from here for food or anything else until I hear from You." I said either the mountain move or I am staying here. See the mountain seems to be immovable but sooner or later, one has to move. So, the devil comes to you. You come against it: stand firm, fast and pray.

The mountain surrounded them. "What shall we do Jehoshaphat?" All his military officers said, "Jehoshaphat, bad news, terrible news; we all better prepare our funeral services." "No, there is a way, fast and pray." When they fasted, they sought God. It was for their lives. The Spirit of God came down, not by might, not by power but by My Spirit. But you prepare yourselves for the Spirit of God to come down. When the Spirit of God came down the Spirit of God said, "The battle is not yours it is Mine." And in the end, Jehoshaphat said praise God we received the answer. How did they receive? Through fasting and prayer. And when they fasted and they prayed the bible tells us in II Chronicles that they sent the singers in front of them. Instead of sending their soldiers with swords they sent the singers and the singers playing the harps sang, "Bless the Lord. He is merciful, His loving kindness remains forever." All the enemies got confused the Bible says in II Chron. 20 that God send ambushes that all they have to do is worship God, rejoice in God. They fasted they prayed and they praised. By the time the worship service ended, the devil also was finished. Isn't it better to spend your time in the presence of God? Don't lean on your own understanding; don't lean on your own strength. Turn to the Lord with fasting and praying and He will hear you. Fasting is the key to the impossible. If you have ever faced a situation that is classified impossible, there is one special key that God gives: the key of fasting and praying.

The disciples asked Jesus in Matt. 17, "Why could we not cast that demon out?" Why couldn't we cast the demon out when You have given us authority (Matt. 10)? We are supposed to have authority but it is not working. What shall we do?" Jesus said, "This

kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. You guys are eating too much. In other words, you also got a lot of unbelief inside you. And because of your unbelief, it's blocking the power of God from manifesting. Fast and pray." Unbelief is caused by an unrenewed soul.

The bible tells us in the book of Psalms that fasting chastens the soul. The Psalmist says, "I chasten my soul with fasting." Fasting deals with the soul so that God could deal with your life. Fasting and prayer will draw grace from God. You have heard the grace message: God gives grace to the humble. The bible in the study of humble and humility you will find the humility and fasting goes together. And fasting and prayer is so powerful even though you and I may not be good or worthy enough. You are not as bad as king Ahab. You know king Ahab was a bad king. Jeroboam was the first king of the Israelites of the Northern kingdom. Solomon's son Rehoboam was in the southern kingdom of Judah. Jeroboam was an evil king; he did wickedness by worshiping the golden calf, and the bible said all the kings after him did evil. Then it came to king Omri who did more evil than all the kings before him. Then after Omri, it came to king Ahab. It says king Ahab was the most terrible of all the other kings; never before was there a terrible king like him. So surely, you are not as bad as Ahab. You know what happened? Let me turn you to the book of II Kings the old Ahab hard-hearted, terrible king that he was. I Kg. 21:21 When Ahab was guilty of stealing his neighbor's vineyard. Elijah came to him and told him a prophecy saying I will bring calamity on you. And verse 25 says, There was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. She was as bad. And he behaved very abominably in following idols. And verse 27 was a surprise. When Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth on his body, and fasted. I want you to know that God honors the law of fasting so powerfully. Here was someone so wicked and none of us could reach up to his kind of wickedness. But when he fasted and prayed the Lord said to Elijah in verse 29 See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. God has said earlier that He will bring calamity in his days. I will not bring calamity in his days but in the days of his son. Just to show you how powerful the law of fasting and praying can be, even for a wicked guy like Ahab. Elijah must have said to Ahab, "Ahab, God says the calamity will no more be on you because He saw your fasting." When he heard that the judgment was on his son instead of praying for his son, he went on and did wickedly. I bring that to show you the great respect that God has for fasting and prayer. Fasting and praying work against impossible situations. God will release His power on your life when you fast. Fasting will release the power of God in your life.

## 2. THE POWER OF FASTING

Most of us probably have fasted a little bit here and a little bit there. But the bible talks about the power that is available to the body of Christ through the avenues of fasting and praying. There are many benefits to fasting, of which one is divine health. If you ever want enjoy health and never be sick I recommend to you the discipline of fasting. So, a fast is also automatically a health fast. It keeps your body healthy but that is not the primary purpose. That is a fringe benefit to your body. You fast once a week and that would be a regular fast, which I would recommend. You don't have to start with a total fast without food and water. You can start with a partial fast. There is a total fast without food and water where you completely do not take food or where you completely do not take water. Then there is second level of fast where you only take water. It is called water fast. Throughout the day, you just take water. Then you have a partial fast. And that partial fast could be little bit of fruits, fruit juice or a hot chocolate drink or something like that. During your fast, avoid all the soft drinks, tea and coffee. Or for some of you who have not started you could be on a one meal a day fast. When I say one meal, I mean one average meal. Some people when they fast one meal a day their meal is three meals at one go. You did not fast. You just changed your eating habits. Train yourself as a body of Christ to fast at least once a week. You don't fast just because you got problems. You fast because you love God. You fast because you want to seek His face. You want to humble yourself. Fasting is a form of humility, humbling yourself before God. So, discipline yourself once a week. I could guarantee you based on my experience and based on the Word of God that you will hardly get a cold, flu, headache when you fast and discipline your body. It's just like sending your body for cleansing. When you fast your body cleanses itself physically. Your body cleanses itself in your soul. So sometimes during your fasting, you will experience peculiar dreams from your past.

Today we are going to talk about the power of fasting. Fasting releases a power where before you could be praying over and over again for something that God has promised you. But when you fast, it seems to accelerate. Fasting seems to be the pressing of the accelerator on your car. Learning the principles of the Word of God is learning to change from low-speed gear to high-speed gear with the clutch. That is why you can fast but if you don't have the principles of God's Word, you won't get as far. It is just like putting your car on first low speed gear and pressing your accelerator full throttle. Have you seen some smart Alec driving down the highway on first gear? No, you change to the fourth or the fifth gear. So, you don't keep driving on first gear all the time. But some people get a little bit of the Word, they have only learnt first gear and they thought well that's it. They did not know that God has something more than that and many other realms of the Spirit that they can accelerate. The same amount of acceleration on a different gear produces a different speed. So the same amount of effort you put into your Christian life with more principles of the Word of God applied will cause you to accelerate faster. So fasting is like pressing the accelerator - it gives you more power. It brings you to the fullness of what the Word of God says about your life.

Lets look at Matt. 10:1 and Lk. 9:1 Matt.10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them our and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases. In Matt.10:1 it says all kinds of

sickness, all kinds of diseases and over demons. It means everything they have power and authority by the anointing transmitted onto them by Jesus Christ.

Lk. 9:1 is a cross-reference that tells you that He gave them power over all demons. He was actually telling them that they had power over all kinds of demons and all kinds of sickness. You see the completeness of the anointing that He had given them. The word all in the dictionary will tell you that it includes everything. Now where we want to focus is when Jesus said in Lk. 9:1 that He gave them power and authority to cast out all demons.

Ephesians 6 tells us there are four different kinds of demons. They are listed in ascending order of rank: principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and wicked spirits in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). There are four different types of demons. The fallen angels became the highest-ranking demonic host. They are the wicked spirits in the heavenly places. Heavenly places refer to the atmospheric space above the earth. These are the princes over geographical regions. Secondly, there are the rulers of the dark places of this age. These demons move around on this earth like a sergeant, ruling over places, possessing people, giving temptations and their dominion is on this earth. Thirdly and fourthly, there are the powers and principalities. They follow the sergeants and obey their orders. Sometimes you have these little imps. Those are the smaller kinds the principalities and they are like foot soldiers. So there are different ranks of demons and Jesus gave them power and authority over all demons. When someone is possessed by 20 demons, you don't have to cast the demons one by one. You just have to ask the Holy Spirit who is the ruler over all these demons. There is only one head over all those demons that possess a person. Whether there are six thousands demons or twenty demons in them you don't have to cast them one by one. Supposing there are six thousands and you cast them one by one it will take you a long time. Remember Jesus cast out the legion of demons in one go. He talked to the head of all those demons ruling that possessed body. So, when you deal with demons don't deal with the small fries. Deal with the big ones and the small fries also will go. There will only be one ruler demon over any possessed person. If anyone is possessed, you will know it. They will not be able to stand in the presence of God. We are not talking about oppression.

Since we are in this area, we might as well cover more of this topic. I believe that a Christian can not get possessed. Because greater is He that is in us that he that is in the world. I remember ministering to one of my former schoolmates who came to know the Lord. He believed he had a spider demon in him. It didn't make him a spider-man. But he believed that he has a spider demon. He was talking to me and said, "Please cast the spider demon out of me." I said, "What spider demon?" You are talking to me and you are conscious. If you are possessed, you will not be talking that way." So I told him, "You are not possessed but you are oppressed." One of the greatest lies a demon will tell you is that he is inside you. If you still can talk, if you still can choose, you are not possessed. You are either obsessed or oppressed. Let me define it, possession is when your spirit is taken control. Obsession is when your mind is under control. Oppression is when your body gets under control.

The bible says in Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus Christ who went about healing those who were oppressed by demons. So, oppression comes in physical form. Obsession comes in the soul, in your emotion, in your intellect. Possession comes in your spirit. These are mine definitions. A Christian can not be possessed. They can

either only be obsessed or oppressed. Under obsession or oppression sometimes when you command a demon to leave a person, the demons cling to the body or the demons try to stir up their minds. But it's not of the spirit. When you command you still can command the demons to come out and leave their minds and bodies alone. But the demon is not in their spirit. Otherwise, it makes a mockery of what Jesus had done. Jesus gave us a new born again spirit; the Holy Spirit lives in us. Greater is He that is in us than he is in the world. It makes a mockery of the Word of God. It makes a Christian weaker than what God has made a Christian to be with authority and power. In John 1:12 that He had given authority and power to everyone who received Jesus Christ. We have the authority and power bear that in mind. That is why when we deal with demon cases we don't dilly-dally. The moment you get a person's soul, get that person to start confessing the Word then you began to push the person from the obsession stage to the oppression and then you push the demons out. Jesus gave the disciples authority and power over all demons.

Lets look what happened to the disciples in Matthew 17. Jesus was up in the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John. They had a jolly good time up there enjoying the glory of God. They did see the glory of God. They did see the Transfiguration. As they came down from the mountain in Matthew 17 they saw a scene before them in verse 14, And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord have mercy on my son for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." The bible says they could not cure him. And earlier on in Matthew 10:1 it says He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. And over here in Matt. 17 just seven chapters later, the Word of God tells us the disciples could not cast out the demon. When the Word of God said they could not, was it because they did not have the ability, or because they did not have the anointing, or because they don't know how to tap on it? If Jesus said He had given His disciples the power to cast out demons, then they certainly have that power. In Matthew 10 Jesus said He had given them that power but in Matthew 17, it says they could not cast the demon out of that boy. Who is right? When it doesn't work, the problem is in the disciples. Why could they not do? They had the anointing but it didn't work. They had the power but it did not work. The Word of God said it but the Word of God doesn't seem to work in their lives. It was promised to them but it was not manifested. What can they do?

That is the situation many Christians faced. The Word of God promised prosperity but it doesn't seem to be happening to them. The Word says Christ has been made poor so that you can become rich. But here they are still suffering the effect of the curse of poverty. The Word of God says by His stripes you are healed. But there they are still in sickness. The Word of God tells you, you have power and authority over demons. But there they are still oppressed by demons. The Word of God says believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you and your household shall be saved. But there their loved ones are still not saved yet. This situation is the same in many Christians' lives. It is repeated over and over in countless lives. The Word of God says something but they are experiencing something else. What shall we do? Something is wrong somewhere. Its not because God did not promised. It is not because God did not say it. But it is because there is somehow a missing link between the promise and the manifestation.

Between what God said and it coming to pass. There are some principles that they must tap on.

Jesus Christ came to this man and ministered to his son. Look at Jesus in Matt. 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him and the child was cured from the very hour. If He could do it and He told His disciples that they could do it but they are still not doing it, what has gone wrong? If you are wondering in your mind, you have got company - the disciples also wondered. After all the people have gone, the disciples came to Jesus privately in verse 19. At least they want to find out why they couldn't cast out the demon. The bible says signs and wonders will follow the believers. Today, sighings and wonderings follow many believers. Remember you are the signs and the unbelievers do the wondering. We do the signs the unbelievers do the wondering. Sometimes the believers do the wondering: why is it not happening? They said Why could we not cast it out? Jesus answered. He gave them three reasons. He said to them in verse 20. No. 1, because you are doubters. He said because of your unbelief; I said it was so but you don't believe it. I told you, I gave you power over all demons. When you came across a demon, you don't believe with all your heart that you got the power over them. Because of your unbelief. That's No. 1. No. 2 you need to have faith. Assuredly, I say to you, "if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. So No. 2 He said, "You need to have faith." No. 3 He said in verse 21 This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Fasting and prayer is No. 3.

Now No. 1 is unbelief. Unbelief is the greatest hindrance to the promises of God being fulfilled in your life and in my life. God said it but we still don't believe it. Think about it. It is written in black and white that God wants to heal all. Think about the number of Christians who still don't believe that. And they will find an excuse not to get healed. Some of them will fight for their life with all their strength and fight for their right to be sick. They say, "The Word of God mentioned about Paul's thorn in the flesh and Timothy's stomach." They know all the scriptures to be sick. But there are countless many other scriptures that talked about the promise of God. See unbelief is a big factor.

The cure for unbelief and the stirring up of the mountain moving faith lies in the No. 3 reason fasting and praying. If you believe you will put all of your heart believing into that. Fasting and prayer releases a power.

Jesus said in No.2 if you have faith as a grain of a mustard seed. A mustard seed is only one tiny dot. All you have to do is to take your pen or pencil put a tiny dot on a piece of paper and that is the size of a mustard seed. Jesus said that tiny little mustard seed of faith could move a mountain.

Verse 20 Jesus said if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain. What mountain is that? The Mount of Olives. When I say, "A person," it could be anybody. When I say, "The man," it could be any man. If I say, "The woman," it could be any woman. Buy if I say this woman or this man I am pointing exactly to one. So, notice Jesus said, "If you say to this mountain," the Mount of Olives is before them. "You say, 'Move from here to there and if you don't doubt in your heart that mountain will move.'"

Look at Mark 11 it is also said “to this mountain”. Let me talk about the “this”. It’s very important for us to see the releasing of the power of God that He promised here. It is the power to work the impossible. If a man say, “It’s impossible, it is difficult, it is hard, it has never been done before,” then it won’t work for them. They use many phrases to say it is not possible. Yet, we have a special power that can conquer the impossible.

Luke 17:5-6 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” Jesus said in verse 6 If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree. Now if I say, “The plant,” you won’t know which plant but if I say, “This plant,” then you know its one particular plant. So, Jesus was walking with His disciples and as they were walking this time, He saw a mulberry tree. He pointed to the tree and said, “If you have faith you say to this tree be removed and be planted in the sea the tree will obey you.”

So let me illustrate what Jesus is trying to say here. You see in front here a pulpit. This is a pulpit made of solid substance. Pretend that this is the mountain that Jesus is talking about. If you have a special faith, the faith of God that comes from His Word, your faith could move a physical object. There are three ways you can move this object here. The easiest is to move it physically. Supposing this is very heavy. You can still move it physically by bringing in the proper equipments. It is still under physical strength. So, when we talk about moving a pulpit the first thing we would talk about is moving it physically. Secondly, there is psychic power. It is mind over matter but it’s not just an ordinary mind. It’s a mind that yields itself to demonic forces. Do you know that demons normally are invisible? So if some guys give themselves to the devil and co-operate with demons, they could be standing here and the invisible demons are around them. One of them could say, “Pulpit, I command you to levitate.” And the pulpit will start levitating and everybody will say what a great magician he is. But if your spiritual eyes are opened, you will see a demon picking up the pulpit and carrying it. They could tap on psychic power or the force of mind over matter. Remember the fallen stage of man is such when man tried to tap on this so-called psychic power or mind over matter, he will fall prey to demons. It is because demons are in control of that realm now. Man had fallen and that is why Satan is called the god of this world. That is why it says that he rules over the minds of men. So, the second way you could do it is by demonic power.

The third was that Jesus is telling you that you could do it by spiritual power. He was next to that mountain; He was next to that tree. He was saying, “This tree,” “This mountain.” He was not saying, “The mountain.” The third way you could move an object is that if your faith is such that you believe God without a doubt, there is a power that is released that you could say and it is done. And Jesus demonstrated that. In Mark 11, He went to the fig tree and He looked at the fig tree and did not find fruit. So when He found that there was no fruit He said, “Let no man eat from you any more,” and straightaway the fig tree died. What are we pointing at? Jesus was showing that He walked on a higher realm. There is another power greater than the natural power that is released through the spoken Word through faith in God. Notice when they passed by that way again, Peter said, “Look Master the fig tree has died.” And Jesus turned around and gave them Mark 11:22-24 Jesus said, “Have faith in God.” All you have to do is speak and it is done.

And our faith level needs to rise to that level. When Jesus was talking about, “This mountain, this tree,” He was talking about how there is a level of spiritual power you could rise in. Where you could say to this tree or this mountain, “Be removed,” and the power that flows from your lips generate a greater power than natural that was holding that tree and the mountain and cause that tree and mountain to be uprooted and taken and thrown into another place. He was talking about God’s power in the supernatural release upon physical objects. He is talking about the power of God over natural circumstances and things and situations.

Don’t anyone of you start practicing on this plant here. He wanted the disciples to understand that the power He talks about rules over all natural laws. You must understand the direction He points you to do. That is why you must understand that He is not asking us to go around practicing on trees and mountains. But the power is variable enough to do it. That’s what Jesus said. The power is real enough to make an effect. Let me tell you there is a supernatural force beyond this physical world. That if you would release it, it works for you. Speak it out and it works for you. About three years ago, I did it on a small plant. It was accidentally put in the sun and all the leaves dropped off. I like to practice my faith. I said, “Plant, live.” The following week I looked at it and nothing happened; the leaves dropped some more. And then I forget about it. Three months later, I saw leaves growing on it. It works.

Many times we isolate the spiritual from the natural so much that when something naturally need to be done we forget about the spiritual. We isolate it into two compartments so well that we don’t realize that they are not two compartments. The spiritual world flows into the natural world so that you could affect the natural world through the spirit world. And so the force of fasting will release this kind of power upon your situation, upon your life, upon your circumstances. There are two types of circumstances we face everyday. There are the circumstances that you can control. What you can control God holds you responsible. Don’t anyone of you try to do gardening from your chair. You sit down on the chair and say, “Grass, be cut.” If anyone of you try to lay hand on the tree, your neighbor will think you have gone mad.

So the bible tells us here the power of fasting releases a special force. What Jesus wants you to do is that though you are in the physical body you can tap on spiritual forces and bring the spiritual forces to work on your behalf through fasting and prayer. So there are two types of circumstances that are involved No. 1 circumstances in your control. And you are responsible for those circumstances. When Jesus Christ saw the great multitudes five thousand men waiting there to be fed. For three days they haven’t eaten. Jesus said, “Bring Me some food.” They looked around and saw a little boy that bought 5 loaves and 2 fish. That was in their control. Then He made them sit in groups of 50s and 100s. So what they are in control they are responsible. When they did all these things, they are releasing their faith. Faith is released through your action. So there are some circumstances that God ask you to control to release your faith through. Then God took care of the other side in the multiplying of the bread and the fish. There are two sets of circumstances that you face every time. There are some circumstances that are in your control. But all of you realize that there are some circumstances that are not in your control. They are outside your dominion and yet they are going to affect your life.



If you are doing business there are some things you can do but at a certain level, you are no more in control. It is the other person's decision and other forces that are at work. If you are a working person, there are certain things in your control to do a good job but all the other factors in your company that is not in your control. And all of life you will find two sets of circumstances. Some circumstances are in your control and some are not. And this is what happened the bible says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added onto you." So God is actually saying, "If you put Me first in your circumstances with all of your heart, all of your mind and all of your strength to love Me, to live for Me, to obey My Word with all of your being and all that is within your control I will take control of what is beyond your control."

All the circumstances that are beyond our control will come under the control of the Almighty God. As long as you put God first, God takes over. And the circumstances that are normally not in your control the timing of all those things come under the Almighty hand. He holds the authority on this earth. But when a man or a woman puts Him first every circumstances that are beyond your control He began to take control. He began to moves. He began to send His angels. And all those circumstances come into a pattern that cause you to be blessed over and over again. However, if you do not put God first or you want to try to do it yourself you not only lose control of the normal circumstances, what is beyond you also remains beyond. God does not come into the picture.

This is where fasting comes in. When you fast and seek God's face, you are actually putting God as No. 1. You are saying, "With all of my strength, with all of my heart O Lord, I worship You, I love You and I seek You first. I want to see Your will done." Fasting shows forth your desire to put God to the uttermost. You desire God more than your daily food. You desire God above your natural appetite. You desire God above all things. Fasting shows forth that you love Him. See there are only certain things you can do and the rest God has to do. But if you put God first and obey Him, you will see a pattern work in all of your circumstances. There will be a pattern that flows and the blessings keep coming on you because all the time you keep putting Him first.

What shall we do when we are fasting and praying to release this power? Jesus says here in Matt. 17:20 Because of your unbelief. Fasting cures all unbelief. If you believe with all your heart, all your mind that what God said He will bring to pass then fast. Many times, I have brought God's Word to Him. I said, "God your Word says this. As I fast and pray I am not going to eat I am not going to do anything I set my face to seek You. Unless Your Word comes to pass, I am not leaving." God honors such faith and determination. He knows you mean business with God. This is what the disciples should have done. When they could not cast out the demon they should all have a prayer meeting. Instead of having a prayer meeting Mark chapter 9 tells us that when Jesus came down they were having a discussion. When they should be praying they were talking away. When they should be seeking God they were wasting their time. When it didn't work they should have gathered together, don't eat don't do anything just pray. Meditate on what Jesus said that He had given them power over all demons. Fast and just worship God with all their hearts. When they do it, God will come into the picture and turn all the impossibilities to be possibilities.

I don't care what kind of circumstances you face, even though you may deem it impossible to man or the most impossible thing that you ever faced. Whether it is in an area where you are praying for your loved ones for ten, twenty years and God doesn't seem to answer fast. If you are childless and God says, "I will give you a child, go on a fast." If God speaks to you and tell you that He is going to bring you to this ministry and its not happening, go on a fast. If God speaks to you and tells you that he is going to prosper you and its not happening, undertake a fast. When God says something in written Word, in prophecy, in a voice to your heart and its not coming to pass you can bring it to pass by fasting. By fasting, you will release the power of God. If God has placed a vision in your heart or something He wants you to do in this life and that vision seems lost and its not working, fast and seek the face of God. For God says, "If you were to turn unto Me and seek My face with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength I will hear you." God will turn the circumstances that are beyond your control into His control and before long you can really rejoice because you began to see the power of God working. The supernatural power that just blast all the impossibilities apart. We have seen too many miracles through fasting and prayer for us to began doubting now. **We have seen too many answers through fasting and prayer.** Where before people would pray and cry and it doesn't work; when they start fasting and praying it starts working.

This is what you should do when you fast and pray. You must have an objective. When you enter into a time of fasting, you must have an objective. If you have no objective, you could just put the objective as seeking the perfect will of God. I seek the will of God weekly. I want to live in God's perfect will. If you are having a situation and you have not fasted and prayed about write it down as an objective for your fast. The reason you write it down is so that your fast could be concentrated in one area. Don't write down ten thousand items. Write down just a few that you could pray in the direction of. So, when you fast list an objective. I have listed fourteen things, which I believe God wants me to do in this life. When I have finished them, I am ready to go home. And every time I fast and pray I hold that in my hand and I pray. If you are facing a problem that is remarkably troubling you fast and pray, list it down. I have my normal one-day a week fast but as special occasions occur, I have an additional fast for that occasion. This is what happens when you began fasting. You pray in tongues. And some people have asked me, "Can I fast even though I am working?" Yes, you can. By writing down those objectives every time your mind is free your mind goes back to that fasting time. You could go back to praying in all your free time. Your lunch hour you could be free or in the evening when you come back from work. I did two of my 40 days fast while I was doing my seminary studies. I still had to do my research. And today some of the things I fasted about are happening.

So when you fast you list an objective of what you are fasting for. Write it down in your diary where you can refer to it many years to come to see the evidence of God hearing your prayers. When your fast is completed, you would sense a released in your spirit in that area. Some times for some things, you may need to fast longer. If you are not used to long stretch of fast you can just fast weekly over that situation. And during one of those fasts, you will find the breaking. You see fasting will break the chain of the enemy over your life. Fasting will began to create havoc in the enemy's territory. You could do more with fasting in your private chamber than you could with your hands and with your feet. Invisibly there is a power that goes out and

you release more angels to your aid. It releases and opens the windows of God on your behalf. Satan is very frightened of fasting because it operates on a higher realm of power since it shakes his kingdom. If you are fasting in your life there will be demons that have been placed by the devils to fight you, to hinder you, to disturb you all of your life, you are marked by Satan but when you fast and when you pray those demons begin to tremble by your fasting and prayer.

When Daniel was fasting one man in the whole kingdom of Babylon could shake a few nations. He shook the prince of Persia. One man shook the whole kingdom and he was a busy man yet he could find time to fast and pray. So if in his busyness, Daniel could fast and pray, so could you and I. So when he fasted heaven was touched. And from the first day, he started fasting God starts sending angel. Sometimes, at the end of your fast, the answer did not manifest yet but you will sense this. In your spirit, there is a breakthrough.

For example, I fasted and prayed for my father's salvation. My father is now in heaven. When I went into the seminary, he threatened to chase me out of the house. I was the first one in my family to be born again. When I was born again he threatened to chase me out of the house. I still kept going home. I just packed my things and left for the seminary in Penang, Malaysia. But for two years, I remembered him. I told God, "Father, I want to see my dad in heaven." I went to the seminary by faith. At the end of the first month we were supposed to pay our bills and my father sent a money order for one hundred dollars. I looked at it and said, "Father he doesn't even know You and here he is sending money." Every month he kept sending money. I cried and said, "God, Your Word says, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and all your household shall be saved.'" **One day God impressed onto my heart to fast.** And I set a regular fast for him. One day in my second year when I was fasting and praying for him **the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart. I didn't know it was the Holy Spirit then but I have this impression that came to my heart that says, "He is saved."** I didn't hear any news but the second term holidays I went back to my hometown while on my choir tour. Our choir passed through Johor Bahru, my hometown. That night my father came to hear us sing. That same night when he came to hear us sing, when he went back he had a dream. He dreamt that he was at a big huge cross. He said it was so huge and he was just so tiny in front of the cross. I heard him sharing this with me and said, "I don't know what this dream mean." But he said, "The tract that you used to leave around the house, I have been looking at it and I have been praying the prayer at the end of the tract and that prayer is 'Lord Jesus I am a sinner, I need You.'" He has been praying for one month. The victory was won in the Spirit. He was saved, born again and I baptized him and gave him a new name. My father has now gone home with the Lord. Fasting makes a difference. Every time when we face any situation, we have always fasted.

After three years in the seminary, the administrator of the seminary gave me a letter that said, "You are suspended indefinitely for practicing extreme Charismatic practices." I didn't know where to go. I couldn't go home because I was ashamed of what my father would think of Christianity. He has just got born again and I couldn't go home and say, "Hi dad they kicked me out of the seminary." So, I sought God in fasting and prayer. And God started opening doors. You see there are certain circumstances we can not control. But when we put Him first and fast and give Him control of what we can not control and start turning them for good, no matter what

kind of circumstances you face, the power of fasting and prayer turns the impossibilities to possibilities. At the end of your fasting, you will receive an assurance. If you don't have the assurance yet pray until the assurance comes. You may not receive the assurance in your first fasting, break your fast for a few days and then fast again.

### **Bodily Cleansing**

When you enter a fast, you would have side effects. One of the fringe benefits of fasting is the cleansing of your body. If you are new in fasting and this is the first time you attempt to fast 24 hours or so, remember that your body has accumulated a certain amount of toxins through the many years of eating all kinds of food. Not all food is eliminated. There is a little bit accumulated every year and over the years your body has an accumulation of toxins. So, if you are someone who has not fasted before a lot of your sickness and illness may come when your body's immune system breaks down because of the amount of toxin within your body. You may not get it on day 20 or 30 or 40 of your fast but it will hit you one of these days. That is why the fringe benefits of a fasted life is good health and divine health. In the animal kingdom from time to time the animals go on a fast. But somehow we human beings have forgotten mother nature and God's natural laws and indulge ourselves, feed three fat meals a day and reap the results of not following God's law. The law of fasting is grafted in our bodies. Your bodies were made to have certain days of fasting to remain in peak condition, in perfect health. A lot of sicknesses and diseases that people suffered from are unnecessary if they lived a fasted life. When you start fasting some of you (though not all of you) would experience headache or a sickly feeling. That is because your body has begun to get rid of the toxins. Your body is beginning to cleanse itself.

What I urge you is to continue and if you just need a little food then by all means have some natural fruit juices. After you pulled through that period, you will experience a higher level of health that you haven't experienced before. Your body will reach a higher level of health. Having achieved that first day of fasting then you make it a regular weekly affair at least once a week. In that way, you can maintain your body in peak condition, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So, your body is made to cleanse itself from time to time if you would co-operate with the laws of God. These are the fringe benefits of fasting. Your body cleanses itself physically and your soul cleanses itself in the soul realm.

### **Surfacing of Hidden Sins and Weaknesses**

When you fast some of the inner desires or wrong motives of hidden things of the heart that are not right in the sight of God are brought forward. You could live your whole Christian life and not be aware of what we call the besetting sins or hidden things in your life. All of us have those little dots here and there in our hearts that God is not pleased. But when you seek God in fasting and prayer all those little things will come out. How do they come out? Through your fast, you will find that at first some of those old temptations in your life seem to revive for a moment. You say, "How come when I am fasting, suddenly these temptations come? If you are someone who could be calm when you fast suddenly you find yourself temperamental. That began to come out because inside you there is a temperamental part that needs to be dealt with. When you fast all those things are brought to the surface to be dealt with. For something to be dealt with, it must be dug out, cleansed and then replaced or renewed.

The other way is that it comes out from your soul in dreams. Your inner part of the soul suddenly comes out so that God could deal with it. In your fasting, you really know who you really are. Your weaknesses will come to the surface to be dealt with. Secondly, it comes out through your dreams. You would receive some dreams from your childhood or things in your life that are hidden. Now all your life if you have never fasted if you have never deal with those areas the rest of your Christian life you try to go into God in a deeper way it hinders you, you do not know why. Sometimes it's a mystery to you as to why you can not progress in your Christian life. When you fast all these areas are brought to the surface. It can come in your dreams. Your inner hidden fears in certain areas will come in your dreams and hurts in your life will come out to be dealt with. That is why fasting is so important. We will touch more on this area if God permits.

### 3. A SPIRITUAL WARFARE

But this morning we will touch on fasting a spiritual warfare. We have spoken that when God has spoken something and God has prophesied something in your life, if it doesn't come to pass – go on a fast, because it releases the power of God. So we will continue on that area as a spiritual warfare. Fasting is a spiritual warfare where you intensify the warfare against the devil. The devil and demons are spiritual forces who you normally can not see. We wish that the devil were in a realm where we could just give it to him. But it's not the natural realm. He is in the spirit realm. One of the forces I discovered in fasting is when you fast and pray it intensifies the pressure of the devil. Every time you fast, the pressure gets on the enemy. The gates of hell are being shaken. The enemy is feeling the pressure of your fast. The more intense your fast the more the pressure is on him. I enjoy fasting because it makes the devil miserable. So when you fast intensely with prayer the intensity is on the enemy so much that he would have to let go of something that is delaying in your life. A lot of areas in your life that you have been praying for, unanswered prayer, promises that God has spoken that has not been fulfilled, prophecies in your life - the devil will see to it that is not fulfilled but God will see to it that is fulfilled. And your part is to cooperate with God to release His power in your life and to intensify the pressure on the enemy.

So, this morning lets look at the look of Daniel. Daniel was a man of fasting and praying. Daniel learnt fasting very early in his youth when he was first taken in Nebuchadnezzar training school for the slaves of Israel. Daniel first learns fasting as a partial fast. He did not start fasting like some fellows would. When they hear the fasting message they leave the church saying, "I am going to fast 40 days and 40 nights." These are the desperados; after three days, you hear the sound of an ambulance and we will start a hospital ministry. So, don't jump and have a desperado fast. It is better to have a regular fast than a desperado fast. You train your body to fast.

Some of you have never fasted in your life; you have been eating and feasting all the days of your life. You have not experienced a high level of health. I can assure you that if you are someone who eats a lot everyday and never fast, you would also be the type of person who falls sick easily. You will also be the person when the flu gets around even when it is one mile away you will get it too. You will be the type of person who has frequent headaches and all kind of sicknesses come easily on you as if you are a magnet to the germs. God has made your body such that your body has a natural system of remaining in health. Your body kills the germs that touch your body. And you have to strengthen that system in your body through fasting. Daniel learns the partial fasting. Don't go straight for it without food and water. You just train your body regularly. Your body may scream, your body may protest, your body may complain, but discipline your body. If you haven't run in the Olympic marathon before you don't start there. You have to train your body everyday. You practice running around your neighborhood and then you attempt one mile. Likewise, you train your body in fasting. I would suggest you train your body with partial fast, like a fruit fast or vegetables fast or a simple juice fast. Just take 4 apples and eat it within the 24 hours when you feel hungry. Then the following week when your body gets more submitted, you can train your body more and more.

Daniel in chapter one starts learning the partial fast. Daniel loves God and this is what he told the chief of the eunuchs in Daniel 1:11. Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. So, they went on a partial fast of vegetables and water. That's how Daniel started his life and ministry fasting a partial fast. Later on in his life, you see that Daniel also had a partial fast of 21 days. We do not know what he ate during that partial fast. But we know he ate very little. He had a vegetable fast. And during the vegetables fast here is when the Word of God tells you that in those 10 days their complexion was better. They had fewer pimples than those guys who ate and drink wine and all the oily and fatty delicacies of the king's table. Ladies please open your eyes. I am giving you a beauty treatment this morning that is worth more than what the world can give you and it's free.

Dan. 1:14 So he hearkened to them in this matter; and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's rich food. So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. So, they were on a vegetable fast before God. They had a trial period of ten days. And the steward found them lovely. They had a lovely skin, lovely complexion and it was so impressive that the steward who was assigned by the chief of the eunuchs to take care of them says, "I will give you vegetables for the rest of your life." We do not know exactly what sort of vegetables. Maybe they were eating food in the natural that cleanses the body. Once a fat man came to me and asked me to pray for him to be thin. I probably had an anointing to be thin so he came to me. If your face is such that it gives you problems all the cream in the whole wide world couldn't help you. And you are going to beautician after beautician. Do you realize that Jesus is the best beautician? You didn't go to Doctor Jesus yet. And Doctor Jesus' recommendation from the Word of God is a partial fast. Good for your complexion, ladies. And you don't have to worry about too much weight either. Here they had nice complexion, good health and not only that God blessed them with skill and wisdom as fringe benefit. I have found that every time people fast they receive blessings from God. You never go through a fast without being blessed by God. God will bless you naturally. God will bless you spiritually. God will pour special gifts on your life to the one who says that I will discipline my body. The fall of Adam and Eve was when they allowed their body to transcend their spirit. But here when you allow your spirit and the Word to transcend over your body God blesses you back. God multiply His blessings on your life.

Now Lets look at Dan.1:19 And the king spoke with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they stood before the king. They were ten times smarter than all the rest. That was a blessing they received from God. Notice God can only bless those who were to give themselves to Him. God wants to bless everybody. But God requires that people would give themselves to Him and show to Him that they love Him with all their heart, mind and soul.

This is where we want to see in spiritual warfare in Dan. 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. For 21 days, Daniel was fasting and praying. It was a partial fast it was not a complete fast because in verse 3 it says I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three

weeks. He ate no delicacies, no meat, no wine; he went on probably a fruit kind of fast for 21 days.

On a fruit fast, you have an internal cleansing and an external cleansing. When you take a bath, you notice the bath cleanses you outwardly. When you bathe, your body does feel a difference. It feels a refreshing. How much more when you have an internal cleansing, which comes when you go on a partial fast. Or when you have developed your body's strength that you are able to go on water fast, you will feel an internal cleansing that takes place in your body. You feel much healthier than before. And I noticed this people who fast and pray often at least once a week or so seldom catch flu, or headache, or get sick. One time we were talking to a 92-year-old man a minister of God who came from abroad. We asked him, "How do you keep so healthy? He said, "Simple, prayer and fasting." So some people ask, "Can I be a nice Christian and still eat, drink and be merry?" Yes, you can, except that you probably go home faster. Some people ask me is smoking all right. "Can I still go to heaven if I smoke?" Yes you can except you go home faster. So it's good for us to be cleansed in our body, overcome the flesh and have more blessings of God.

Here we have it that he was fasting and praying for 21 days. While he was praying in his prayer room, something was happening in the skies. The prayers of one man dedicated to God on a partial fast were so powerful that something was happening in the heaven. The whole nation was being affected. I believe if God can only find one faithful person, He can revive one nation. You don't need a million of them. One will do is enough; one Jesus Christ turned the whole of Israel upside down. You shall do the works that I do and greater works says Jesus Jn. 14:12 Greater works than this shall you do. So all God need is a man or a woman who is faithful. You can stir the nations. Here is one man fasting and praying for 21 days.

At the end of the fast in Dan. 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with gold of Uphaz! Then in verse 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. The power of God was on the place after 21 days. Only Daniel saw the vision and though the rest did not see the vision, they felt something supernatural happened, and they ran away. Not everyone will be opened to the anointing of God. When the power of God was operating, some people ran. They are afraid. Daniel himself in verse 8 tells him that all his strength left. Do you know what he was experiencing? He was slain under the power of God. Verse 9 When I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in a deep sleep with my face to the ground. He fell forward in the power of the Spirit. Daniel was slain under the anointing of God. When he was slain in verse 10 a hand touched him and says in verse 11 "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, give heed to the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And the angel said to him "Do not fear, from the first day that you started praying and fasting God above has heard your words." Every time you pray a prayer that is promised by God, the moment you pray God hears. God doesn't take 10 days or 21 days to hear. From the time you pray and even before when it was still in your heart to pray, God heard it and God starts moving in your direction.

Notice here that not only God sends an angel but also the devil also sends one of his agents in the next verse 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia (that is the kingdom of the middle Persian or the Babylon Empire taken over by the Medes and



the Persian under king Darius. When they took over the kingdom there is also a spiritual evil prince over that nation called the prince of the kingdom of Persia) withstood me 21 days. For 21 days there was a spiritual battle going on. When Daniel was praying and fasting a spiritual battle was being fought on his behalf. When you fast and pray the angels of God are fighting. And fasting and praying can help the angels of God in the spiritual war instead of eating and drinking. There are times when you can eat, drink and fellowship. But there are times when God calls His people to fast and to enter into spiritual warfare. And you can enter into spiritual warfare by fasting.

While the angel Gabriel was fighting the middle Persian prince who was an evil warrior demon, Daniel was praying and there was a pressure being put on the spiritual forces that were there. There was tremendous spiritual warfare going on above. I notice this every time the people of God have fasted they have always shaken the spiritual forces of darkness over their nation and over their city. You can fast and claim the city for Jesus. You can fast and claim this nation for Jesus. You can fast and claim your nation for Jesus. You can fast and pray right here, while in your home. You can put pressure on the enemy. You can give him a technical knock out by your fasting. Your fasting puts pressure on him. At the end of the 21 days because of that fast God released Michael the Archangel. When he came, the devil ran for his life because God now release more power. If you want to see the power of God working in your life, go on a fast. If you want to see God answering your prayers for your family faster and putting pressure on the enemy, put some pressure on your stomach first and start fasting. Remember from the first day of the fast, God hears your prayers. God is not the one who delays your answers. The enemy the devil is the one responsible for all your problems and delaying the answers and you can deal with him by fasting and praying. Enter into that realm.

Michael the Archangel came and notice that when he came, the angel Gabriel said in verse 13, and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I have been left alone there with the kings of Persia. So there was victory in the whole of Persia because of one man. The rest of them partook of the blessings of God. There was peace in the land. There were blessings in the land. All because one man had learned to fast and pray. Notice what the angel came to give him.

The angel said in verse 14 I came to make you understand what is to befall your people in the later days. For the vision is for days yet to come. All the angel came to bring to the life of Daniel was revelation. You see the connection there, fasting, praying, spiritual warfare and revelation. If you ever want to grow faster in God and see more revelations from God, you will have to fast and pray. Fasting brings a greater degree of revelation to your life. And revelation is such an important substance. When you understand the devil is defeated, if you see it, it becomes yours. He was not bringing anything else except a revelation and an understanding to Daniel. Daniel understood all these things. Daniel by that time was quite old already. He was a man of constant prayer and fasting. He did not just learn to fast and pray when he was old. He started from his early days. He lived a fasted life. And you see the blessings on Daniel. He was promoted; God blessed him. God poured down all His blessings and caused him to enter into that realm of revelation. The prophecies of Daniel are one of the most powerful prophecies that even stretched over the centuries to the end times. Even in these last days, his prophecies are still operational. He was a

busy man, much more busy than many of us. He was busy because he had work to do. He was a man in high office. His time was important. But he reckons it as important to spend the time fasting and praying.

Some of you have been fasting and praying. You have seen that your answers have been speeded up. Some areas of your life you began to have breakthrough. The keys are so simple yet people are not being encouraged to apply those keys. I feel led by God to encourage you to be a fasting and praying people. So that it would be implanted into your lives those revelations that God has on your life. Without fasting and praying there would be no more revelation coming to you.

Paul was a man of fasting. Sometimes I wondered how he got those revelations until I began to read in II Corinthians where Paul says that he was in fasting often. He was a man who fast and pray. Decide today that you will have a day of fasting and prayer in your life. And God will bring a breakthrough in your life. Don't wait until the times when you have a problem. Begin now when you see that everything is moving, growing on in God, fast for your tomorrow to come. Begin to discipline yourself right now. Don't wait until your problems come. Don't wait until the difficulty comes, then you say now I will fast and pray. Sometimes it's a bit late. It's a bit too late.

Lets look at the book of Daniel 9:1-2, In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chaldeans in the first year of his reign, I Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years which, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. He read and studied the Word of God. He meets the Word of God with prayers. He came across the Word of God that in seventy years God will restore the people. But it was not happening. Nothing was happening yet. And Daniel was fasting here. So what did Daniel do? He prayed some more and he sought the face of God. And God began moving when started praying and fasting.

Notice here in this passage in Dan. 9:3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and fasting. Daniel fasted for the Word of God to be performed. Sometimes people prophesied about what God is going to do in this land and nation. What God is going to do in these last days? Let me tell they are not going to happen until people fast and pray that we mean business with God. What God said He would do? Daniel fasted and he prayed a heart-rending cry onto to God for his people. Look at verse 20 While I was speaking and praying confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God; while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. The angel even flew faster when Daniel fasted.

Some of you are wondering what your guardian angels are doing. I wonder why all these problems are happening to me. What are my guardian angels doing? You know what the guardian angels are doing? They are just looking at you. And some of us have been eating and drinking, making merry when the Spirit of God is telling us to fast. The Holy Spirit has been speaking to you and the angels are waiting for you to respond to the Almighty God. We are today working with angels. The angels of God are working together with us in the ministry of the Word. The angel's hands are tied by your confession and by your prayer life. If you pray not they help not. And you are having problems. In fact, you are the problem. Don't blame the angels. God has given

us the authority on this earth. God has given the authority in the name of Jesus. Unless a human being gave permission, the angels can not interfere. But if you pray and fast, the angels come swiftly to help. When Daniel started fasting for the prophecy of Jeremiah to be fulfilled, I could see Gabriel flying on his wings being sent about by God to bring the prophecy. The angels are working to bring the prophecy to pass. As he was flying God tells him to go to Daniel. Then it says that God caused the angel to fly swiftly.

For some of you, your angels are on free gear. And the devil is giving you problems upside down. You are crying over it. But after your crying, you have a fat lunch. Then you go home at night and you wonder why doesn't God help you. You are to blame. You have not released the aid of the angels to you and put pressure on the enemy. You bring more angels to your aid by your fasting and praying. How many of you love angels to be around you? Some people don't have angels around or rather they behave as if they don't have angels around. So everyday they will say, "I bind you devil, you can not come through my gate. I bind you devil, you can not enter through my window. I bind you here, I bind you there." Good thing you didn't get yourself bind too. Everyday you live in fear. Don't know which demon is going to come through which door. And every time you go out you have to pray two hours. You say, "Please God protect me I am accident-prone." You are not accident-prone. You are allergic to fasting. You can not get into the heavenly realm but your angels can. By your fasting, you will release warring angels on your behalf and they will only be too glad in fact, they would love to help you. Waiting for you to just give up your lunch, pray and seek the face of God. And every time you do it they say lets go and every time the devils hear that they run. They say I can't stand this guy. He is always fasting. Every Saturday I get a black eye. Don't stop keep on fasting.

If you have never fasted before, please start now. You are never too young to start. Don't say I am only a teenager. The bible never says that fasting is for those over 20. You could go on a fruit fast. As the children grow, they must learn to do it. Train them in the things of God. The people of the world are training teenagers to do horrible things. Why can't the people of God train the young to do the spiritual things? You are never too young to start fasting. Go on a partial fast. When some people go on a one meal fast, they cramp three meals into one. So when I say start with a fruit fast please don't to the market and bring a basketful of fruits home, and every hour you are munching away. Where do you have time to talk to God if you are munching your apples all the time? Please don't go overboard. When you feel hungry at lunchtime just eat one fruit to keep the hunger away. As you train your body, your body will slowly be able to endure the hunger pangs. You are never too young to fast and you are never too old to fast. You say brother I am near retirement. As we grow older, we need all the food we need. So brother if you eat more, we will have to bury you earlier. Don't wait till your problems come before you start fasting now. When the Spirit does something and blessed something I will go on. I refuse to stop. When God has blessed you, you don't sit down and shake your legs. You go and press further. When your ministry is growing or God is blessing your business don't take it easy. Press on and have a time of fasting so that you go higher and deeper into the realm of God.

Look at Daniel he was a man of prayer and fasting. And the people could find no problem with him except one. They tried their best to find problems with Daniel but

they could not. They said the only way we can get him in prison is to find problem with his God. So, they made a proclamation against him and said that there shall be no prayer whatsoever. And this Daniel was probably in his 60s or 70s in Dan. 6:5 Then these men said, We shall never find any ground for complain against Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.” Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O king Darius live forever! Verse 10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in the upper chamber open towards Jerusalem; and he got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he has done previously. Daniel was a man established in prayer and the Word and fasting from the early days of his life. As you read in Daniel one he learned to fast to pray to seek the things of God. In Daniel chapter two in fact the king wanted to kill all the wise men. Daniel said give me time to pray and seek God. They sought God and they interpreted the king’s dream. See Daniel knew that the key to his life is prayer. Your prayers are more powerful than you think.

That is why I tell people that in this church as in every church we will have problems. We are not a church without problems. We are growing and there are teething problems but there are different ways to deal with problems. And prayers deal with 99 percent of the problems in this church. We don’t do anything we just prayed. We prayed the problem off. If every church would do that instead of having endless committee meetings, they would see faster and more efficient solutions to their problems. The committee meetings meet and adjourn again and the problems grow worse and worse. They take a carnal action. But no, the action you can take is prayer and fasting. When anything threatened the church, I go to the Lord and fast and pray because the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. We don’t deal carnally with the things of God. You don’t treat a church administration like a business administration. You don’t have a business style of carrying out a church correction like they do in the world. No, you deal with it spiritually. Prayer can deal with 99 percent of church problems. The other one percent is to take a course of certain action after prayer and under the leading of God. But 99 percent of the time problems can be dealt with just by prayer and fasting. God solves it better than you and I could solve it. That’s the key for any church.

This was impressed on me after a brother shared this testimony with me. He was a senior seminary student who graduated before me. He was baptized in the Spirit although he was a Baptist. I don’t know where he is today. But in his early days of his ministry, he was a man dedicated to fasting and praying. You don’t need great imagination to imagine how he looks like. And I went to a church for fieldwork where he had just gone. He would spend hours there praying. One day a certain brother was thinking of going away and doing something in the world. He said this particular person was praying for him. He prayed people’s problems away. And he prayed the people into the church. And this brother was walking in Bukit Mertajam and he was crossing a bridge. On the bridge, he felt a pair of hand touch him. He looked around and saw nobody. A normal person would jump off the bridge quickly. And he said the hands pushed him all the way, turned him around into the direction of the church, pushed him in the church and pushed him right to the person who was praying and left him there. The brother who was praying for him said, “Brother I was praying for you to come here.” I never forget that and I realize how powerful prayer is. It is like your right hand. You could go into the area where people could not go and people could

literally, physically, tangibly feel the movement of hand on the situation. You can change things by prayer.

Some of you are here because I prayed for you. Some of you have nightmares that tell you to come. I didn't send the nightmares. I only prayed for you. And you can never run from prayers. Some pastors are so afraid of their sheep running away. They have rules "Thou shall not go to other pastures" - it is their eleventh commandment. No, you are free to go anywhere but because I shepherd you as an under shepherd, my shepherd's staff is my prayer and intercession for you. A shepherd has a stick with a round hook. And that shepherd would take that round hook and pull the sheep back whenever that sheep go to a wrong place. Bishops of certain denominations carry a symbolic staff with a hook too. I don't intend to have one. The hands of prayer are powerful hands and that is my bishop's staff. You could release the angels working for us. But I like to see it as the hands of prayer that go forth.

Paul was a man of prayer before he was an apostle. And any man or woman of God whether you are an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, or whatever you have to be a man of prayer first before you become a mighty five-fold minister. Don't depend on others to pray. Some people don't pray themselves but they ask people to pray for them. That is just plain laziness. Everyone has to pray. Paul was a man of prayer. He told the Galatians, "O Galatians you have now fallen away." He wrote letters to them. He scolded them in letters and beat them in prayers. He says O you Galatians why do you go away from grace? Then he says in Gal. 4:19 he says, I travail for you again until Christ be formed in you. He prayed for them. If he says again that tells me that before he preached to the Galatians, he travailed for the Galatians. That once upon a time before the Galatians were born again he travailed and given birth to them. And now they are going to fall away, he travailed until Christ be formed in them. So, the apostle Paul watched over the churches he started by prayer. By prayer, you can be omnipresent. By prayer, you can go forth. Some of you have dreams and you see me in your dreams. I prayed for you, that's omnipresence, and sent the hands of prayer there. Its easy and its more enjoyable work to pray the people of God to perfection.

So, it tells us here in the book of Daniel. Daniel was a man of prayer regularly established upon his life. All of us have to establish our regular day of prayer. Make it a routine. They are some good habits that you can form. There are bad habits that people form; in the same way, you can form good ones. Set a day aside once a week as your day of fasting and prayer. Set it as your regular day and as you fast and pray God is going to do fantastic things for you. Now here in the book of Daniel, they wanted to get Daniel. They found him praying so they took him and they wanted to throw him into the lion's den. Isn't it funny if some of us never fast and pray? Then you get into problem. They take you and throw you into the lion's den. You can start praying "Our Father who art in heaven". You wouldn't have time to pray when the lions are breathing down on you. Lions wait for me to fast and pray. They wouldn't wait. If Daniel hasn't learned to fast and pray in his early days, he would have been too late in the lion's den. But he was a man of prayer. When they threw him in he already prayed the problem over. So, he was not afraid of circumstances. Don't be afraid of bad circumstances; don't be afraid of anything.

But there was somebody fasting for him. Look at Daniel 6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. The king was fasting. It did not say that the king was praying. It only

says fasting. So, I want to focus on the power of fasting too. See fasting brings intensity to your desires.

I was reading through one of Sadhu Sundar Singh's old books. When he was talking to Jesus, Jesus told him that there is inherent latent power that God has placed in man that if men were to put all of their hearts and desires and objectives into what they would do they can do it. Jesus further said that praying and fasting bring all those desires to a sharp focus and they could do what it was said impossible by other men. That's what fasting and praying does to you. It brings the focus of all the things you desire, all the things you have prayed for. It brings them to a sharp focus.

And the king was at this time not a man who normally prays. But he loved Daniel very much. He doesn't want to lose Daniel. He was so concerned for Daniel that he could not eat food. He was fasting away thinking about Daniel's safety. His desire for Daniel's safety was so strong, stronger than food that his soul's desire and his good desire came out. And he was so intense and I am sure God used that too to bring about Daniel's deliverance together with Daniel's prayers. Fasting brings it all forth. So fasting is a spiritual warfare.

Jesus was a man of prayer and I believe fasting. When He faced the devil He fasted and He prayed. Why, because while He was doing that He gave intense pressure on the devil. Every time any one of you has a demonic activity against your life, fast and pray and you will see the devil weakened. You could literally see the devil weakened before your eyes. Jesus in Matthew 4 and Luke 4 was in temptation. Some of you have great temptations coming to you. Some of you are aware of weaknesses in your life. You are weak in certain areas that the devil always seems to have victory. Let me advise you on this area and encourage you when those temptations come refuse to eat. Temptation is the devil putting pressure on you to sin. Depends on who put pressure on whom. Temptation is the devil putting pressure on you. And when those temptations come you refuse to eat. So, I will put all of my desire in the Word and I will fast and pray against this. You watch and see. The pressure began to turn back against the demons that are trying to put the temptations on your life. The temptations will weaken. Take the example of Jesus. When He was tempted He fasted although the bible never said that He was sent by the Holy Spirit to fast. The bible says that He was sent by the Holy Spirit to be tempted. So fasting was a decision Jesus personally made because He knew that the devil would only attack you through the flesh. The devil is a sense creature and he attacks through your senses. So, if you through fasting weaken your five senses the devil's pressure on you is weakened plus when you fast your spiritual strength increases. The devil will feel the pressure of your fasting and prayer.

There were a lot of problems in my early days as a Christians. There were a lot of temptations that I had to overcome in my life. There are certain bad habits in my life that I had to break. God began to speak to me that the next time that problem comes, start fasting. So I fasted when the devil's temptations came strongly and I chose not to eat. I said, "Devil I am not eating. I will just spend this day praying." And I fasted and prayed and I noticed that the temptation got broken. The old devil never tried to come back. He probably went and complained to all the other devils and said, "I was having a good time with that guy, overcoming him with all these temptations but look at me now my heart is broken, legs are bruised, and eyes are black. You know what he did to me? He put pressure on me through his fasting." Put pressure on the devil by

fasting and praying. Whatever area of your life those bad habits that you keep falling into, sins of the flesh, sins of temper, whatever area choose to fast whenever the pressure of the devil on you gets hot. You choose to fast, you will overturn and put the pressure back on him. And he will be the one who turns and run.

Jesus knew the key. The devil puts intense pressure more than anyone of us has ever experienced on Jesus. Forty days and nights Jesus chose not to eat. The devil was cunning. He tried to get Jesus to eat something. Jesus said, "No, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." He puts more pressure on the devil. The devil could not stand it. Fasting and praying are the spiritual keys to victory over the sins of the flesh. Some of you are facing sins of the flesh, like carnal temptations or smoking. When you fast all your appetites that love to smoke and love to drink will disappear. It only comes to you when you feed your body well. Your body can be put under subjection. You can overcome it with fasting and prayer. Or sins in your soul; areas in your life where you are a grudging person; an unforgiving person or you are a person who has a bad tempter, when the devil puts pressure on you, you put it back on him by fasting and praying.

Lets make this confession together, "Father we choose Your ways for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are strong, they are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. Father we praise You, we thank You that when we fast and we pray we can focus all of our desires all of our higher desires into intense concentration and have breakthrough in all areas of our life. Father God we covenant with You; we will set a day of fasting and praying we will set ourselves aside as men and women who fast and pray to serve You all the days of our life even from this day forward in Jesus' Name. We serve You, Father; we are Yours, Father. We love You, Father. We thank You that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church and against me who is a member of the body of Christ, in Jesus' Name.

## 4. FASTING FOR REVELATION

Fasting is the only key that breaks the realm of the spirit where we confront impossible situations. You have done everything but you have not fasted - do it and you will find an enormous difference in the spiritual impact on your spiritual war. And the victories you experienced will testify for themselves the practical benefits of fasting.

### Revelation

This morning we are going to talk about how fasting brings forth revelation. Let's define revelation before we go into it. Revelation is a word you will hear described over and over again in the New Testament. Paul talks about the spirit of wisdom and revelation in Ephesians 1. He talks about how Jesus Christ had given him a revelation in Galatians chapter one. And in II Corinthians 12, he talks about how he has been to the third heavens and he had received visions and revelations. And Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16 about how flesh and blood has not revealed to him but the Spirit of His Father. So, we see that the word revelation is used all the time in the bible. It would do us well to understand what revelation means and implies in the bible. Basically, all Christianity is God revealing Himself. No one can understand God unless God reveals Himself. All your understanding of God thus far and in the future will always be because God reveals Himself more to you. It is the only faith, I won't call it religion, I call the only faith where God comes down and reveals Himself to us. All the other religions are men's attempts and struggles to reach God and understand God. There is a difference between the revelation of God and men's logical analysis and conclusion of God. There is a great difference. If I reveal something to you, your guesswork would have stopped. But if I don't reveal something to you, you will be guessing and some of your conclusions may be wrong. In the same way, many times people come to wrong conclusion just by studying from the outside. They try to understand God. It is not that way. The bible is the Word of God written by men who are moved by the Holy Spirit. And you need to have the same Spirit to unveil this Word to you. You can study for years but if you don't ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word all your years of study won't gather much and in fact you may even end up with some wrong conclusions and deductions from the Word. But if you pray and sincerely seek God with faith and with all your heart and ask God to reveal Himself, He would. You pray a prayer that God would reveal Himself, in one day you can understand more than ten years of study.

Kenneth Hagin prayed Ephesians 1:17-18 and 3:14-21 for nearly six months. Everyday when he had the time he used to go into the pulpit, open his bible to Ephesians chapter one and everyday he would pray, "God give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of my understanding may be enlightened. That I may know the hope of your glory, that I may know the riches of your inheritance in Christ Jesus in the saints. That I may know the exceeding greatness of your power towards me who believe. The same power wherewith you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set Him on high far above all principalities and power, might and dominion and over every name that is named. O God reveal all these things to me." He prayed it for six whole months. And when he did it one day the Holy Spirit came to him and said, "I am going to bring you into visions and revelations." And he made this statement in his thin little book called "Prayer Secrets" that in the next few



months he learned more than he has ever learned in all his years of ministry. That's how powerful revelation is. Revelations initiated by God and received by men are powerful. Men do not initiate revelation. God initiates it. Men's part is only to receive.

However here is where we come in. There are certain pre-requisites, certain conditions that we must be in before we can receive, before we can hear what God is speaking and revealing onto us. We must position ourselves to receive the revelation. One of those keys is fasting. Before we go into that, let me give you the biblical grounding on revelation and its importance. Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi. He asked His disciples saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

I like the New King James Version English. It is a good English translation of the original Hebrew and Greek. After studying the Word of God for one year, analyzing the version for one whole year in the Greek and the Hebrew, I would say that the NKJV is the best version. For some parts, you will still need footnotes but it is generally one of the best.

Who do men say that I the Son of man am? Some said John the Baptist, some Elijah others one of the prophets. That is what the people outside say. Jesus turns to His disciples and He said who do you say that I am. He confronted His disciples. They knew what others were saying about Him. But now He says, "What do you say about Me?" It's more important what you yourself consider and have a revelation of Christ than what other people have in order for your life to be changed. The public opinion at that time was that Jesus was John the Baptist, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Jesus is asking His small group of disciples that used to follow Him all over the place. "The public says all of these things but who do you say that I am?"

Here is the marvelous fact. Peter spoke up first. He says, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." That is what Peter declared about Jesus. Then the next statement Jesus made is important. He tells us where Peter got his revelation. Verse 17 Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. Flesh and blood can not produce revelation. Human effort can not produce revelation. That is why after the second or third generation of a move of the Spirit, the whole movement becomes a monument. The flow of God becomes a history. It is because the third generation must personally receive the revelation of God for themselves from God and not from flesh and blood. It is vitally important for us to see here, flesh and blood has not revealed this to you. We must see what brings revelation and what does not bring revelation. Flesh and blood does not bring revelation, and flesh and blood includes all human effort and human intellect. And so, the level of your educational attainment does not limit you to receive revelation from God. If we all need PhD. to understand Christ, even the apostles would not qualify. Somebody once said PhD. means permanent head damage. What we want to emphasize is that intellectual power, educational level, vocabulary, knowledge, does not limit us to receive revelation from God. Some of the most beautiful revelations that have flown forth into the body of Christ have come from humble men and women who had spent a lot of time in the presence of God. So, revelation does not come from flesh and blood. It comes from the Spirit of God.

Jesus pronounced a blessing upon him and then the next statement is important. Verse 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. What is happening here? It must be very powerful. Jesus talks about building His church now. The church He builds will be the church that receives Him at His second coming. So, what He is saying here is vitally important. He says, “You are Peter and on this rock, I will build my church. And the powers of death shall not prevail against it.”

Now you can have three conclusions from that one statement Matt. 16:18. No. 1, if you read it in the English version and read it just on the surface you may think that Peter is the rock. And on this rock, Jesus builds the church. If you read on the surface, it looks as if Jesus was calling Peter a rock, “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” It looks as if Peter is the rock. But you have a problem because Peter died, so what happens now? If Peter was the rock on whom Jesus built the church, when Peter died the church must have died along with him. That would be an untenable premise. What are we going to do if he is the rock?

The second interpretation you can have is that the rock is Jesus. On this rock He builds the church. You can cross reference to other verses where it talks about Jesus being the rock. He is the rock of my salvation. But there is something more. What we want to do is add to that revelation.

The third thing that some people say is that, that rock is the rock of faith. Faith is not mentioned in the context. You can talk about faith being a rock from other scriptures. So, the Catholic says that the rock is Peter and the Protestant says the rock is either Jesus or faith.

What does the context say? Lets look very carefully at Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, (Petros a Greek word) and on this rock (petra) I will build my church. You are Petros and on this petra I will build my church. That brings out something. Do you know that sometimes Jesus’ words were recorded in the Greek and there is a play on the Greek words? Just like the gospel of John 21 Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me,” three times? In the Greek He used different Greek words. In the English, we have only one word for love. In the first instance, Jesus asked, “Do you agape Me?” Then Peter replied and said, “I phileo You.” Then Jesus asks a second time, “Do you agape Me?” Peter said the second time, “Yes Lord I phileo You.” Then the third time Jesus came down to the level and said, “Do you phileo Me?” Then Peter said, “Yes I phileo You.” He came down to his level.

See there are different Greek words for love. There is the Greek word eros, which talks about sexual love. Then there is the word storge, which talks about family love or affection. Then there is the word phileo, which talks about friendship love. And then agape, which talks about God’s kind of love. So, Jesus was using one of those Greek words but Peter was replying with a different Greek word. However, in the English translation you only read it as love.

So here in this same incident there is also a play on the Greek word by the writer Matthew. This is what is being done. All Greek words have a masculine tense, a feminine tense or a neutral tense. Like for example the word things usually end in Greek as tauta, which is a neutral plural for houtos or “this”, and church will be ecclesia, which will be under the feminine tense. In the English, we have a form of it.

Like sometimes, we refer a big ship as a “she” or a country as a “she”. Sometimes they refer a typhoon as a “she”. So, in the English we have a usage where we use this feminine gender to refer to what we actually call natural neutral objects. So, in the Greek there are always masculine and feminine.

Here we have Jesus using the Greek, as recorded by Matthew. He said, “You are Petros,” which is a masculine word; “and on this petra,” petra is a feminine word. If you read it in the Greek New Testament, you can not get confused that Jesus is not referring to Peter. Otherwise, you are trying to make Peter feminine. You are petros and on this petra. If you refer the rock to Peter, you are making Peter feminine. So, Jesus is referring to a feminine object. Something that is feminine in the context of the chapter.

The second thing for you to note is Jesus said upon this rock. If I say, “The man,” you won’t know which man. If I say, “This man,” I am pointing to one particular man. If I say, “The child,” which child am I referring to? If I say, “This child,” I am referring to a particular child. Here we have Jesus Christ saying this petra this rock. That means somewhere in that few verses He mentioned an object, which He is now referring to. And if you read upwards and you read downwards you would find that there is only one Greek object that is feminine that qualifies as the object that He is talking about and that is in verse 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this (the word this is in italics). The word “this” is not in the Greek original but the English translation inserted “this” to point you to that word revealed. That is why if you don’t read the Greek you can read the English you can understand it too. Flesh and blood has not revealed this. What was it that Peter received? A revelation about Jesus. And Jesus turns around and said, “Upon this rock.” You can conclude that the rock is the revelation about Jesus Christ. Now when we use the word revelation don’t get frighten and think that it is some spooky or ethereal revelation. We are not talking about a revelation that is outside the Word of God. We are talking about something that is in line with the Word that the bible talks about that we need the light of God, the revelation of God. So, the church is built on the revelation of Jesus Christ. And it was a part of that revelation that Peter received on that day. He did not grasp the whole of it fully. But he received a revelation.

Turn to Ephesians 2 we are laying a foundation. Eph. 2:20 Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Notice Jesus was not the only foundation; Jesus was the chief of the foundation. But the apostles and prophets were the part of the foundation. The apostles and prophets are the foundation with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Question: why are the apostles and the prophets the foundation? The question is answered in Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. And in the verse before that verse 4, he is talking about the mystery of Christ, which is the knowledge of Christ, which is the revelation of Christ. So, you have here in the bible where it tells you very clearly that the church is built on revelation.

You analyze church history and you will find that wherever a church has lost the revelation the church has ceased to be the church that goes against the gates of Hades. In the dark ages where the church lost the revelation, it was no more the church that conquer. It was no more the triumphant church. It was a religious ceremonial church and not the mighty church that Jesus came to build. But later on, men were raised up

who began to have revelation. Martin Luther received the revelation of justification by faith. The church starts awakening and marching on. Then John Wesley came and received the revelation of sanctification. The church marched on in greater power. Then when the church received the revelation of the power from on high in the baptism in the Spirit the church marched on even mightier. The church is built upon revelation. And we are not going to stop there. Revelation has not ceased to stop its flow until Jesus comes again. He is going to keep on revealing until the whole church grows up in the fullness and the stature of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:11-14 until the whole church is perfected made into the image of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:6 says, For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. From glory to glory, He is changing us. As we look into His glory, we are changed in His glory. So the more Jesus reveals Himself to the church the more you see of Jesus the more you are transformed to be like Him. And in the day just before the angels sound the final trumpet of God, the final revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ is going to be unfolded to the church. And we are going to see Jesus in all His fullness. And when we see we will become what we see. As you behold the glory of God, you are transformed into the same image and glory. And then the church is transformed. The angels are going to blow the trumpet and God is going to say, "Come home, My spotless bride, come home My perfected church." This spotless bride and perfected church is built on revelation. That is what the revelation of Jesus Christ is about.

### **The Fight for Revelation**

The whole fight in the spiritual world is the fight of revelation. Satan seeks to steal the revelation from your life. Satan seeks to destroy the people of God by stealing the word of revelation. See it's the revealed Word that has power. The moment Peter looked into Jesus' eyes and said, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God, Jesus told him, "I give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." See revelations are keys to the kingdom of heaven. Every problem you have is a problem of revelation. If you have the revelation of how to do it, it's no more a problem. If you are in the ministry, and you go into radio or T.V. ministry but do not know how to organize and set it up, what do you have? You have a problem of a lack of revelation. When you have a revelation, it is no more a problem. You know how to do it. If you are in the business world and you don't know how to do it, then you have a lack of revelation. But when revelation comes to you, it is no more a problem. Your problems basically stem from a lack of revelation.

Revelation uplifts you. Revelation will set you into a place where Christ wants you to be. And Satan is afraid of revelation being channeled into the people of God. He will keep the church in bondage if he could. If revelation ever floods upon the church, he is defeated. So, the moment Peter had a revelation that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, Satan comes in and tries to hinder his life. Two times the gospel records how Satan comes against Peter. One was when Peter tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross in Matt. 16:22, Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" He even rebuked Jesus. He got big headed after he received the revelation. Do you know if you receive revelation and you do not know how to apply it, you become big headed? What happened was the devil came in and planted his subtle but devilish thoughts into

Peter's mind. Unfortunately, Peter didn't know where those thoughts were coming from and yielded to them and blurted them out without thinking or discernment. Jesus was not fooled; He knew the source and origin of those words. Jesus rebuked him, "Get behind me, Satan. You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:23) Why did Satan come in immediately? It is because he is afraid that the revelation will get effective in Peter's life.

The other time Satan came against Peter was when Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him as wheat. Luke 22:31-32, And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." There were some legal grounds in Peter's life that gave Satan the right to petition God to sift his life as wheat. Given the impulsive nature of Peter, he may have at different times yielded to Satan's thoughts and suggestions and spoke them out, like the time he took the Lord Jesus aside and tried to stop Him from going to Jerusalem to suffer at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes. Satan kept a record of Peter's infractions and after accumulated enough evidence, he petitioned God for the right to sift him as wheat. Evidently, that right was granted, and Satan was on hand to press him and intimidate him with thoughts of fear and trepidation at that critical moment when the servant girl and others said that he was with Jesus (Luke 22:56-60). He buckled under that onslaught of the enemy, yielded to those thoughts and denied Jesus Christ. Peter was indeed sifted about like wheat. However, because of Jesus' intercession that Peter's faith should not fail in that crisis, Peter was able to pick himself up. This was critical because though he was shaken, his faith was there to enable him to come back to God in repentance and believe God for his forgiveness. We see a different Peter after the day of Pentecost. He became fearless and courageous, even in the face of threats, intimidations, beatings, and imprisonment. He had indeed returned to Jesus, and was indeed strengthening his brethren by his preaching and steadfastness. Simon (which means reed in Greek) has become Peter (which means rock in Greek).

Many Christians are not aware as to why they are being afflicted by mental torments, demonic oppression, twists of circumstances that disfavor them, financial ruins and collapses, family breakups even accidents and seemingly "bad luck". It is not "bad luck" but one of the reasons is they had accumulated a number of transgressions and violations to give Satan enough legal grounds to petition God to afflict the Christian and even to make a demand for his life or shorten his life. Since God builds His throne on righteousness and justice, and in the presence of numerous dignitaries in heaven who expect God to be just and righteous, God will have to grant permission to Satan since he has valid legal grounds. Many Christians are unwittingly giving the rope to Satan to hang them with, so to speak, by the accumulation of their sins and iniquities.

### **Daniel's Fast for Revelation**

Lets look in the book of Daniel and see the link now. Dan. 8:27 I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days. The bible used the word sick but actually, he was not sick. He was weak for days. Actually, the power of God was so strong he was slain under the power of God and was weak for some time. That is why sometimes you have a strong dose of the power of God and it can last for some time. Don't be surprised at that; it is

not sickness its just your body reacting to the power of God. Afterwards I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it. See he received something that no one understood, he himself didn't understand. So, he continued seeking God and praying. Dan. 10:1-2 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. He didn't understand it fully that is why in the next verse in verse 2 In those days I, Daniel was mourning three full weeks. Here Daniel had received some parts of the revelation of God and he did not understand the rest. You know what you should do when you don't understand something in God? Ask God, seek after God, fast and pray. Don't just keep asking men. Men may sometimes give you their opinion, which can be accurate, or partially accurate and erroneous, or completely erroneous. You can confer and counsel with men but in the long run it is what you sense to be the revelation of God in line with the written Word for you.

So Daniel sought God and here is where fasting comes in. You see Daniel went on a partial fast in verse 2 and 3 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. Now we have mentioned the importance of revelation and the fact that the church is founded on revelation. If we stop there, and conclude our message and go home, you will still not know how to receive revelation. We need to know how to receive the revelation. You see the importance of coming to God and seeking for His light and revelation. Remember if revelation is the initiative of God and not the initiative of men, we have to humble ourselves and bow down before our Almighty God in worship and adoration. You can not push Him. You can not demand it of Him. You can just worship Him, wait upon Him, seek Him, and pray that He may reveal Himself more to you. As He deems you ready, He will reveal Himself more.

### **Two-fold Aspect of Fasting: Preparing and Receiving**

That's the part that we are talking about. How we need to continue to learn to draw revelation from God. If you have a problem in your family life, your purpose of fasting is to draw onto the revelation from God. Revelation will set you free. There are two parts to a fast. The first part is when you want to pray and commit the whole thing to God. At the same time, you also want to tune your spiritual ears and eyes to God in order to hear what God has to say regarding your particular problem or situation. So, the first part is from us bringing ourselves to God. The second part is from God bringing Himself and unveiling Himself to us. Get ready for that as you seek and fast. When you are ready and prepared, God unfolds Himself more. And the reason why we have to share this is sometimes when people enter on a fast they enter in and they got the first part done but they haven't got the second part done. And before God could unfold Himself, we have gone on to other things. We were not on hand to wait for His revelations and sometimes He really takes His time. Don't ask me why. He takes His time to reveal Himself to us as if His revelations are so powerful and precious. That is why we must reach a certain level before He unfolds Himself to us. It seems His revelations are like jewels. He has to prepare us and that revelation is so precious and so holy that we have to be dressed correctly in the spiritual sense, having the right attitude, in the spirit of meekness, in the spirit of

praise, in the spirit of adoration and worship. Then He finally takes His jewel of revelation and He puts it onto our hands. And from that day onwards something is different about your life. You receive an intuition, you receive a revelation, and you receive an impartation into your life. You receive all this through the discipline of fasting and praying.

Daniel entered on a 21 days fast. It was not a full fast. It's a partial fast. A partial fast can be as powerful as total fast. The fast is not so much as earned merit with God as it prepares you to meet God. Understand it that way, that in a fast you are not earning merit with God. The only thing that God sees today is the blood of Jesus, the works of Jesus, the righteousness of Jesus, which is free gift. But your fast places you in a position of readiness and receptivity. Just like for example we can be worshipping here and praising God. And if your heart and mind is on something, your mouth can be singing all those words but you could not enter into the spirit of praise and worship and adoration. What is happening? Sometimes the spirit of praise and adoration is here in this church. Something is blocking the spirit of worship from flowing, and it is not because the Spirit of God is not being poured out. It is because on your part you have not cast all your cares on Him and just praise and worship Him and let go. But when you choose to do that something happens to you.

The Spirit of God of praise and worship that is present can begin to work into your life. Sometimes people are brought up in a way that made them very self-conscious. So, every time when the spirit of praise comes they want to dance but the self-consciousness is there. But if they were all alone in their living room, they would do it. They will have a real hallelujah time with the Lord, dancing all around the sofa and singing. But when they come to church, their self-consciousness restricts them. What is happening? It's a barrier of our past. So where is the hindrance? The hindrance is within us not from God's side. But the day we let it go and we just take off, then the spirit of worship is being unfolded and flowing into our lives.

Now in the same way when we are fasting and seeking God in prayer, God wants to reveal Himself. He loves to reveal Himself, but He needs a preparation from our side before the unfolding takes place. And here Daniel began to seek God to restrain and discipline his body until his body is subdued through a partial fast not a total fast for 21 days. Let's look at the end results in Dan. 10:4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is the Tigris. Daniel must have taken a walk. When he was fasting, he was there by the river seeking God in solitude and waiting on God. He has completed 21 days on waiting on God. I don't know why God takes His time sometimes. I don't know why sometimes it takes a certain point before God begin to minister and reveal unfold Himself. But He is a person. We relate to Him as a person. We relate to God in a love relationship and we come before God seeking Him and loving Him. Then God chooses to unveil Himself to us. So, Daniel was there. The bible tells us he was by the side of the great river. As he was looking at the river he looked up, he saw a vision. Verse 5 I lifted my eyes and looked and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. He broke into the realm of God. There is a realm where you can seek after God. And if you are faithful, you break into the realm of God

where God relates to you and unfold Himself. See Daniel simply had to get to this realm. But through fasting and prayer, he managed to get into that realm.

Let look at Daniel 8:15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So, Daniel had a vision earlier and his whole body reacted to that vision. And in verse 27 he fainted, that is being slain under the Spirit.

I have instructed all our musicians. I am going to instruct each one of you too that the next time when we worship God in the Spirit, we are not going to let go just after a few minutes. We are going to go in for a long time. You may sense waves upon waves of the moves of the Spirit but we are going to enter into a deeper realm. In the average Charismatic church, as they worship God they sing beautiful songs with their understanding but their singing in the Spirit is quite short. Just when the people are going to enter into something, the worship leader says, "Now lets sing, 'We are together again.'" They missed out a lot of what the Spirit had in store for them. We are going to enter a realm where we are going to enter in the Spirit, sing in the Spirit, and worship in the Spirit for a long, long time. Now we want to move deeper and before we launch off into worshipping in the Spirit, we need to really praise God with all our hearts and worship God with all our hearts. You can not just enter that way. You need a preparation. I believe this, one of the ways of revival that God is bringing is a way of worship. You will find in the last two years there are more worship than have even been before in the whole world. It looks as if Jesus is coming back. And He is now calling forth worship from His people. And this worship that He is calling forth is the worship of the Father in Spirit and in truth. Now we have developed worshipping in truth. We want to move into a special realm of high praises now and worship in the Spirit as much as we worship in our understanding. We are not to give just a routine time. But we will take our time to get into that realm of the Spirit. I believe a day is coming where all the people of God are going to worship in the Spirit and the power of God is just going to move in; the awesome presence of God is going to sweep over the congregation. And when we all meet there in our spirits, our bodies will just be slain and our worship service will continue up there in the Spirit in the heavenly realm. And from time to time churches have gone into the Spirit worshipping as a group but not long enough to enter that realm. It needs a certain time to break into that realm. So please get ready. So the next time we get into the realm of the Spirit take your wings, put on over-drive, put on your flying machines and take off into that realm of the Spirit. We don't know what is going to happen there. We all may be having such an opening of the floodgates of heaven upon us and we don't know what to expect. It costs our bodies something.

Dan. 8:27 Daniel fainted and was sick for days. Days after he got up from the power of God, he just fell. Some of you sisters here when the power of God comes on you every time you get up, boom, you fall back again. Every time you step into the church, you sing halleluiah, boom, you are down on the carpet. Some churches call it carpet-time. You got up again you sing, "This is the day", boom, you are floored again. You didn't get much chance to sing. It's all right. The power of God will wear off after some time and your body will acclimatize to it.



But here I want you to see the difference between Daniel here in chapter 8 and Daniel in chapter 10. See what fasting does to him. Dan. 8:27 says he fainted and felt weak. Which part felt weak, his soul or his body? Every time when people fall under the power, sometimes they are just knocked off, but sometimes they are just restrained by the power of God. They could be mentally and consciously alert but they just could not get up. There are different levels. But the most important thing for us to note is here that his body was the part of him that was reacting to the power. Now God does not intend for him to feel weak for a few days. I don't think God purposely did that to him. But his natural body was reacting to the power of God.

Now turn to chapter 10 there was an even greater vision and revelation. He saw very clearly the angel that was talking to him and this time in verse 8 -9 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision. Now where was he? He was at the riverside. He was not in a worship service. He was at the riverside, he lifted up his eyes and he saw the vision. Then in verse 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them. What happened? There was a greater power. Not only Daniel saw the power of God and the vision of the glory of God and the glory of His angel, the people next to him did not see but also they fell. Sometimes when certain things are taking place in the Spirit, others can feel the overflow upon their lives though each one senses it differently. Sometimes people feel a kind of trembling come upon them. It is just a kind of presence that came in. But this is stronger still. The presence of God was so awesome that a fear of God descended on them. They know something supernatural was taking place and all the people in verse 7 ran and hid themselves. This happened at the river.

Verse 8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. What happened? He was slain under the power again at the riverside. Yet, I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words, I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. He fell forward under the power of God. It's the power of God that we are talking about here. Now the point for us to see is how did Daniel reach that point? It took him preparation in fasting and praying. When you receive a spiritual blessing or impartation whether through a man of God or through your prayer life, there is a measure that is received. The measure that you received depends on three factors. It depends on the measure of the giver, the receptivity of the recipient in receiving and the manifestation at that level. Let me put it in a different term. The measure we receive each time depends on the anointing upon of an individual, or if it's direct from God, on God's anointing. Secondly, the ability to receive that anointing. We need an ability to receive also. That's why the bible tells us to be teachable. Thirdly, on the amount of the manifestation manifested at that point.

Let me give some illustration. Let us say that Ramasamy is a prophet. He is called to the ministry of God. And God has anointed Ramasamy with an anointing of 10 volts. So Ramasamy carries 10 volts of anointing. One day Ramasamy found Ramamuthu. Ramamuthu has a stronger anointing. So, Ramasamy follows Ramamuthu around like Elisha follows Elijah. So, one day Ramamuthu goes off and then Ramasamy asks for a double portion. So, God granted it to him and so he goes off. So, Ramasamy now has 20 volts. Now that is his maximum output. Remember all electrical appliances have their own maximum output. Even though you have maximum output, you don't use it all the time.

Then there comes someone who needs ministry. His name is Tan Ah Kow. So, Tan Ah Kow comes to Ramasamy. Tan Ah Kow has a need. Tan Ah Kow is a busy person and he believes in what the Lord is doing and just came and asked for prayer. So, Ramasamy lays his hand and 3 volts shot out from him and entered Tan Ah Kow. Then he got blessed and he went home. So what was transmitted? Ramasamy has a potential of 20 volts. Tan Ah Kow received 3 volts. At time the next meeting comes, the worship goes on, the worship was strong, the receptivity was strong, and the manifestation could reach 10 volts. That means those who are open can receive 10 volts although Ramasamy can release 20 volts. See it depends on the manifestation of the Spirit. Like last Wednesday's meeting, if it's not the will of God to manifest a certain anointing I can not do it. You can not just turn it on like a push button. We have to determine what is the will and purpose of God for each meeting. Sometimes you don't go into the hospital and when you pray you expect people to be slain just like they are slain in the church. If you are praying for someone on a train, God may not necessarily slay them and then let them lie flat out on the floor of the train. So remember God has His divine will; the Spirit manifest as He wills. Ramasamy has 20 volts and the worship has increased so that the potential anointing that can be released to the people is 10 volts. The meeting is wired for 10 volts now. Tan Ah Kow still comes but he didn't quite prepare himself for hands to be laid on him. He still receives 3 volts. Why because for the flow to happen three things must happen. The maximum output is 20 volts. The worship by the congregation and the preparations done beforehand in prayer by the minister prepared the wiring to release 10 volts of power and anointing. Then the receptivity is people like Tan Ah Kow, and he didn't quite prepare himself so he did not receive the full manifestation that he could have.

I want you to know this is where fasting comes in. Whenever you are praying to receive an anointing from another person you have to prepare yourself. The general congregation has a role to produce the wiring too by making time available to worship the Lord in adoration and centering on Christ. Sometimes it takes time to put all the wiring in place in praise and worship to allow God to move. Now by this time, Tan Ah Kow is taught how to fast and pray. So, the first day Tan Ah Kow goes and he fasted and prayed. By lunchtime, there were a lot of rumbling noises from his stomach. He has never fasted before and by lunchtime, he is staggering with difficulty. So he struggles on but he says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, he has a splitting headache. And he feels all kinds of dizziness. He says I am going to make it. His dinner is at 7 p.m. but by 6 pm he was at the table.

But he made it to 7 pm and then broke his fast. The next day he fasted again. This time he went to the table at 6.30 pm. Then the next he made it again. This time at 7 p.m., he was not at the table. After the third day, he comes again. Ramasamy was still having his meetings. This time Tan Ah Kow comes and the worship was good that day. People were just moving in the Spirit. They were just worshiping God so much that God was pleased. You see the anointing the man carries and the receptivity of the person is still governed by one more factor: the will of God. As long as people turn their eyes on the man, the anointing of God will not manifest so strong. As long as people turn their eyes on themselves, the anointing will not manifest so strong. But when the people of God forget about themselves, absorb and lose themselves in the presence of the Almighty in worship and praise, God is pleased. Suddenly the wiring system is now 15 volts.

Here comes Tan Ah Kow - remember he was fasting for 3 days on one meal a day. Tan Ah Kow has prepared himself. Ramasamy also has prepared himself. If Ramasamy did not prepare himself, he may be called to a 20 volts anointing but at the meetings he may all the time manifest 10 volts, below his optimum level. But Ramasamy also has been doing some fasting and preparation. He fasted for 3 days without food and water. So, Ramasamy is now yielding himself. So, the amount of anointing that flows through to others is determined a lot by fasting. The amount of anointing you receive is also determined by your fasting. The amount of anointing manifested depends also on the people generally worshiping God. Here we have Ramasamy, he has fasted 3 days, now he comes, and he is ready to manifest all 20 volts. So he comes in from his 3 days fast; he says hello to the usher, the usher goes boom, he is down on the floor. Then he comes to the meeting and the praise and worship was good. The worship leader got everybody's hearts, minds and ears all tuned to the Lord. And the anointing just rises up from 15 volts to 20 volts. And Tan Ah Kow here he comes all ready. So, at the 20 volts time suddenly a revelation came on Ramasamy. Ramasamy calls Tan Ah Kow up And Tan Ah Kow quickly stands up. He was prepared, Ramasamy was prepared and the anointing was 20 volts, and Tan Ah Kow was blown 20 feet away. That is why sometimes the anointing can move in a certain way that you have to just quickly tap on it. If you are slow, it goes off. See how fasting is related to our receptivity here of the anointing of God and the revelation of God.

Fasting relates directly to the revelation and the anointing of God in our lives. Fasting and prayer is a pre-requisite. Lets establish this in the Word of God. Dan. 10:9 he fell into a deep sleep on his face and verse 10 A hand touched me which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. Then angel Gabriel talks about how he has been fighting against the prince of Persia for 21 days. And Michael the Archangel came to his aid. And Gabriel says in verse 12 Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come because of your words. Now here the angel Gabriel told him he has come to bring forth a revelation. See revelations are the gifts of God to us. Can you imagine for 21 days up there in the heavenlies there was tremendous warfare just over revelation? All for the sake of some revelations to be brought to Daniel, there was a great fight up there. Gabriel was about to bring a revelation to Daniel and the prince of Persia blocked him. See how important revelation is. I would guarantee you the devil would do all his best to stop revelation coming into your life. You have to fast sometimes to get revelation. You have to prepare your heart to seek the revelation of God. You have to put yourself in a position to receive revelation. Sometimes it can come to you during the fast and sometimes it can come to you towards the end of the fast. Or it even continues after the fast. But the fast was the tap to turn on the start of the flow of revelation.

Fasting is related directly to the drawing on the revelation of God and subsequently the drawing in of the anointing of God into our lives. Look at Dan. 10:17-18 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my Lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me." Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. You know what Daniel received? He received some special strength that enabled him to stand in that amount glory. He received it because of that special fast he went through.

Lets see the conclusion of that matter in verse 19-21 And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you, be strong, yes, be strong! What did Daniel receive? He received strength during his fast. He was weak for days. But this time there was a touch on his life when the angel touched him and transmitted strength into him. A supernatural strength increased at that point in Daniel’s life. An anointing was imparted to him to function in. Do you know when Daniel was touched it increase the voltage of the anointing that he walked in? He received revelation that called him to be a prophet to the nation. Up till today, his prophecy is not fulfilled yet. And the anointing and the level he received caused him to move higher in the upper echelon of ministry. All these things happened because of his fasting. Promotion cometh not from the east or from the west but it comes from the Lord of hosts. You move from one level of ministry to another level of ministry and you will find the key is fasting and praying.

See Paul could write what he wrote in the New Testament because he received revelations. Now lets turn very quickly and let’s look at the life of the apostle Paul in Acts 9:9. The first time when God met him in Acts 9 you would find that it was mentioned here in chapter 9:9 he was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank. Paul’s ministry was birthed out of fasting and praying. The first 3 days of his conversion were spent without food and without water. Then you see something takes place in his life. God dealt with Ananias, send Ananias to him and Paul got back his sight. Later on, he began to move and go deeper into the things of God. Then Paul’s next move is in Acts 13:1-2 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers;

Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted. When they fasted together, God called Paul and Barnabas apart and this was the birth of the great missionary journeys where the entire known world came to know Christ. But it was birthed in fasting and praying. What did fasting and praying produce? Look at what it produces: it says, the Holy Spirit says. What did they receive? They received revelation. The Holy Spirit revelation says now is the time to go forth. And then they went forth and they were blessed. But it was birthed out of revelation. Jesus’ ministry was birthed out of fasting and praying. The first 40 days of His ministry was spent in the wilderness without food, without water. He fasted, He prayed, and He had to fight temptation. So fasting and praying are important pre-requisites to receiving revelation and anointing.

Now you turn to Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church and prayed with fasting. See before they lay hands and transmit the anointing of God after they fasted and prayed. They sought the Lord in fasting and praying. Then the Lord reveals to them. If you were to prepare your heart and life, you would realize that fasting is an important key tied up to the anointing and the revelation of God.

Lets look at Matt. 10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Jesus gave them an anointing. Then in Matt. 17 When the disciples could not cast the demon out in verse 21 Jesus said However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. So, that is why it’s important. Our weapons are not flesh and blood. And your weapon of fasting and praying is one of the most powerful weapons that Satan is afraid of. If the church of God would fast and pray

Satan's kingdom would be shaken. Look at what happened when one man fasted and prayed. The prince of Persia was shaken up. Michael the Archangel came and shook him up. Now when the whole church prays and fast and we are going to see the power of God released in a greater and a higher measure. But we have to pay the price to draw the revelations, to draw the anointing of God. That is what fasting does and it would continue all through history. Jesus Christ tells us in the gospel that when the bridegroom is taken they shall fast. It is not possible today in these last days to come against the things that the enemy has put against the church of God without paying the price of fasting and praying. We have to seek God in fasting and praying. You have to start somewhere. You have to train yourself and your body. And when your bodies are trained, your bodies become receptacle to the power of God in your life. You would begin to be more acclimatized to more and more the power of God in your life. Your body begins to live in the amount of glory and the anointing of God more and more. Remember in Moses' own life when he came down with the glory of God it was after a supernatural fast of 40 days and 40 nights. It seems that it is an important key that is neglected that we need to revive it. Every area in your life where a problem confronts you, go on a fast and pray to seek God's revelation.

## 5. HUMBLING THE SOUL THROUGH FASTING

The book of Judges chapter 20 speaks about the time after Joshua. It was a glorious time under Moses although there were some rebellions. Then the generation that was with Joshua had a fantastic time of conquering all the seven nations that stood against them in the Promised Land. They wiped off all the nations and established the inheritance of Israel. But the generation after Joshua's time did not know the Lord. From time to time, they fell into evil ways and God had to anoint someone as a judge to deliver the people of Israel from time to time. They got into the permissive will of God, then came back to God again, then falling into the permissive will of God, and back again. God kept restoring them from time to time. So for the background of this story that we are going to look at in Judges chapter 20 we have to understand that the Israelites have gone through quite a lot of rebellions by now. Many generations have passed by. Gideon generation has gone by, many of these judges have come, and they have gone. And repeatedly God keeps helping them until towards the end of the book of Judges it reaches a climax where one whole tribe of Israel rebelled against all the other tribes and for the first time they had civil war. They fought among themselves. See how much the rebellion has put them backwards. Now one of the tribes was against the other tribes. They were asked to repent and give up their evil ways but they refused. So all the other tribes congregated together to seek the Lord. The theme in the book of Judges is a book that speaks about the rebellion of Israel and the restoration of God. And from time to time, you will come across that verse where "they did what was right in their own sight". And many times, what was in their own sight was evil in the sight of God. What you and I see may be different from the way God see.

In the book of Judges right at the ending chapter 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. And so they had a lot of conflict because one will say this is right for me the other says that's wrong. So there were some who say its right to worship Baal the other say its wrong so they got confused. And these are the words that keep coming up through the book of Judges "they each did what was right in their own sight."

Do you know that God in the book of Deuteronomy told them not to do it? Look at Deut. 12:8 You shall not at all do as we are doing here today – every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes. God did not leave us alone in ourselves to do what is right in our own sight. God has given His commandments and His Word. And Moses said you should not repeat this again. You shall not repeat what we have done in rebellion against the Lord everyone doing what was right in his or her sight. Guess what? They did it again. They repeated the same mistake for many generations in the book of Judges although God told them not to do it.

The bible tells us in Heb. 5 as we mature in God our senses are exercised to discern right from wrong, good from evil. So, that is why those who are recently born again need to get hold of the Word of God and meditate on it. Our spirit man has to be trained. Our senses had to be trained to know what is right and wrong. And the Word of God is the training key to our spirit man.

Now in the book of Judges chapter 20 they have civil war. They are fighting one tribe against another. It was eleven tribes against one. And the rebellious tribe was the tribe of Benjamin. Chapter 20 Israel was at war with the tribe of Benjamin. In verse 1-2 So

all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the Lord at Mizpah. And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.

Now look at what Benjamin has. Verse 3 Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah. You read further down in verse 14 Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel. What actually happened in the previous chapter was that there was a sin almost like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember the Sodom and Gomorrah the two angels that came to rescue Lot? All those men gathered together to molest the angels. But they were all blinded and the angels took Lot and his family out except for his wife who looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. The same thing happens in the book of Judges among the Benjamin tribes. And what happened was that the man that was traveling through the city brought his concubine and they wanted to do the same thing to that man. And in the end, they did it onto the concubine and the concubine died and the news has spread all over Israel. All Israel gathered together to deal with this tribe. It was a sin equivalent to the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. That is why the whole of Israelites reacted and they gathered together four hundred thousands.

Then on this side the tribe of Benjamin gathered together in verse 15 And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men. Among all this people were seven hundred selectmen who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breath and not miss. They could sling a stone and they never miss, all seven hundred of them. There are a total of twenty six thousand men besides the seven hundred on Benjamin's side and then we have over the other eleven tribes' side four hundred thousand. Now all things being equal Benjamin should lose and the eleven tribes should have won.

Lets look at what actually happened as they warfare together. First of all the Israelites came before God and they sought the Lord in verse 18 that is the first time they sought the Lord after many generations. They probably dusted the house of God that had gathered dust. I mean it was all neglected. Just like some people keep their bibles only on the shelf gathering dust. Here they gathered together and they encamped at the house of God in verse 18 to ask counsel of God. They reached a point when this kind of sin occurred they started to seek the Lord.

Let me tell you if you have been walking in sin living in things of the devil do you know that the things of the devil and the world never satisfy you. It hurts you. It reaches a point where the things of the devil are no more enjoyable. You ask any drug addict and they will tell you they don't enjoy taking drugs any more. It's something that is a torture to them. Nothing that the devil offers you can bring eternal happiness. So, they reached a point and finally they are turning back to God asking for counsel of God. And the Lord spoke to them in verse 18 "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" The Lord said, "Judah first" So they started assembling their four hundred thousand men against the twenty six thousand men of Benjamin. They engaged in battle and they lost. Four hundred thousand against twenty six thousand and yet they lost.

But you thought that the Lord said Judah shall go first and if the Lord says so, then the Lord will confirm. They went first and they were defeated. How many of us have reached a point where sometimes the Lord tells you something, you go forth to confront that situation and it still did not work. You have obeyed God's commandment to the best you know how. You have heard prophecies, you have dreamt dreams and you have seen visions. And when you are out there in the battlefield where the battle is fierce, where blood is being shed all over, where life and death is taking place - at that very place, you meet defeat. What are you going to do? What many would do is simply give up. It was a great loss because the Lord said something but they did not wait on God. The Lord said something but they did not wait on God further. They went off on the first word the Lord said. That sounds like young Christians when the Lord had said something before the Lord could finish the statement they have gone somewhere but they did not hear the other part. The timing of God is important. Don't hear the first word and run. Wait until He finishes His sentences. Do you know it's very rude when people are talking to you halfway and you just walk out? That's what the Israelites did.

The Lord said Judah should go first. They did not ask the Lord about the result. They did not ask the Lord about any other areas in their lives in preparation. They are all ready to fight. They are depending on their muscle power. So all they want to hear is who shall go first. They are all eager to fight. They were not eager to hear the whole total plan of God.

In verse 21 Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites. Because of disobedience twenty-two thousand men died. In verse 22 And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day. Then the children of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until evening, and asked counsel of the Lord, saying, "Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?" And the Lord said, "Go up against him." The Lord said go against him, second sentence the Lord speaks. In other words, God is saying, "It is My will for you to go against him. It is my will for you to remove the rebellion from them." God's will is being revealed to them but at stages at a time. They have no doubt as to the will of God to go out to battle.

In verse 24 So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day. And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword. Remember the second time before they went out. They came back again and the bible said they wept until evening. Twenty-two thousand men died they cried their tears out. Let me tell you it is not enough to cry. It is not enough for you to put your tears before God. You must add faith to your prayers. You must add the Word to your prayers. And you must add fasting to your prayers. They cried and cried and the next day they went out, eighteen thousand more were killed. That brings the toll to fifty thousand men killed in two days.

They came back to God and the third time they asked God. Before they asked God, they did something else. In verse 26 Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up, came to the house of God, and wept. Now tears are sometimes good because it is a sign of humbling ourselves before God. He said that when Isaiah came



to tell king Hezekiah get ready, set your house in order because you are going to die, Hezekiah put his face onto the wall and cried onto the Lord to extend his life. And God send Isaiah back when he was halfway out and said, "Go back for I have seen his tears." Book of Psalms tells us that our tears are put in a bottle of God. But tears without faith and without the Word do not help. If you have the Word, you also need to have a contrite spirit to know and allow the spirit to move your inner most beings and be mounted before the presence of God.

So the third time they came to the Lord, they wept. Then in verse 26 they sat before the Lord and fasted that day until evening. This time they sought God with fasting. They humbled themselves before God, they cried. The day before it didn't mention that they fasted. So they also ate and they cried. But this time they brought the key of fasting into the picture. Victory for them is more important than their daily food. The accomplishment of the will of God is more necessary for them than food. They have reached a point where their desire is so strong that they will not eat until they hear from God. Unless we reach a point of utmost desire that is what fasting is all about. If God has spoken a word in your life and the word has not take its place yet its time to seek the Lord in fasting and prayer.

It's just like the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. He told them in Matt. 10:1 that I give you authority and power over demons. Then in Matt. 17, they could not cast out the demon and Jesus told them this kind go forth not but by fasting and praying. Jesus had given them authority. The authority is not working. Jesus has spoken the anointing in their lives but the anointing was not working. So Jesus said you need to seek God in fasting and praying with all of your heart. And these are the days when God is raising up an army. And that army is going to go before God in great desire. The desire to do the will of God. The desire to say, "Father, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." We need a group of people who want to see God's will done on earth, more than the desire of their own will; more than the desire of their own interest. And that desire consumes them. Then they will give their time and praying, "O God Thy will be done."

I know that anything that is not in line with the will of God hurts the Father. One day while praying, His presence came to me like a ball of light. Then I was beholding the world before me. I felt that love of the Father. And the love of the Father is tangible. It seems as if I was one with the Father and the Father was with me and there was such a union that was there. As I looked down on the world, I felt like I was looking through the eyes of the Father on this planet earth. And I could feel the feelings of the Father. Our Father has feelings. Genesis 6 tells us when He looked at the world in Noah's time and His heart was grieved. And I felt the heart of God. And for the first time I realized that for every single scene that is happening on this earth, every single evil that is happening on this earth, anything that is not what the Father meant to happen, every small thing hurts Him. Even if one sparrow falls to the ground and dies our Father knows it. And He feels even for that one sparrow. Our Lord Jesus said even the Father feeds the sparrows and if one sparrow falls to the ground and die, our Father knows. Why, because our Father did not make this world to die. Our Father did not make this world to be doomed. Everything was made to last forever. Its not God's will that any man die. Its not God's will that an animal die. Its not God's will for one dot of evil and sin to creep into this world. And could you imagine that one sparrow that dies God feels it. And every hurt that happen to every man and woman our Father is

bearing that hurt too. That's how much His love is. His love is so great that He is pained by every hurt and every cry that is caused by imperfection and anything that is not in line with God's will. Even if they feel forsaken, lonely, all alone, the Father's heart hurts for them. Know that the bible says that the cries of the widow reached onto God. And God's heart is hurting over everything that is not perfect in your life; over every sin that is in your life; over every situation God hurts. We hurt too, we ache, but God hurts even more.

Paul says in Romans 8 the whole creation groans; Paul says even our spirit groans within us. Even if one hair on our head falls to the ground He knows it, He feels it. Such great love of our Father. And right now at this very moment, the Lord Jesus Christ is interceding at the right hand of the Father for you and I. And He is praying that the church may be perfected. That the perfect will of God may be done in the church. That the perfect will of God may be done on this planet earth. Until every nation and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And then will our Father's heart be satisfied that the pain and grief that our Father feels will be no more.

God wants a group of people who will come before Him and who will desire that the will of God to be done on earth more than our will the will of our Father and not our will. It may cause you something but let me tell you it will pay. It caused Jesus His life to do the will of God. It caused Paul his life to do the will of God. It caused Peter his life to do the will of God. God is raising up a group of people that will say, "Not my will by Your will. Not my selfish will, not my self-centered will, not my pleasure but Your pleasure. Not my want but what You want. That we want the will of God to be done." And the day you desire the will of God to be done more than your daily food. You have reached a point where your desire has climaxed.

All your desire is like a seed. Desire comes in different degrees. All of you have implanted desires by the Holy Spirit. There are some desires that are implanted by the world; some are implanted by your upbringing and some are implanted by men. Those that are not from God, you have to renew your mind and get rid of them. But there are some desires that God has implanted into us. And the desires can be nurtured. A spiritual desire can be nurtured until it grows and consumes you and affects your daily thinking. And before you sleep you think about that the will of God and when you wake you think about the will of God - it consumes you literally. And your desire is so great that many times you would desire the will of God than anything else.

The disciples in John 4 when they came back with food Jesus said that My food is to do the will of God. They brought food for Him. Remember when Jesus was hungry and thirsty, they went to buy food in John 4 and the Samaritan woman was there. Jesus was thirsty. For the first time you hear Him ask, "Give me water." He actually wanted a drink. He was thirsty because He was also having a body of flesh. Actually, Jesus was also speaking metaphorically. He was thirsty for the soul of the Samaritan woman. He is always thirsting for souls. But when the woman's hunger came forth and the Spirit of God began working through His life He was so caught up in the spirit realm that He ministered to the woman. But the woman never minister any drink to Him. The woman was so touched she went and told the whole town. And when the disciples came back Jesus said My food is to do the will of God. It consumes Him more than His daily food. When desire consummates in your life it will always come into the realm of fasting. How much and how great is your desire? Is it great enough

just to pray five minutes? Is it greater enough to pray an hour? Or is it so great that it consumes the twenty-four hours of your life and you are willing to fast and pray it to be. And unless your desire reaches this realm, it will not achieve anything. Many good Christians and many good people lived and died without seeing their fulfilled because their desires are like seeds that are not planted. But if you will add fasting to your desires the vision that God gave you whether it be doing a great work out there in the world as a businessman; whether it be in the ministry of God will come to pass. God has put a desire in you. You must nurture it until it consumes you. And then it will come to pass. It consumes you, you talk of it, you see it constantly, you lived in it, and you walk in it. It shall come to pass.

So, the desire for the will of God finally consumes the Israelites. For many generations they were half-hearted. If there were a leader to lead them, they would seek God. Now there is no clear leader. No outstanding man among them. And they reached a point where even there is no leader they still desired to seek God. Before that, they were half-hearted; seeking God and falling away; seeking God and falling asleep. But now the desire consumes them with great fasting. And they repented before God. Repentance came into the picture. Fasting will do a lot of things. Fasting is a form of humbling ourselves before God. When you humble yourself before God, it will draw God's grace into your life.

Turn to I Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. The bible did not ask you to pray for humility. But the bible commands you to humble yourself. Peter says humble yourself. Look at it carefully the bible did not say ask God to humble you. Neither did the bible say pray for more humility. But the bible puts the responsibility on us. Peter in writing to the church says, "Humble yourself." You do something about yourself. You humble your own self. How do we do it? By fasting and praying. Every time the bible talks about repentance in the Old Testament you will notice fasting, you will notice repentance. And when you humble yourself the promise of God is, "I will exalt you. I will raise you up." For promotion comes not from the east or from the west. It comes from God. If you will humble yourself, God says, "I will exalt you." And if God exalts you, none can put you down. But if you exalt yourself there is nothing that will help you to remain there. You will fall again. But when God exalts because you humble yourself you are going to remain in the position that God has placed you to be.

Let's look at Ps. 35:13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting. And my prayer would return to my own heart. I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother. Verse 13 says I humbled myself with fasting. How do we humble ourselves? Fasting and praying will afflict yourself. You don't have to afflict your bodies like what some monks did in the dark ages with whips. You have to afflict yourself with fasting.

Ps. 69:10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. Verse 10 says when I wept and chastened my soul. Fasting touches the soul. You never come out of a fast with your soul the same. Fasting touches the untouchable realm. Scientists could dig into our skull and touch the gray matter and the brain cells. But no one knows where the mind is because the mind is a part of the soul. They can cut your body into many pieces but they can not find your emotion. They can grind it into power but they can

not touch the part of you that is your free will. It is in the invisible realm. There are some things that are invisible but they are real. Air is normally invisible but its real we know that. Air that you breathe in right now had weight. It has matters. Inside air has so much weight that when the rocket that has gone out to outer space and return, there must be a special shield on the front of the rocket that touches the air because the rocket becomes red hot and disintegrate because of the contact with air. Although air is invisible, it is a tangible matter in a different realm. There are many things that are invisible that are there. There are radio waves, T.V. waves right now they are in the air and they are real. And there are some things of our beings the soul that the scientists can not find. That is why some scientists become secular humanistic because they don't believe in the soul since it's in the realm that can not see. But our soul is real. And if you want to touch your soul realm you have to fast. We have touched on fasting as a side benefit on our body. But fasting does something to your soul.

There is the general principle of fasting that some people who do not know God clearly come with it. When some of these people who are having honorable desires although its not eternal like for example Mohandas Gandhi went on a fast to set India free. And something happened to him during that fast. His desire to set his country at liberty became so great that he wanted to live only for that from that time onwards. When he came out of that fast, the desires peaked and he lived only for that. All his intellectual capacity was only guided towards that desire. All his emotional strength was not tuned to that desire. All his physical strength was now tuned to that one desire to see his beloved country free. That is in the natural what people had done with fasting. Buy I feel sad because some of these wonderful human beings have lived and died for temporary purposes. Today the country needs more people like him. Because what he achieved was temporary. If only they had know Jesus Christ And they have given their intellectual capacity, their emotional capacity, their will and their physical strength to be absorbed in that one purpose of eternal benefit. That is to bring the Good News to all the world and to bring the total will of our Father on this planet earth.

Something happens to your soul when you fast. You have an intellect, you have a will, you have emotions and you have a body with great energy. But that energy needs to be directed. If your energy is not directed it will not accomplish anything. If all of us were to sit around for days and years doing nothing but just chit chatting, your energy has gone to waste. But if all of us have a purpose and a direction directing all of our intellect and our emotion and all of our strength and will into an objective we would achieve great things. How much more when we come before God and we say not my will but Yours and we direct all our desires. See your desires will be greater than your intellect. Your desires will be greater than your will. Your desires will be greater than your emotion. Because your desires determine what you do with your intellect. Your desires determine what you do with your emotion. Your desires determine what you do with your body and with your time. So, desire is an important area that you need to develop.

Fasting takes your soul and brings it into conformity with the will of our God. When you fast and pray at the same time, prayer links yourself up with the Almighty. Pray to seek the divine will. Pray to bring forth the desires in your heart. You add fasting into it. Fasting converts that seed into a plant. When you come out you have a plant

flowering in you. For that very reason when some of you fasted there is a cleansing process in your life. Some of you began to have dreams from your past. Your hurts, your fears that were hidden in the background when you fasted they all came to the surface to be dealt with and to be touched. And some of you when you fasted God has touched you and cleansed your inner most being. God began to show you things of the future. God began to form His desires in you. The Psalms says, "Mould me and make me after Your will. Have Thine own way O Lord." You are the Potter I am the clay. Unless you yield, the Potter can not do anything. Unless you put yourself into the position to be molded, God can not mould you and the best way you can place yourself to the hand of the Potter, to let the hand of the Father forms and cleanses us. Let the hand of our Father removes the dirt, those dust, those unpleasant things, those impure things from our lives and let His hands form us. Remove away all those dirt and began to form a perfect vessel onto Him. You will come out of that fast a changed person. If God could do with one person how much more could He do with a corporate fast?

And all the Israelites came before God in Judges chapter 20 fifty thousand men died for nothing. Let me tell you when you disobey God there will be death somewhere along the line. When you disobey God you open doors, you will cause death to others because Satan is a killer and a thief. But when we come before God and we fast and we pray He takes all of our weaknesses, He takes all of our failings, and He says my child I love you. And I will make you where you have failed to make yourself. And I will exalt those who humble themselves. And place them in my body where I want them to be.

None of us are perfect. All of us need the molding of God. All of us have failed in some way in some place. But do not despair do not be discouraged. Return onto the Lord with all of your heart. Like the Israelites when they lost fifty thousand men, they cried before the Lord and they say we want to do your will. It was a good desire they started with. They wanted to remove evil from their midst. It was with a good intention that they have moved into battle. And they have not been negligent totally. They have sought God to a certain extend. But here there is failure before them. Here is this defeat that is facing them. When we bring our failures before Him and you fast and you humble yourselves as the Israelites they wept they cried, they fasted, and they prayed. They sat there before the Lord in verse 26 and fasted that day until evening. When they have completed their fast, they burnt an offering onto God. Blood was shed, praises go up before God and peace offering before the Lord.

Why they didn't do that earlier? I don't know. They should have done it before. They should have fasted. They should have humbled themselves because of their sins and rebellion. You see they were rebellious and they want to correct another rebellious group. They must come, humble themselves before God, and then offer burnt offerings. You read about burnt offering it says that they are sweet smelling savor onto the Lord. It is pleasing onto the Lord. Let me add this. If you have not worship God and give your burnt offering in worship and adoration and in the blood that is shed to acknowledge that is the blood that sets you free, it's the righteousness of Jesus, it's the armor of God and not your own armor, that you will still had to come back to that one place. No matter how far you go off, how many battles you faced like the Israelites, you will still have to come back to square one to burn that offering before God to give the peace offering onto the Lord. When they did that they

completed their worship, completed their praising, now they are peace with God, now they are one with God.

Now God said in Judges 20:27 So the children of Israel inquired of the Lord (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" Do you know this time they said Lord we want to give up. They were at a point when they wanted to give up. Let me tell you everyone of you has potential. I don't care how you have failed. I don't care how the devil has put you down. I don't care how circumstances have upset you. Don't cease, don't stop, and don't quit. Return unto the Lord thy God.

And the Lord said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand." When you have sought God with all your heart, you receive the assurance of victory. Never, ever go into something you do not have assurance from God. If God tells you something, you don't have the assurance yet wait on Him because there may be some situations that are hindering the assurance from coming through. And you need the assurance of God comes into your heart. And what is the assurance. It's the confidence of the victory. For the first time they heard God said I will deliver them into your hand. They have assurance, they not only have direction who shall go out first, but they have the assurance. They have the assurance of God for faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. And this same faith overcomes the world. And if God speaks to you, you must wait on God for the assurance. You must wait on God for His implanted faith. For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. When the assurance comes in the battle has been won. The battle is not won outside. They thought that their strength and their sword and their skill were winning the battle. But the battle is won in their fasting and praying. You can fast and pray your victory. And then you can walk out and collect the spoils. Don't be dismayed; look onto God. You just have to go out and collect the spoils when you have the assurance. You can face the storms of life with a calm. You can face any mountain because the Almighty Jehovah Jireh, El Shaddai, has put forth His assurance and said victory is yours. And you can go out and just walk on that. It comes from fasting and praying.

Judges 20:29 Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times. Verse 33 So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba. Verse 48 And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword – from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to. Finally you have the assurance the victory is easy. Even if you have been defeated many times before in the same area, but this time you can go out with the assurance. It's a different battle. Even if the enemy against you have gained more confidence against you because of your previous defeat but when you have fasted, you have prayed, you have given your burn offering, your peace offering, you recognize God as your sword, God as your strength, God becomes your warrior.

I don't care how many times you have been defeated in that area. I don't care how many times you have prayed and cried for those healing in your life. Whether it be a

sickness in your life. Whether it be a personal area of your life. Whether it be a sin that you keep falling into. When you have prayed, fasted and sought God with all your heart, and even if the voice of God comes to you in a whisper and says, it is done, the whisper of God is enough to remove the thunderstorm of your life. One word of assurance, one word from the Lord is enough to defeat the enemy in your life. It doesn't matter how many times you have prayed over something. Now you know how long to pray. You fast and you pray till the assurance comes. You are men and women of faith; you go by the assurance and not by the circumstances. Your circumstances may be like a war before you. But when the assurance is there the mountain, I'd like to call it a molehill, you can just crush it under your feet and walk away victorious. Every head bow and every eye closed. The Holy Spirit is speaking all over this congregation.

## 6. FASTING AND THE GLORY OF GOD

We have to understand something about the glory of God so that when we enter a time of fast we can understand how fasting is related to the glory of God. Most people understand that the glory of God has something to do with His presence, something to do with His anointing. As we look at the Word of God today we will see some things about the glory of God that we have not seen before. And thereby we will be able to increase the glory of God to our lives. Every one of you has a measure of the glory of God. The glory of God is present in your life. It is not only present when we sing and worship God corporately together that His glory comes in. Right now and in your daily lives, the glory of God is present in your spirits; in your hearts, it's present in degrees. So, we see that the glory of God can come into our lives by degrees.

Lets look at II Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. There is great freedom when the Holy Spirit is there. Anything that is of the Spirit of God will produce liberty. It will not produce bondage. It will bind a person up. It will not put people under condemnation. Anything that is of the Spirit of God sets people free. You can discern a teaching whether it is of God or not of God by whether it sets people at liberty or it sets people in bondage whether through a tradition or through a wrong doctrine. You can also check whether a gift operating or move of God is of the Spirit or not of the Spirit by liberty. When the Holy Spirit works He always sets people free. He always love to set people free to worship God. God is the author of freedom and the devil is the author of bondages. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

The next verse says But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. Notice that the glory of God can be behold, can be seen. We all with our spirits uncovered can behold the glory of God and thereby be transformed into the same glory from glory to glory. And that is the advantage of always mixing along with the Christians always gathering together to worship God. Every time you do so, you do not leave the same. Wherever people gather in the name of Jesus Christ you do not leave the same. There is a deposit of the glory of God into your life. You have beheld God in a new way. So, we are never the same after every meeting. You are always transformed from glory to glory. You may not notice it but you can see the difference by comparing the year to the next year. Day by day, you do not notice it but there is a transformation taking place.

If the bible says we can see the glory of God we must understand what the glory of God is about; what substance it is. In the Greek the word glory comes from the word doxa, which means magnificence, appearance. So, the Greek word doxa is the same almost like the word glory in English. The words glory of God, the doxa of God, the magnificence of God, the appearance of God are synonymous words.

But the Hebrew word for glory tells us something more. The Hebrew word for glory is kabod. The word kabod in Hebrew carries with it a meaning of weight or heaviness. In fact, the word kabad, which is the same derivation, has been translated heavy several times. The kabod of God is the glory of God. There is heaviness or weight in glory. We are not talking about the same spirit of heaviness of the spirit of bondage. But the Hebrew word kabod is telling us that the glory of God has substance. The glory of God has tangible substance, spiritual substance. It has weight and substance.



The anointing of God is tangible. The anointing of God can be transferred into leather; the anointing of God can be knitted into cloth. The anointing of God can be transferred into all. The anointing of God can be transmitted through our hands or through our clothes. The glory of God is also a substance. The glory of God is a spiritual substance of God that has a weight. It's a substance you receive from God deposited into your spirit. And it's a substance that comes and fills this place every time we worship God. There is a sense of His glory that comes upon His people just as His glory fills the tabernacle in Exodus 40. And the glory of God fills Solomon's temple. The glory of God can fill the place as we worship God. His glory increases to the place where we could feel and touch it. Sometimes the glory of God increases to the point where it is so thick that you could hardly get into that glory. It's like solid wall. Sometimes the glory of God is so thick that when the clouds move in, people just get slain under the power of God. That's the glory of God.

The glory of God and the anointing of God are different aspects. The anointing of God is the manifestation of the power of God. Anointing and power are related. The anointing breaks the yoke. The power of God breaks the yoke. So, the anointing and the power of God go together. When the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus, He went about doing good and healing the sick. There was power flowing in casting out demons. So, the anointing of God is the manifestation of His power.

The glory of God is the manifestation of His attributes, of His person, of His nature. So, the glory of God is the expression of God's attributes and personality. When I have the anointing of God, I have power. When I have the glory of God, I have God's nature demonstrated. Now both of these operate together. The glory of God and the anointing of God operate together among His people. God is a person. In His manifestation of His work, He demonstrates His power on one hand and His attributes on one hand. He reveals His nature and He reveals His power. Sometimes His power and His nature are related. And many times, you can not understand the nature of God until you see the power of God. And sometimes when you see the nature of God, it brings you deeper into the power of God. Like you know that He is a merciful God and a God of love. You know that He wants to heal. So you know His power wants to do something. So, these two manifestations of God go hand in hand together. God does not demonstrate His power without His presence or His attributes. His presence and His power go together. You do not separate His power from His presence or His attribute from His presence.

For example, you will find that the Lord Jesus Christ said in Mark 16:17 In My name they will cast out demons. He talks about these signs shall follow those who believe. Now these signs talks about the power of God demonstrated. Casting out demons, laying hands on the sick, taking up serpents and they shall not hurt you and doing all kinds of signs in the name of Jesus. So these signs represent His anointing and His power. Then Jesus said these signs shall follow those who believe in My name. In My name denotes God's presence. You don't just do the signs in your own name. You don't just go and heal. You go and heal in His name. You don't cast out demons just by calling it out. You command the demon out in the name of Jesus. So, you invoke the name. The name of Jesus represents the presence of God. By using the name, you are saying by the authority of Jesus Christ. By using the name, you are saying, "I am representing Jesus Christ." So, the name speaks about the presence of God. The name of Jesus speaks about His nature. The word Jesus means Jehovah is my salvation. So,

the name of Jesus describes His nature. For example if I say, "The devil is an adversary," that term describes his nature. Your name reveals your nature. The word Jesus speaks about His nature. So Jesus says in My name in My nature by My authority you will do these signs. Signs signify the anointing of God. The name signifies the attributes of God. You do not divide the power of God from the attributes of God - they go hand in hand.

In the same way, the bible says in Acts 1:8 When the Holy Spirit has come upon you. Now that is the presence of God coming. That is when the Person of the Holy Spirit has come down on you. That is His presence. You shall receive power - that is the anointing. See the presence of God and the anointing of God are not separated. They work hand in hand. You have to understand that when God reveals Himself His glory will be revealed, His anointing will be revealed. And every time we worship God together, we have to be sensitive to His glory. His glory is manifested in your life; His glory is manifested in this place.

And when His glory is manifested, you move in the anointing according to the level of the manifestation of His glory. You do not move beyond how He manifest. For example if the glory of God is manifested to the tenth degree then you can operate the anointing of God up to the tenth degree and move into the things of God very deeply. Sometimes for certain reasons, the glory of God is manifested at the fifth degree then even though you may be anointed beyond the fifth degree you are limited at that time, the place, and the occasion to only operate in the fifth degree. You do not go beyond God's manifested presence because the anointing of God is subject to the presence of God. You do not have an anointing without His presence. If God's presence is moving in our midst and the anointing is flowing with His presence, we have to discern His glory. So, you see how important discerning the glory of God is.

II Cor. 3:18 says we see His glory. How many of you see His glory? I am not talking about seeing with your physical eye. We are talking about beholding with an unveiled mind, beholding, perceiving His glory in our midst. His glory moves to different degrees. Sometimes God chooses to manifest at a certain degree because He wants us to exercise His commandments in obedience.

Let me give you an example in Exodus 40. You see how the glory of God filled the place of the tabernacle that Moses built. The glory did not remain that way. There was in the tabernacle the Holy of Holies and then there was the Holy Place and then beyond that is the Outer Court. The glory of God in Exodus 40 filled the Holy of Holies, the Holy Place and the Outer Court. The whole place was filled with the glory of God. But God told them that every year they have to observe certain feasts: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks (also called the feast of harvest and the day of first fruits), the Feast of Tabernacles, the Sabbath, the Day of Blowing of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Purim. Everyday the Jews had to bring the morning offering, the evening sacrifice and then the regular offerings of the people of God, the burnt offering, the peace offering and the meal offering. And on those various occasions in their lives, they have to bring all the various offerings.

If the glory of God fills the whole place, they have no chance to perform the commandments of God. They would not be able to slaughter the animals. They would not be able to take the blood into the Holy Place, which God requires of them. They would not be able to change the oil and the candlestick inside the Holy Place. They

couldn't do any work if the glory of God is manifested all the time. So, God has chosen to manifest Himself in degrees according to His training in our lives. When He is training you in obedience to His commandments, He will only manifest that amount of glory and expect you to exercise your faith for the rest of the way. Exercise your faith in the Word and your obedience to the Word. And from time to time, there will be what Peter calls the times of refreshing where the glory manifests fully and His presence comes forth.

Later on when Aaron first exercised the priesthood in Leviticus 9, he made the first offering.

When the first offering was done the fire of God came down and the glory of God filled the place. That's what God desires to do. God desires His people to walk in faith and to walk in His glory. We grow from faith to faith and glory to glory. Some people only operate in faith and have no understanding of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Some people only operate on the manifestation of the Spirit and when the Spirit desires not to manifest they are finished they can not do anything.

The bible says in I Cor. 12 that the Holy Spirit manifests Himself as He wills. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits etc. will operate as the Spirit wills. But when the Spirit does not desire to manifest Himself you continue to obey the commandments of God. Where He says everyday man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceed out of the mouth of God. Everyday you meditate on the Word and Paul says pray without ceasing. You got enough commandments to obey. During those times where there is no manifestation, you continue obeying the commandments of God. So, the glory of God will manifest from time to time for various purposes and training. He will train us to move in the anointing, He will train us to move in His glory. He will train us to obey Him by faith. I don't know which part of your life you are at the moment but you will find that there are certain times in your life God trains you on your obedience of the commandments. At that time, sometimes you wish that God will manifest but He doesn't. On the other hand sometimes He trains you on this other area of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, you can get frightened by the manifestations He brings to you. So, He is training us. He is training an army that will walk with His Spirit, an army that will hear His command. God is training us today to be obedient to Him. And God manifests His presence, His attributes and His anointing.

If you want to move in the anointing area, you must be sensitive to the glory of God manifesting. There are degrees of the glory of God manifesting. There are degrees of the glory of God in your spirit. There are degrees of the glory of God in a meeting. Every Sunday we manifest a different degree of the glory of God. We just have to be sensitive to Him. In our own private prayer room, God manifests His glory in different degrees. What is the glory of God like? How do we sense the glory of God? You need the glory of God before you can move into the anointing of God. The glory of God and the anointing of God works together. The glory of God is the manifestation of His attributes. The anointing of God is the manifestation of His power.

Which comes first, the power or attribute? Did God so love the world that He sent His only begotten Son first? Or did God let Jesus do all these things and then He loved us. Which comes first? Of course, He loved us first. The power of God flows from the

attributes of God. Why did God send His Son? His Son came to demonstrate power, heal the sick, cast out demons, but why did He send His Son? It was His mercy and His love that moved Him to send His Son. So, the anointing moves on the level of the attributes of God. The attributes of God come first and then the power.

Now what happened here in Corinthians is this. In Corinthians, they have moved into the power gifts. Everyone was excited about speaking in tongues. Paul says in I Cor. 1 that the Corinthians come behind in no gift; that is to say, they didn't lack any gift of the Spirit at all. Every gift was present in their life. But Paul told them unless the gift is operated through the attributes, which is love it profits nothing. Paul told them in I Cor. 13 he says if I speak in tongues of men and of angels but have no love, what did he say, he was zero. Then Paul says if I have faith to move all the mountains but have no faith I am nothing. Then Paul says I can have prophecies and revelations and understand the mysteries of God but if I have no love, I am zero. So what happened in Corinthians is this: Paul told them that their gifts and the power they were all seeking to manifest were just wasted. There is no edification; there is no demonstration in the realm that God wants to. So, Paul corrected that and told them to operate in the gifts with love. When they operate the gifts in love, their gifts would edify and build up the body of Christ. Then the power that is demonstrated becomes useful.

Do you know that you can have a lot of power and its useless unless you know how to channel it? A lot of power can go to waste. A noisy car is not necessarily a powerful car. You can turn the engine of your car on, press the accelerator to the full but you put your gear to the free gear. And you press and press it will not get anywhere because the power that is inherent in the car have not been attached to the gear which will channel the power of the car into the wheels and push the wheels forward. See the power needs to be tapped, to be geared, and to be engaged before its useful. So, demonstration of power without the attributes ends up in the flesh.

On the other hand, those who try to understand the attributes and move into the attributes without wanting to move into the power area becomes victims of the devil. The spiritual power that God has given to the church is the power that will unseat the devil. And to move into the gifts we have to study the gifts and move into it. Some people are what I Cor. 12:1 says ignorant of the gifts. If you are ignorant of the gifts, you can not operate. We can not operate what we know not. And if you don't understand how the power is operated, we also will not be able to operate. Its just like you take the car. If you don't have the key to the switch, you can change the gear but the engine is still off. You can change gear until Jesus comes but you will still remain there. You don't have the power to move the car forward.

So, those who focus on love without tapping on the power of God have something lacking in their lives. We need both. If you have power without love its just like having wood without fire. If you have love without power, you have the ability to start the fire but since you have no wood, there is nothing to operate through. Thus, it is also of no use. But when you discover power and the attributes of God and you put them together, you can set a stick on fire. You can use it as a torch. Or you can put them together and have a small campfire. Or you can put huge pieces of logs together and have a big bon-fire. Or you can take those big trees and just burn off like that and have a forest fire. So, you can move in different degrees of the manifestation. When there are attributes and there is power demonstrated, you can link them together and move to different degrees of the presence of God. So, the attributes of God and the

power of God, the power of God is subject to the attributes of God. God subjects His power to His attributes.

Remember the devil told Jesus in Matt. 4 to turn the stones into bread. Tell me, did Jesus have the power to do it? He had. But what was happening? The power was subject to His nature. His nature was not selfish; His nature was not greedy. He refused to use His power for Himself. He subjects the power to His nature. When they hang Jesus on the cross, He had the power to be free. He had the power to ask God to send His angels and He could be freed. But what kept Him back? He had power to be freed but His attributes limited His power. So, understand that the glory of God comes first and then the anointing of God. As we behold His face then you move into the anointing to set people free. You must behold His glory. Understand the manifestation of His glory before you move in the anointing of God.

Turn to Exodus 33 this is what Moses was telling the Lord in verse 18 Please, show me Your glory. A simple question, a simple desire. It was a cry of his heart. I want to see Your glory. Show me Your glory O Lord. Remember II Cor. 3:18 we can behold His glory. God can not show His glory to you all at one time. You can not take it. If He were to open wide the gates of heaven and let His glory shine upon this earth we would all die. Our bodies just can not take it. But He can train us to different degrees of glory. He unveils Himself bit by bit to us so that we can see Him more and more glorious. And as the song goes, He is more and more glorious every time I look at Him. Why, because He is unfolding Himself to me and every time I see Him He is lovelier than ever. You can see Him for ten thousand years and you will see some more things in Him.

Moses said show me Your glory. Most of you thought that glory is just the cloud or the manifested presence of God. But it's more than that. The glory of God is the manifestation of the attributes or the personality of God, which is important. Lets see what God does. When Moses said, show me Your glory, God answered and said I am going to show it to you. In verse 19 I will make all My goodness pass before you. See the glory of God is the personality of God is the attributes of God. God said, "I will make all My goodness, (His goodness, His being) pass before you." But He told Moses this, "You can not see Me. If you see Me in all My glory you will die but I will give you My tail end of My glory." That's not too bad. So He told Moses, "I am going to take you put you in the cleft on the rock and I am going to walk by you with all My glory and will cover you with My hand." And all Moses saw was God's hand. He covered Moses' face with His hands, He walked by and as He was going off towards the tail end of the glory of God left He takes His hands off and Moses saw the tail end of God's glory. But the tail end of God's glory was so powerful that when Moses came down, his face was shining like a light bulb. Now if the tail end of God's glory could make a person's face shine like a light bulb what would the source of God's glory do?

And that is where I am telling you in these last days those prophecies that the old prophets have said when Isaiah cried out in Isa. 60:1-2 Arise, shine, For your light has come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Sometimes, I imagine what the church of God will be like before the rapture. You know what the church of God will be like? There will be such a glory on every single one of us. The bible talks about Jesus coming again in His glory and God is going to release such glory on His people. And when we see His glory we are transformed and up we go. That was not reserved

for the Old Testament. That was reserved for our times today. Moses was not born again. You and I are born again. We are allowed to see more of the glory of God. Jesus has shed His precious blood. If the blood of lambs and goats could bring people to see the back part of God's glory how much more the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God could bring us into the Holy of Holies to see the fullness of God? What a privilege to being a child of God today.

God said I will show you the back part of My glory. Now here the actual incident happened in chapter 34 as God passed by Moses. He said He will show His glory but the word glory is not mentioned. But He mentioned some other things. Exodus 34:5 Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The name is His nature and His attributes. He is revealing His glory through His name. The first thing God reveals is His name. The name of the Lord. Then the attributes of His glory are revealed in verse 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, God merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." He is a God of love, a God of judgment, revealing His nature. Now He promised Moses He said He will reveal His glory. But in chapter 34, we see Him revealing His nature, His attributes. He is showing His goodness, He is showing His love, He is showing His longsuffering, and He is showing His name and His fullness. That glory is His nature. The glory of God is a revelation of the nature of God. It is the revelation of His attributes.

Turn to II Chron. 5. At the dedication of Solomon's temple it says in verse 13, Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one to make one sound to be heard ink praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, "For He is good. For His mercy endures forever." That the house, the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud. So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud, "For the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. It says they could not continue ministering; they could not perform. When the presence of God came, everyone was just quiet. When God comes, you don't do anything else. Nobody could continue. And in that presence, Solomon quickly prayed. See when the presence of God comes you quickly pray.

Do you know what Moses did when the glory of God passed by him? He quickly knelt down and said, "O Lord, forgive the children of Israel." When the glory of God manifests onto you, you began to talk to Him. Bring your petitions before Him. And God answered Moses even though those Israelites behaved like rascals and God said, "I am going to kill all of them and make you a new nation." Moses said, "No Lord, No," and God heeded the prayer of Moses.

Now when the glory of God came in Solomon's temple, Solomon quickly prayed and said, "Lord let this temple be a temple for your presence. Wherever people turn to this temple and pray, hear them O Lord." And through the many generations afterwards whenever people turned to Jerusalem and the temple God heard them. It established a powerful covenant. When Jonah was in the whale's belly, I don't know how he knows it but Jonah in the whale's belly said, "I turn towards Jerusalem," and God heard him. And after a long prayer in chapter 6 and 7 God answered the prayer. Chapter 7:1

When “Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priest could not enter the house of the Lord, After Solomon’s prayer the glory of God increased in intensity. The glory of God was so strong that nobody could go in everybody had to go out. They felt the presence of God so strongly that all of them just moved out, leaving only God inside.

In verse 3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever.” When the glory of God manifests they recognized His attributes and said He is a merciful God, He is a good God. The glory of God is the manifestation of His nature and His attributes.

Turn to Isa. 58:6 He is talking about fasting. He talked about the wrong attitudes of fasting and He talked about the right attitudes of fasting. In the first few verses, He rebuked the Israelites because they were in sin, they didn’t get out of the sin, and they try to have a religious fast. When you fast you give up your sin. You give up your old ways. You come to surrender. You don’t come to a fast as a religious act. So God corrects them and then God recommend the kind of fast He wants in verse 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? It’s the anointing that breaks every yoke. Now the fast will bring the anointing of God into your life but it will not only bring the anointing but we will see more. First God talks about the anointing. He says the fast will give you an anointing to break the yoke in other people’s life. You have to pay the price to set other people free. A simple price of fasting and praying. You fast so that others can be freed. You fast so that you can receive the anointing of God.

Verse 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 them. And not hide yourself from your won flesh? Verse 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.

When you are fasting, seeking God the glory of God can come upon your life so much that you are like God. When you walk the glory of God is on you and is also your rear guard. You get one in the nature of God. You get one in the attributes of God. You get one in the mercy and the love of God. You train your soul and your body to flow with God’s nature and attributes. The glory of God will come upon your life.

Let me give you some more verses. In the book of Joel chapter 2:28, And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and our daughters shall prophesy;

Your old men shall dream dreams; Your young men shall see visions; And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. Verse 28 starts with And it shall come to pass afterward. If I understand English the word “afterward” speaks about something that goes on before. If I say, “Afterwards you shall do this,” that means you will do something before that. What

did God tell them? In Joel 2:1 God says, Blow the trumpet in Zion. In verse 12 Now, therefore, says the Lord. “Turn to Me with all your heart with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So, rend your heart, and not your garments. Verse 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion. Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation. God’s first call is a fast. I believe God is calling His people to a fast in these days before Jesus comes. And after the fast, the Word of God says and it shall come afterwards, that is, it shall come after the fast. What shall come after the fast? I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. The glory of God and the power of God are manifested after the fast.

God is calling His people to a fast, why? A fast humbles your soul. Fasting humbles your body. You are subjecting your soul and your body to the discipline of God. God’s will takes priority over your own will. God’s will and commandments are more important than your own desires. You fast to bring God’s will to be done in your life, in your family life, in your nation and on this planet earth. And the glory of God shall come on us afterwards. The glory of God is the nature of God and the attributes of God being revealed. Fasting brings you in line with the nature and the attributes of God. Fasting is a sort of self-chastening, a self-humbling of yourself so that your new nature can take control. Fasting disciplines your body.

Paul says that your body has a sin nature in it. Your mortal body has a natural tendency towards sin. By fasting, you are taking your body and submitting it to the new nature. And fasting as you see in Psalms it chastens your soul. It brings your own will, it brings your emotion, and it brings your intellect into your spirit’s control and make them reflect the nature of God. And then God’s glory and presence can flow from His Spirit to you.

Another way that happens is sometimes by persecution. See persecution humbles a believer. When you are run down what happens? You are humbled. Its good; we need to be humbled. If you walk humbly before the Lord, you need not go through the unnecessary difficulties that will happen to those who do not walk humbly. In I Peter 4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you for the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you. Why does the Spirit of glory come only on those who are reproached? It only comes on those who have been humbled. You don’t need to wait till persecution comes to humble yourself. You can start humbling yourself before God with fasting and praying. You can break the pride of your soul with fasting and praying. It is essential for us to line up our nature with the nature of God.

Turn to II Cor. 4:3 talks about the glory. II Cor. 4:16-17 Paul says Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. If you look at II Cor 3:18, Paul talks about going from glory to glory. Now he talks about the inward man being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. When we are humble, the glory of God can come forth. But when you walk in the flesh and you walk in your own powers and your own plan, your own intellect the glory of God can not come forth. For the glory of God is the manifestation of His attributes. Whereas the anointing of God is the manifestation of His power. And His attributes and presence move together with His power.



## 7. VARIOUS KINDS OF FAST

Fasting is beauty treatment for you ladies. All these are fringe benefits. Fasting is also a healthy way of living. When you fast regularly it keeps you in good health. Fasting cleanses your body. Some people go on a health fast. Some people look like they do need fasting. So sometimes, they go on a diet. But diet is not the scriptural fast. In a fast, there is a scriptural basis. A health fast is more of a diet. However there can be total fast, partial fast and different types of fast. So we need to look into the Word of God and see the various types of fasting that the bible records and whether we should enter into some of those kinds of fast. What are the pre-requisites before we can enter into that kind of fasting. So we look at the Word of God and consider the various types of fasting.

### Total Fast

We will first look at total fast which is probably the most enduring of the fast that the bible records. It is called the 40 days fast without food and without water. Don't anyone of you just go into this kind of fast without a word from the Lord. Forty days without food and water as fasted by Moses has been recorded two times; by Jesus has been recorded once and one time by Elijah after he took supernatural food. There are certain pre-requisites before they enter into this total fast of 40 days and 40 nights.

In the biography of Sadhu Sundar Singh, he tried to enter into this fast but he did not succeed. He tried to fast 40 days and nights without food and water. He fainted halfway during his fast. He used to hide himself in a cave. He collected 40 stones and kept them in the cave somewhere. So on each day of the fast he would take a stone and throw it down. So he would know the number of days left. So everyday when he had fasted he would throw one stone down. When he reached about 20-something days, he was very weak. He could hardly carry the stone. Finally, when he came to the thirtieth day he was so weak that he fainted. When he woke up he just didn't know how long he went and he did not really complete the fast for 40 days and nights without food and water the way he wanted. But God blessed him during that fast. It was a good try. It was better than never to have done it. Some people had good intention but never do it. At least he has done his best. And God blessed him as far as he was obedient to the fast. So, 40 days and night of fasting is certainly no joke. Just because you hear about Moses fasting and Jesus fasting, don't you shut yourself up to fast 40 days and nights without consulting the Lord.

Lets look at the fasting of Moses in Deuteronomy where it records about his fasting. The bible mentioned that it was without food and without water supernaturally. It is called supernatural sustenance. It has to be supernatural because nobody could fast that long without water. In the natural, you will get dehydration. In Deuteronomy 9 he was recounting all the events that happened during the 40 years in the wilderness. He mentioned his fast for 40 days.

Deut. 9:11 And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. In Exodus he talks about how this fast was without food and without water. It was called a supernatural fast. We believe that it is possible today for God to call a person to a supernatural fast of 40 days and 40 nights without food and water. Under this kind of fast, you need God's supernatural call, and there is a supernatural

work that God commands you to do during that time. It would have taken a short time for Moses to receive the tablets of the law and all the ordinances. It could have been finished in one day. You read all the commandments that are in the Old Testament that God spoke to him in Leviticus, in Numbers, in Exodus and the Ten Commandments. He could have received it all in one day. Then what was he doing during the rest of the 39 days? In fact, it was the last day that God gave him the two tablets of stone called the Ten Commandments. What was he doing the rest of the 39 days? He was just in the presence of God. I believe in that presence of God, God showed him many supernatural things, some of which happened from Genesis up to Exodus.

I had one vision one time in my earlier days - it was a bluish vision and Jesus was green in color. I was troubled about that and I asked God, "Is something wrong with my spiritual eyes?" I was quite concerned because I was in an evangelistic meeting. There was a foreign evangelist that came and it was in a big town hall. I was sitting way up in the balcony seat and I could see the whole crowd. When the evangelist called all the people forward during the altar call, I saw a big giant vision of Jesus green in color. We know that Jesus don't normally appear in green color. When I said green, even His skin looks green. I was troubled when I saw that. Everything was beautiful; the vision was beautiful, except the color. The only trouble was that there was no repair shop for impaired spiritual vision. So, I went back and I prayed and sought the Lord. And the Lord told me that what I perceived and received was due to the present level in my life I was at. Basically, He told me this, "It is because you are still green." Gradually as I grew in the Lord, the vision got some more color.

So, Moses was up there on the mount and he saw all the colors. I am sure he saw the Garden of Eden and the beauty that was there as well as many other things that are recorded in Genesis during his 39 days up there. Paul was not with Jesus in the Lord's Supper. But I Cor. 11 he says, "I received this of the Lord Jesus. On the night when He was betrayed..." Paul was not there at the Last Supper but how did he know? Paul knew it because God showed him the whole Last Supper scene in a vision. So, Paul received it. I can tell you that is the best cinema he had ever been to. Cinemas were not invented at that time but that was better than a worldly movie because this is of God and its holy and it edifies and builds and you get to know God more. Moses went through a supernatural fast during the first 40 days and nights. He had a supernatural call to go through a supernatural fast and when he came out from there, he had a supernatural message. All was supernatural.

Then you look at the next chapter. When he came down the Israelites were in disobedience. Then in chapter 10, he has to go up again. Deut. 10:1 At that time the Lord said to me, "Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. So he went up and this time he was up there for another 40 days and 40 nights. Verse 10 As at the first, I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights. Altogether, he stayed 80 days and nights with the Lord's presence. There was a supernatural call, there was a supernatural fast and there was a supernatural message he received during that period. Before you enter this 40 days fast day and night without food and water, you need a supernatural call. God must supernaturally call you before you enter this kind of fast. You must hear a supernatural call. The logos is not enough, the rhema is important at this time. You

need to hear a personal word of the Lord telling you to go on a 40 days fast without food and water. It has to be supernatural.

Secondly, when you enter into this kind of fast you will know the evidence because supernatural manifestation takes place during that time. He was in the presence of God and the glory of God filled the mountain. The manifestation of God could be tangibly felt. He received a supernatural message when he came out of that period. God sometimes call people to a supernatural fast because He wants to impart something to them. God demands that we reach a point where He could bring a special heavenly, holy, supernatural blessing on our lives. He may not call you to a supernatural fast of 40 days and 40 nights. But He may call you to a certain period of fast when He wants to give you something. When He wants to bless you with an anointing, when He wants to bless you with a gift He may demand that you come into His presence in a fast and wait for Him. It's all free paid by the blood of Jesus but He requires consecration and separation before it drops on us. He may call some of you to that kind of fast. Not for 40 days and nights but for a shorter period. But be opened He may call. Don't enter into that kind of fast without a supernatural word from the Lord. You need supernatural sustenance.

Look at Jesus 40 days and 40 nights. There was something that took place before He entered 40 days and 40 nights. Mk.1:12 is a supernatural type. Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. It did not say the Spirit led Him. It did not say the Spirit spoke to Him. But it said the Spirit came on Him so strongly that the Spirit was literally propelling Him forward into the wilderness. It was a supernatural call. It was a supernatural guidance above the normal. Now there is a normal level of God's leading of His people. You find that in Rom. 8 those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. But you can yield yourself to such an extent that you reached a point where God just possess you. Does God do that? Yes He does. When you have yielded yourself to a certain point where God knows that its of your own free will that you have given up yourself that He just fills you to the extent that you are spiritually just taken into a further realm. And at that point, you almost lose your free will. Because when God works, all the time it's through our free will. But there is a point where you love God very much and you yield to God very much and God knows He could take liberty with you. You have consecrated your will to Him and God just zooms in, literally takes you fully and possesses you with His being, filling your life to the uttermost. And at this point, you almost "lose control" of your free will. But you did it willingly.

Now there will be few occasions like that but I am pointing to a possibility. There were a few times in Kenneth Hagin's life when he yielded to the Spirit of God so much that he reached a point sometimes where he wanted to talk in English but could not. He thinks in English and his heart and mind want to form the English word to speak but it always come out as tongues. I remember I was there in 1981 in his camp meeting and that happened to him. So, he turns around and starts talking in tongues. He tried his best to talk in English but it kept coming out in tongues. He was stuck in the realm of the Spirit. His gear got engaged in the spirit realm and he could not disengage himself. And he had what I call a fear of God came on his life at that point. When that happened to him the awesome fear of the Lord came on him. He said, "I don't know whether I can get back again to speaking normally in English." Could you imagine your whole life talking in tongues? You want to say, "I love you," and you

end up saying, “Kurama madi” And every time you want to say something to your wife, you need an interpretation of tongue. And he wondered whether he could get back into the natural realm but praise God he did. That caused him to hold back a bit sometimes, which is a natural reaction. He should go all the way. But that is the realm where when you yield onto God, God just takes over.

One pastor discussed with me some of his strange experiences. In the ministry when he ministered in his first year or so, he got some strange occurrences that we were talking about. He said that he reached a point where he lost control. I asked him what happened. I said, “Couldn’t you use your free will?” He mentioned that he could not because he prayed before he ministered. He said, “Lord I yield my will to you.” So, God took over and it scares him at that point. There is a fear of God that comes on his life when God takes over at that point.

So, the manifestation of God can come to the point where there can be a driving force, as happened to Jesus when the Holy Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. We hear about being led by the Spirit but we haven’t heard about being driven by the Spirit. It’s nice to be driven by the Holy Spirit. All you have to do is ride along. He just drives you. At that point, there was a supernatural call on Jesus to go into the wilderness. It’s a spiritual battle He had to face. So that kind of fast needs a supernatural manifestation, a supernatural call, a supernatural instruction before you enter it. That will keep you going while you are inside that presence of God. While Jesus Christ was in the wilderness I am sure while He was having spiritual battle out there, He also had a manifestation of God in His life. And when He came out of that fast, the bible tells us He was full of the power of the Spirit of God. You always come out of a fast different. You are changed. You never come out the fast the same. You are always changed within the fast.

### **Supernatural Fast**

The other fast that we see here is in I Kg. 19 the supernatural fast. Verse 5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him. See there was an angel that appeared to him. It must be a supernatural call. There must be a supernatural manifestation to you. A supernatural rhema comes to you before you enter this kind of fast. And the angel gave him something to eat in verse 5 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you. So, he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights. One heavenly meal could last forty days and forty nights. I would say that is good food. And he walked all the way to mount Horeb on that supernatural food. Do you know that it’s possible for God to feed His people supernatural food today? Its possible if He wants to. He could multiply our natural food if He wants to. But if God so feed the Israelites manna from above, He could also do the same today.

There is an end times teaching that encourage Christians to build nuclear shelters, stocking up canned food and dehydrated foods and getting ready for the 7 years of tribulation. That Christians may have to hide in caves, eating sardines and tuna fish. I don’t want that kind of life. You can trust the Lord to supernaturally provide you with food during the tribulations. During the tribulations, there will be people who will

come to know the Lord through the ministry of the two witnesses. And whenever there is need, I believe God could anytime send supernatural food again.

There are men and women of God who have, from time to time, tasted supernatural food. There was this guy who saw and talked with angels. He is Roland Buck and he has gone to be with God now. He had a book written about his experience by Charles and Frances Hunter called, "Angels On Assignment". From his photograph, he looks like a chubby kind of guy. So, the angel appeared to him many times. And one fine day the angel appeared to him and gave him a present from God. The angel says he has been very obedient and God has sent a present for him. The present was a piece of wafer with a scoop of some kind of drink. He ate it, he drank it, and he received a supernatural strength. When that came to him, he said for the next 3 days his fat started burning up. I would say that's a good diet food.

That is the kind of power with supernatural food that God fed Elijah. He ate it, it lasted him 40 days and 40 nights. I hope that when God tells me to fast 40 days and 40 nights without food and water, He sends me some kind of food like that. And during this kind of supernatural fast you will not feel the natural effects of hunger or tiredness, so you know whether its supernatural or not. In this kind of supernatural fast, you could do all the things that a normal person does without feeling one bit less. All the energy, all the strength will be there. Moses when he was up there on the mountain receiving God's commandments his stomach was not growling all the time. He was just in the presence of God. All natural laws were temporary suspended. God may call His people into a forty days total fast in these days. When we talk about the subject of fasting God may manifest to some of you, to talk to you, and give you some angel's food, or heavenly food and drink. Or He may just call you into His glory and as you just dwell in His glory a supernatural fast takes place.

While Aimee Semple McPherson was preaching halfway in a sermon, her body was stuck under the power of God. Her eyes did not move, her lungs did not move and she was supernaturally suspended or paralyzed. Her eyes didn't move at all. She was just in that position for a few days. In that time, it was the supernatural power of God sustaining her. She never felt hungry. There were some people who tried to take her and put her in a warm corner. They could not carry her. After she came out of that supernatural suspended animation, she continued the sermon that she was preaching. But during those days, she was a sign and a wonder to all the people. They came from far and near to see the supernatural sight. And by the time she came out the whole church was packed with people just looking at her. So, God is able to suspend natural laws.

If God is able to transport Philip in Acts 8 from one place to another without a car, without a plane, without natural means that would defy the natural laws of gravity, how much more God could just supernaturally take control of the natural laws that control all your bodily organs and put you on a supernatural fast. When God has something in stored for His people that are of vital importance that He wants to impart, He usually would call His people to that kind of supernatural fast. To undergo a fast for 40 days and nights without food and water you need supernatural instruction from on high.

### **Three Days Total Fast**

There is another fast that you do not need supernatural instructions. That is a total fast but its up to 3 days and 3 nights. You do not need a supernatural instruction. That is a normal fast that all believers can train themselves to go into. You don't enter that kind of fast straight away if you have never fasted before. You have been eating 5 meals a day including 2 tea breaks. If you have been eating that much and you have never ever fasted before don't straight away enter into total fast for 3 days and 3 nights. You have to train your body to a total fast. And you don't need to hear a word from heaven for that kind of fast. All you need is spiritual training to go into that. There are certain types of fast that you need to hear a word from God. But there are certain fast that you don't need. Fasting does not change God but it certainly changes us. So, as you train yourselves, you can enter into that total fast of 3 days and 3 nights. I repeat you don't need to hear a word from the Lord. Sometimes people are just plain greedy. They never fast at all. They say, "I wait until God tells me to fast." God does not have to tell you. His Word teaches you to fast. Jesus said that in the days to come when the bridegroom is taken from the bride, (that is the present age today where the bridegroom and the bride are separated temporarily from His presence physically but not invisibly) He says then shall they fast. So, you have the Word on fasting. There is already the written Word on fasting and you don't need to hear the supernatural Word.

But the 3 days and 3 nights of total fast is what I call a desperate fast. Desperate fasts are for desperados. Let me say sometimes you really need to be a desperado for the Lord. There are times when only that kind of fast will work, because of the urgency of the answer, the urgency of the time and the situation you are facing. You could not just go on a low and slow fast. But the urgency to have the answer is there and you can not afford to go on a gradual fast or a weekly fast. There are times when it's urgent. When the time is important, go for it 3 days and 3 nights.

In the book of Esther 4, there was a very desperate time that came to the Israelites. Esther 4 there was an important event that happened. There was an evil person named Haman. He plotted against the Jews and a decree has been signed that all the Jews must be killed. That is no time for partial fast alone. Your life is at stake. You may end your partial fast halfway with your head chopped off from your body. That is a desperate time. So, Esther knows the importance of it. If they would go without food and water, they may be able to save their lives. If they take it easy, they may lose their lives. There are times when it is desperate. We need to go for it desperately. I have been through this type of 3 days 3 nights fast without food and water. When you go through this fast, to a certain extend, you do feel the physical symptoms. It's different from the supernatural fast. But this is of your choice.

The Jews at the time of Esther did not hear the word of the Lord telling them to fast. All they heard was the word of the devil that says, "I am going to kill you." But they found themselves in a situation of great urgency. They refused to eat and drink for 3 days and 3 nights. And I have been through that type of fast of 3 days and 3 nights without food and water. Physically I felt more tired and lips were dry because I did not drink any water. But that 3 days and 3 nights of fasting was one of my best times, where I had some spiritual breakthrough. Every night of that fast I had interesting manifestations and dreams. In one of those dreams, God showed me the many ways He had been working in my past. He showed me how His hands were working, how He pulled me out from my family, how He called me and chose me. And in one of

those visions, I saw a pile of white substance that looked like pancakes. I was given those white pancakes to eat and I was eating them away. Imagine seeing a vision of yourself eating while you are not eating. But that was very interesting. And during that time, God took me and placed me in a valley and I saw 2 mountains. In that valley was a huge building that He said was the church. And on that building, the pillars were already up. And although the structure was up, there was nobody yet. There were a lot of men of God standing there calling to me to come and join them. The Lord said those pillars are the pillars of prayers. These experiences have always stayed in my life and in my ministry. And in those days, I was just in the third year of my ministry. I was still a Baptist student in a Baptist seminary. That was the third year of my ministry. We were just fasting and seeking God with all our hearts. We wanted a breakthrough for the church but ended up with a breakthrough in my personal life. I did not see the floodgates on the fourth day after the fast. But when I look back after about 12, 13 years of ministry I could see the effects of that fast today. That's how far reaching it was and I will probably continue to see the effects of that fast. So there are times when we need to get desperate before God. There are times when we need to shut ourselves up and get desperate for God. And at time, we could seek Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

So here is Esther and the Israelites whose lives were in danger. There is no time to play games, no time to have fellowship. They have to save their lives. So in Esther 4 she told her uncle Mordecai in verse 16 Go gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maid and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law, and if I perish, I perish. We do not know what is going to happen. If we could have a hundred Christians go on a 3 days fast for this nation, do you know what can happen? You see, as Christians we have authority. We have spiritual authority and power. But we are not making use of it. What will happen if a hundred Christians or a thousand Christians fast 3 days and 3 nights for a worldwide revival? You see the potential that we have as a body of Christ. And yet, we do not make use of those privileges.

Here when they fasted 3 days and 3 nights over the dilemma, what were they facing? Death. And Esther was desperate too. She says, "I am going to do something against the law." It is against Persian law for a woman even the queen to approach the king's throne without the king calling for her. And she told her people to fast, "Fast and I'll go with God's help." Now there was no supernatural word from the Lord to fast, no vision, and no dream. Who decided this fast? They did. You can decide on a fast for 3 days and 3 nights without a supernatural word. Just because of a desperate condition of your circumstances. Know that the weapons are in your hand, your spiritual weapons that God has in store for you. They are more powerful than the enemy. When they fasted, a lot of strange things started taking place. When Esther approaches the throne in historical record, it tells us that when Esther did that the king was angry with her at first. But somehow, instantly there was something that happened. When his face turns red hot with anger while she was standing at the door, the king's countenance suddenly changed and he started calling for Esther and became concerned for Esther. And his love for Esther came forth. When that happened Esther got her request. She had wisdom and she knew what to do. She invited the king. She knows that was not the time to talk about all these. So, she invited the king to her house. And during that time strange things happened that were beyond the control of men. When you tap on the law of fasting and praying, you tap on the power that is beyond men, that can

move men, that can move the immovable and that will influence people that you could not influence in the natural.

The king that night could not sleep. Guess what triggered his insomnia? The fasting of the Jews. He could not sleep. That is strange. Why, the fasting was having an effect. And the angels of God must have been working. Some of the angels must be standing around there and giving the king the idea to go and read the chronicles, "Go and get the king's books and read the Persian history." Then the king said, "That's a good idea." So he called for the books. Esther 6:1 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it so happened that of all the records there, the record about Mordecai saving the king from an assassination attempt was brought. These are very strange events. But you and I know it's not strange. The fasting did it. The 3 days of fasting and prayer caused supernatural things to happen. It caused all things to work together for good for those who love God. But they released that force through fasting and prayer. Finally, you know the end of the story. Mordecai was given honor and of all people, Haman had to walk before him around the city and say to the people, "This is what the king will do to him whom he desires to honor." Strange things happened because of the 3 days 3 nights fast by all the people of God including Esther. God didn't ask them to fast but they were desperate enough to go for it.

The other person who had done that before is the apostle Paul. Acts 9:8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was there three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. God didn't ask him to do it. He was just struck with that vision and the Word of the Lord. He could not eat. He could drink. He must get all these cleared up. Remember he was against Jesus. I am sure his mind did not understand. He thought that the Christians were the enemies of God. The glory of God came and he realized Jesus is real. And there are so many things in him that he had to think all over again. For 3 days and 3 nights, he was in a spiritual stage of waiting in desperation. He had met the glory of God. He doesn't know what to do and where to go from here. The direction of his life is going to change a hundred and eighty degrees. And he fasted and prayed for 3 days and 3 nights.

During that time supernatural things happened. Jesus supernaturally met Ananias. Ananias was not willing to obey the Lord Jesus. Jesus appeared to him and said to go and lay hands on a man named Saul. Acts 9:10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord," So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. Now there are many things the Lord has told Ananias. The Lord had told him the address. The Lord had told him the owner of that house. The Lord had told him the man he is supposed to go to. The Lord had told him what he is doing. And in verse 12, the Lord told him what to do. The Lord gave Ananias 5 facts. In that one vision, the Lord gives clear specific facts. But Ananias said, "I have heard a lot about this man." In other words, Ananias said, "Lord its dangerous." Doesn't the Lord know it's dangerous? Could you imagine having a vision, the Lord telling you go to No. 1 Washington Street and the owner's name is Johnny, and in that house there is a person called Tommy. He is right now lying on the bed. You have to go there and put your hands on him. The Lord tells you specifically. Most of us would have just gone. But



here after all the specific instructions Ananias said, "Lord its dangerous." And the Lord had to tell him some facts. The Lord said, "I am going to use him in the future." Why did the Lord appear so supernaturally? Look at what Paul was doing. He was fasting and praying for 3 days 3 nights.

If you had even experience fasting and praying during the time of your fast and praying you may not realize what is happening. But a lot of things are happening in areas that are important to you. The people whose lives you are supposed to touch; the people whom you are supposed to meet He prepares them. The circumstances by which you are supposed to flow into everything are being prepared while you are fasting. That's why I love to fast. Because through fasting we can gain control over circumstances that is normally beyond our control. Through fasting, we put an invisible hand on our circumstances and we move it into the direction that God wants us to flow. When things are going against you, go on a fast. Things are not working out that way, fast. As far as the Christian is concerned, there is no such thing as circumstances that you can not control. If you learn the laws of fasting you could touch and control those circumstances by your fasting and prayer.

God during the fast also ministered to Paul supernaturally. He says in verse 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming. So, God had also prepared Paul. God told Paul that He is going to send Ananias. God told Ananias to go to Paul. All these things take place because of fasting. A desperate fast of 3 days and 3 nights without food and water. You don't need a supernatural word from the Lord. You can train yourselves to go into that kind of fast. And during that kind of fast, you can concentrate on praying the objective of your fast. I understand that some of you are working and you may not have that kind of time. But let me tell you this that wherever you are whether you are working or could completely have the whole day off or 3 days off to fast and pray, you still can enter into that kind of fast and pray. Just write down the objectives and spend all your lunch hour, all your dinnertime, and all your free time praying as much as possible. And you only do the necessary things, the rest of the time you shut yourself up to the total fast. However, it would benefit you even more if you could for 3 full days just shut yourself up somewhere praying to the Lord. But we don't want to rule out those who got some essential work to do.

When I was fasting those 3 days without food and water I was still a seminary student. It happened to be school holidays and I was staying in Perlis. I still had certain church work and responsibilities to do that comes daily. But throughout that time as much time as I had, I shut myself up and prayed. And the wonderful thing is I had those around me brothers and sisters who came and prayed with me and sometimes prayed over me while I was fasting. That was encouraging to me. That was the same fast I told you about earlier where the Lord told me to fast 3 days and 3 nights. The impression came to me and I know there was a need. It was nothing spectacular just a thought and idea of a need of a fast. I did not obey it at first and that impression went to another brother. We were staying upstairs in the church rectory. He came down to the kitchen, saw the delicious fried rice and that was the end of his fast. When that happened the impression came back to me and then when I came downstairs the Lord said that I was supposed to fast for 3 days and 3 nights. That brother said, "You brethren just pray together with me in that area." Then he said, "Woe is me, I am supposed to fast but the fried rice took it all away." He lost the blessings. Today I don't know where he is. Anyway, I went into that fast and during that time, I still had

a few things to do. On the third day, it was very difficult but I pulled through and prayed through. And when it came to midnight, there was a great release in the spirit and I could never forget the benefits I had spiritually from that kind of fast. So, you could enter into that kind of fast without a spectacular word that would be necessary for a supernatural fast. You could enter into this kind of fast as a result of your desire for God, your earnest desire for God or a desperate situation in your home, in your family, in your business, in your working place, in your ministry.

### **Water Fast**

We have covered total fast of 40 days and 3 days without food and water. Then there is what I call water fast. You only drink water. That you can also do as a result of your desire onto God and as a result of a desperate situation in your life. There are some bible incidences that showed that the people who went into that kind of fast were in desperate circumstances. In II Samuel chapter 11 and 12, David made a terrible mistake. He committed adultery and he committed murder. That was a mistake that he had to reap the consequences. A child was born out of sin. And David knew that he had done wrong in God's sight. He humbled himself in fasting as well as seeking to pray perhaps he could save the life of the child. II Sam. 12:16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. It says it was a fast without food only. Water was still taken. In verse 18 Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. Now this was not a fast that God asked him to do. As he entered into that fast, what was his purpose and objective? He pleaded God for His mercy on his child. That tells us something. He knew how to fight spiritual warfare. He knew how to get desperate in the spiritual realm. He just laid down and refused to do anything for 7 days without food. I call this type of fast a water fast.

You say he didn't get the result for his fast. Remember we said every time you enter a fast you never come out the same. You always reap benefits. Nobody enter into this 7 days kind of fast without having some benefits. Even if what they enter and prayed for did not come to pass yet the benefit of entering that kind of fast is reaping the rewards. You know what God did. God forgave him. God forgives him when he confesses but now he was not asking for God's forgiveness. He was asking for God's continued blessings and to withhold the judgment of God. And God must have been so touched by the situation that He chose the second child of David and Bathsheba to be the next king in line after David. See what that fast did. The first child died but the second child became chosen. His name is Solomon, which means peaceful, because God said in his days he shall have peace. David was a man of war. God says he shall be the one to take David's throne. I have searched and searched the scriptures and wondered why God must choose Solomon when David has so many other sons. We can only trace it back to this one fact. God's forgiveness was so great that He takes that situation and turns it as His. That is the mercy, the grace, and the forgiveness of God. David was never supposed to marry Bathsheba. Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite. David had Uriah killed in a battle after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. That was the permissive will of God. When Uriah died, David married Bathsheba. This is the permissive will of God. But when David fasted and sought the Lord, out of the relationship that was not of God's will, God made it something beautiful. God brought beauty into that situation and of all the children David had by

his many wives, God chose Bathsheba's son, the one that was begotten through a permissive act. And from there, He draws forth Solomon whom He chose to reign after David. I can only trace the reason that God did it is due to the 7 days of David's humbling himself before God. You never ever come out of a fast the same. You always come out of it different, changed. God doesn't change but you are changed in a fast.

In verse 24 Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So, she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him. Notice here David had just come out from a 7 days fast. He had sought the Lord. He had been on his face before God. He was in the presence of God. He did not get his requests but he was in the presence of God. No one can be in God's presence without being changed. When he came out of the presence of God he went and live with Bathsheba as a husband would. And out of that relationship, an anointed son was born. And it says the Lord loved him. In verse 25, the Lord called him Jedidiah, that man beloved of God. Why is it that of all the children that David had, God says that this child Solomon is beloved? God turned the permissive into the perfect. Only God can do that when His people humble themselves and seek Him with fasting and praying. Don't get discouraged, depressed or give up when you don't get the result of what you fast. Listen very carefully because God answers according to your heart's intention and desire and not according to what you may request. I repeat God answers according to the inner most desire of your heart and not according to your outward words or request. So that in certain situations, you seek God and you verbalize something out to God, God sees your heart. And so He answers that prayer but not in the way you expected but in different way and in the end it will work out better than you would have expected. The benefit of fast will always be there.

David was down on his face for 7 days. Anyone of us who had gone into that kind of prayer will know that in that kind of prayer David must have said a lot of things. And as I was meditating on it, I could almost see a vision of David praying to God to use this child, "God anoint this child. Let this child be used by You mightily. Spare this child use this child." God answered David's intentions but it was the next child that God chose to use. See God heard the desire of his heart. Remember Abraham had Ishmael. God says, "I am going to bless you Abraham." Abraham said, "Bless Ishmael." And God said, "Yes I bless him too for your sake. But I am going to bless you with your own son Isaac." See sometimes our understanding is limited. But God sees beyond what we are trying to say from our hearts because our minds are limited and understanding is short. But God sees into our hearts what we actually wanted and intended and He answers accordingly and the best part of it is you are happy with His answer. You may not be able to understand it at first but it is the long-term answer you can understand it, it's the best that He sees for you. So, He answers according to the desires and the cries of His people's heart. There were some prayers in my hearts in my early Christians life that today I may regret and say, "God please don't answer that prayer." God saw it and He answered it in a different manner.

Let me share some prayers that didn't turn out the way I intended it. When I went into the seminary, my zeal for God was such that I prayed, "Lord I like to be single all my life." By now you probably know that, that prayer was not answered. When I prayed that prayer, it was because I love God very much. I just wanted to do His will and His work. But God sees the picture and sees the desires in my heart. What caused me to

Speak those words was my desire to consecrate myself fully to God. My desire was to serve Him. So, I said, "Lord I like to be single just to do your ministry." And God did not answer. And God answered the desire for consecration and in my third year met a sweet young lady named Amy. I saw her once and could not forget her. That was the end of my prayers. And the funny thing was before I married her I had 7 dreams in parts. We went through the normal process of finding out the will of God. And now when I look back to all these years I thank God that I still could consecrate myself to the Lord. But there are some areas in my life that could never have been changed or could have never been formed if I had not have someone living as close to me as my wife. There were a lot of areas that I thank God for I know that I am what I am because of some of the prayers. God saw the desire of my life was to be fully consecrated to Him; And He knows I could not do it without a life partner. So He answered the desire but it worked out in a different way. You see when I prayed, "God I want to be single," my desire was saying, "I want to do your perfect will and consecrate myself spirit, soul and body to You." That was the desire inside. The words spoken out were, "God this is the way it is to be done and it is for me to be single." So, the desire was there and the instructions were there. God answered it but not according to the instructions. God said, "This is the answer that I give you. This is the way you can learn consecration and dedication to Me." And it's worked out in a complete different way that I never thought of before.

So that is an example for you to understand that there are some areas in your life that you are praying before God, that you are travailing before God, and you are asking for God in those areas. But some of our requests are like instructions to God that tells Him how to answer something. And sometimes because of our limited knowledge and understanding at that time, our instructions are not that good if God had answered it at that time. But God looks beyond our instructions and sees what is the desire that is bringing forth that instruction, and He starts answering according to that desire. And in the long run at the end of the road you look back you said thank you God that You did it not my way but Your way, for Your thoughts are higher than my thoughts, Your ways are higher than my ways and I thank God that you still answered my desires but it came out this way. Check your life and you will find that there are many areas in your life. Maybe you have been a Christian for many years and as you look back at certain times of your life that you prayed earlier you thank God that God didn't answer and now He is answering the desires and the answer is coming out in a different way. See God knows the desire of our heart. God knows actually what we are praying for. God knows what we actually need.

So coming to this point of fasting is that your intention to seek God for whatever area of your life in your zeal and in your love for God in fasting and praying will always go rewarded. Even if it seems as if the answer did not come the way you want it. When you fast and pray it always comes the way God wants it. Fasting and praying has a way of changing us and changing circumstances. It changed us and molded us to the situation that we love God's perfect will and perfect way and perfect method so that we become conformed to the way God wants it. If I have to re-write my past ministry, again I wouldn't have done some things the way I have done them. But I thank God that every point in time including the mistakes that have been made and that kind of instructions that I may have given to God that God overlooks all these and see my desires and answered them accordingly and brought it forth.

When we first started the ministry “Alleluia Christian Mission” our desire was to minister to the five-fold ministry. We never intended to start any church. We started that mission and it was a gathering of five-fold ministers. We wanted to go everywhere and minister to the body of Christ. And we always prayed prayers to God to expand that kind of ministry. God heard the desires of our hearts for today God has placed me in a position, by His grace that I could minister to the five-fold ministers. But it did not work out in the way I intended. If God had worked the way I intended, I would still have been in the first ministry we started. And we would still be functioning there. It did not work out the way we wanted. The more we prayed the more doors were closed. The more we fasted the less places we found to preach. In the end, so many doors were closed that we prayed before God and God told us to start churches. So, we took a break and we prayed and started churches. And I never knew how the desires to gather the five-fold ministry were going to be fulfilled. I didn't know the how. But I knew the what. Through my finite understanding, I had tried to figure out the how and tried to flow with my understanding of the how but I could not. But today after about 13 years I began to look back and see the same desires are still around. The same what is still around. The same what I must do is still there. But the how is flowing differently. God has taught me skills on administration, skills on organization that I did not have at that time. God has taught various truths that I did not have at that time to apply. So the how is working out differently from the way I intended but it's the same what. That is the way it is but one thing all our fasting paid off. All our prayers knowingly, unknowingly, feebly, expressing 70 percent of what God intended, 30 percent of our own methods, whatever percentage in your life, in my life. Every fasting, every prayer, and all the time spent with God were never wasted. God answers every desire like king David's, not in the way he intended but in the way God intended. Pray about it before you go into this kind of fast.

### **One Day Fast**

Then we can have the one-day fast. Daniel had a short total fast. Dan. 9:3 Then I sat my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. Daniel set himself for a full day of fast. And in that one day, God heard him, answered him and sent an angel to him. You can have a whole day of fast it could be a total fast without food and water or just with water. It is less taxing than 7 days on water. So, the one day total fast or with water you could concentrate on a spiritual objective even if you are working. Write down your objectives and pray on them during your lunch hour and during your dinnertime. During that time, whenever you got free moments pray on those areas. Get desperate before God on a one-day fast. This is a simple fast that all of you could go in.

A partial fast means that you do with a minimum of food. It could a small meal a day in the morning, noon, evening or whatever. I have done such a fast for 40 days three times. And two of those times, I was in the seminary and one of those times I was in the Baptist Church. I fasted for 40 days and 40 nights on one small meal a day. Some people when they fast one meal a day, their one meal is equivalent to the size of three meals, and that is cheating. That is not one meal a day that is 3 meals at one time. And those 40-days fasts have done a lot of good for me. The last time I did it was before I left the Baptist ministry. I wanted to be in God's perfect will. I didn't want to just leave the ministry and start on my own. So, I sought the Lord for 40 days. I ate one simple meal and drank a little bit of honey drink that's all. So, during that of 40 days

it was a tremendous experience. And God showed me so clearly what to do and I knew what to do. God wanted me to come out. So, I sent in my resignation letter and came out.

Such a fast enables you to go on unlimited time. Daniel went on 21 days in partial fast in Daniel chapter 10. So, a partial fast in Daniel chapter 10 which he entered into in verse 2 and 3 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. So, that was the 21 days fast that he did a partial fast. No meat, no wine that means he ate simple food. Under this partial fast, there are all kinds. You could have a fruit fast. You could have a soya bean fast. You could have a yogurt fast. I can not name all the fasts. You got to reckon in your own way what God wants for you in a partial fast. But let the inward spirit human spirit guide and give you the wisdom in the types of food that you can go into. Don't go on a partial fast of Coca-cola or something like that. You would never see in the bible water fast of a long time. The longest you find is about 7 days.

## 8. CORPORATE FAST

We are going to talk about corporate fasting. We will take an illustration from the book of Jonah. Jonah was a prophet and he had an important message to give the Gentiles. The bible tells us that he was called by God to go to the Gentiles but he disobeyed God and went in the opposite direction. Now he is eaten by a big fish and in the fish he repented and he says, "God I will now obey You. I will do what You ask me to. I will go to Nineveh and tell them Your words what You have spoken onto me." He was supposed to deliver the Word to the Assyrians. But the Assyrians were the enemies of the Jews. And he was not willing to carry that message. Sometimes God gives you a message that you are not willing to carry. You have to answer to God on the call on your life. You have to answer to God for the Word of God that He gives to you to give to others. Most times we ask the question, "Why me? Why not somebody else?" It is in God's dispensation He chose you. And He chooses different people to give some Word. And sometimes He will choose the most unlikely ones to deliver His words. Here we see God chose a Jew to bring a message to the Assyrians who were their archenemy. The Jews hated the Assyrians in Jonah's time as much as the Jews today hates the Nazis. God chose Jonah to give the word of the Lord.

Jonah 1:1 and 2 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amitai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me. It was a very wicked city. The wickedness was so great that God has to warn them about impending judgment coming to them. It seems as if that the wickedness there was in the same category of Sodom and Gomorrah where the bible says its cry has gone up to the heaven.

Jonah ran away from God. We read the story how God brought him to repentance and sent him back. Jonah 3:1-3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time. God speaks again when we are ready to listen. He speaks to us the second time, the third time, if our heart is right. This time he was willing to obey the Lord. God gave him the fresh word, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you," So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city, a three-day journey in extent. That is how great and big that city was. It was one of the largest cities in those days. And here Jonah comes with a message, not a cheerful message but a fearful message.

Verse 4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. It takes 3 days to walk from one end of the city to the other end. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be over-thrown." So Jonah was walking up and down the city - he did not seek the king, he did not seek anyone. He was just crying as a prophet of God, in forty days this city will be destroyed. In forty days Nineveh shall be over-thrown. And the message got around. Everybody heard the message that Jonah carried. And the king started responding to that message.

Verse 5 So the people of Nineveh believe God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of the. The people called a corporate fast. Now God has already told of judgment coming. God said the city would be over-thrown. He did not even promise that if they turn to Him He would hear them. It was not promised to them. They were not God's covenant people. To God's covenant people God said, "If they would return to Me and seek my face I will hear from heaven and heal the land." These were not God's covenant people. These were

strangers and aliens to the covenant of God. Here they started repenting. In spite of their wickedness, here they are turning back to God. And they did not turn just alone. From the greatest to the least, from the king with all his glorious robes to the lowest pauper in the city - every one of them fasted and turned away from their wickedness. The king proclaimed a fast.

And not only had they proclaim a fast from the greatest to the least it says in verse 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh, and he arose from the throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. The king humbled himself in fasting and praying. Verse 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink water. It was a complete fast, a total fast. They neither eat nor drink. And look at it very carefully everyone fasted the king, his nobles and all the people in Nineveh, the animals also fasted. It tells here they didn't allow the animals to drink either. Either they proclaim a total fast or they are going to die completely.

Not only did they fast they put on sackcloth in verse 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. The whole land was filled with people wearing sackcloth and fasted. If you had gone for a tour to that city at that time, you would see some of those cows wearing sackcloth. As you walk in the street you may see some stray cats, the stray cats will also be wearing sackcloth. Every one of them fasted from the greatest to the least, a total fast. They were desperate before God.

Verse 9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? They were hoping that their fast would avert judgment upon their lives that God has proclaimed. Verse 10 Then God saw their works that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. A corporate fast moves God. In one day, God could completely eliminate the judgment that is coming onto them. Why, because they fasted together. There is power when we fast alone. There is power when we fast together. Corporate fasting taps on a powerful force. Just as a believer's anointing is one and the anointing upon is another, the corporate anointing is the most powerful anointing there is. In the same way there is personal fasting, then there is corporate fasting where the whole body of Christ came together and fasted. It unleashed powerful forces in the whole world. It unleashed the mercies of God upon our lives where before we were not in the position to receive those blessings and mercies. If God could do this for the people of Nineveh who were not a covenant people, how more can He do it for those who are in the covenant of God?

There is something about human beings coming together in unity that can unleash a powerful force if they would come in agreement together. In fact, when He looked down and saw the men building the tower of Babel out of their pride, there was a positive statement that God made. God said if they continue in their way that they were going nothing could stop them. There is a tremendous power unleashed when people could unite together corporately.

Lets look at the book of Genesis and have the exact statement that God made. Gen. 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them



thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city. In verse 6 And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

It is an irrevocable law that if God get human beings to unite together in an objective they could achieve that which they individually can not do. In the natural, it is working because it is law that is set by God. To send one man to the moon they need to bring into harmony the knowledge of many men and women working together. Hundreds and thousands of people are involved in sending one man to the moon. That is in the natural.

Now there is a law in the natural and the law in the spiritual. When we could get people united together in one heart and one mind it will begin to release a spiritual force that is reserved only for the corporate body that the singular body can not receive. That a single member of the body of Christ alone by themselves can not receive. It takes the coming together of the body of Christ to bring forth this powerful blessing that God has in store. In Psalms 133, it tells us that it is good for brethren to dwell together in unity. The bible say for them the Lord commands a blessing. See there is a certain presence that you reach. A certain level of anointing and power is reached when you are united together. When are all alone individually we can bring petition, intercession to God. We can pray our needs onto God. We can pray petitions and supplications before God. We are asking from God. We are seeking the blessings from God. This is a scriptural thing to do. Ask and it shall be given unto to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. All of us have to seek, all of us have to knock and all of us have to ask from God individually. But the bible tells us that if God could find a group of people who will be one together. They did not ask a blessing He says in Psalms 133 I will command the blessing. God Himself will look down, command a special blessing upon their lives that they could not reach and receive if they had worked alone. And that is the place where God is bringing the body of Christ together. There is power when we come together in one unity.

In fact, all the preparation in the five-fold in Ephesians chapter 4 is for this. You thought that we have seen great ministries today and there are. God will continue to raise up great ministries. But the purpose of all these ministries that God has prepared is to release the greatest ever anointing and power that He has reserved for the church when the church come together in one. Eph. 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. Now all of us know how powerful the anointing upon can be. When one stands in the fullness of the anointing upon there is a certain power that God has gifted onto individuals. Verse 12, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Don't read chapter 4:11 and leave out verse 13, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to be a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Today people are taken up by individual ministries. God will continue to raise up ministries. God has raised evangelists, prophets, apostles, pastors and teachers and He continues to raise them. There are some who say there are no more super-stars. No, there will always be people who stand head and shoulder above the others. But let us not forget the larger purpose of all these ministries that God has raised up, both great and small – it is not

to promote the individuals per se but that these individuals should build up and perfect the body of Christ.

The body of Christ always needs leadership but what should be said is that there is a special power that our Father in heaven right now is waiting to release upon the church. There is a special blessing that the whole history of the church from beginning to the end has not seen. We have seen pockets of it. We have seen a little bit here and there of what God can do when the unity of the body of Christ come together. And we have seen some examples in the book of Acts how when they all came together the emphasis is one accord, in one accord, in unity, in one mind. When they were in one accord God could release upon them what He had prophesied by Joel, by all the other prophets that they had prophesied of the day coming of the day of Pentecost of the day coming when the Spirit of God will be released. Old Testament prophets and kings, some of them under the anointing of God has said that there is as time coming when the anointing of God will not be just on the kings, priests and the prophets but it will pour out upon all flesh.

None lived to see that day but God has to prepare His people to receive the powerful blessing the God has reserved for the day of Pentecost. They were striving together with one another when Jesus was going to the cross. For 40 days, Jesus spent time with them. Jesus taught them a lot of things. Some of them were broken because they have been through difficulties. Peter had denied Jesus. He was a broken man by that time. And all of them knew that they had failed Jesus. All of them knew that they have failed God in some way. All of them were scattered and ran away from Jesus. But now every one of them was coming together. Every one of them was coming together in their failures, in their needs. None of them now say, "I am greater than you." None of them say, "I am more important than you." None of them say, "I want to be at the right hand when You come into Your kingdom. I want to have that position." None of them was selfish any more. None of them was thinking of themselves or their ministry any more. All of them were broken.

Finally, God could bring them into that one bond and accord and they waited in that unity together. They moved in one accord. When something wanted to be done like the replacement of Judas Iscariot they all moved in one accord and chose Matthias. Nobody grumbled; everybody was with that love and unity. And when that happened in the early church, God could pour down upon them such power that He has reserved in heaven. That is the early church. Today right at the end of history God has prophesied, God has spoken of a time coming when He is going to pour out His Spirit upon His church. We are going to see everyone healed who comes to the meeting. We are going to see the glory of God manifests greater than in the book of Acts. God prophesied but before this come the Spirit of God is going to break His people down, break the pride down, break the selfishness down and cause the people to be in one accord. And at the point when they are in one accord God says now they are ready. All the flood gates that are reserved for these last days He will stretch forth His feet and lift it up and it will pour forth upon us in such a measure that the world have never seen before. And all the glory that pour forth will exceed what one apostle can do, one prophet can do, what one evangelist can do. It will exceed what an individual ministry can do. It's going to be so powerful.

Look at Eph. 4:11-13 is to prepare the church for the equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the

faith. Why are we in the ministry? What was the purpose for Paul to be in the ministry? What is the purpose for being in the ministry? It is that we are like laborers, like John the Baptist, preparing and bringing the church to the position, and giving information, giving truth and pushing them a little bit, picking them up on the way, and some of them give them a little scolding, but bringing the church altogether to that unity. Why does God want to bring the church to the unity? Because there is a special grace and blessing and anointing that has never been seen on this planet earth that He has reserved only for the church in these last days. We are waiting for God but God is waiting for us. He is waiting for all these ministries to do their part to bring the church together. Sad to say sometimes in the ministry through this 20<sup>th</sup> century church history you see that sometimes ministry fight against one another. They forget that the purpose of all the five-fold is to bring the church to unity. So if a five-fold fail to bring the church to unity they have failed in their calling and purpose. The very fact of the existence of the five-fold is to bring them to this unity. When they are in this unity together, man can be perfected to the measure of the stature of the fullness of God and to demonstrate the perfection of the bride of Christ. God is going to release the power that is reserved for these last days.

In Jesus' prayer you will have an idea of all these things in Jn. 17:20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word that they all may be one. If at the tower of Babel God could say that if natural men could get united together, they can do what they alone can not do, how much more when spiritual people get together they can do far above what they have done before. That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. The world had not believed today. Not all the world has believed that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Verse 22 says And (notice the conjunction it is after the unity comes) and the glory which You gave Me I have given them, (you must understand Jesus always speaks faith. He always speaks what has not come to pass,) that they may be one just as We are one. I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me.

How come Jesus connects the world knowing Him and us being one? Because when we are one there is going to be an anointing that comes upon the church that the world could tangibly see the manifestation of God's power. Now the oneness that He speaks about in verse 20 and 21 is this. He says in verse 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You. Do you know that Jesus is praying and saying that the way that you and I are one with each other must be the same oneness that Jesus have with the Father. When you think about that and you compare the churches oneness today you would say compared to Him we are all in disunity.

The oneness that we are to have with one another must be such that it is like the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit moving together. And this is the amazing thing when you study the Trinity. Everything that the Father wants to do the Son has a part and the Holy Spirit has a part. Everything that the Son does He depends on the Father He depends on the Spirit. Everything that the Spirit does He always go in line with the will of the Father and what Jesus wants to do. Never one time from Genesis to Revelation you find the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in disagreement. They have been in agreement for ancient of ages. For eternity, They have never moved apart from each other. They have always work separately but in unity. They are

separate Persons of the Godhead and They work their special work. The Holy Spirit has come to reveal Christ to us. Christ came to fulfill the will of the Father. There is not one time when one of Them work separately. Every time you see the work of God at first it seems as if only one of Them involved. You study carefully and you see cross-references you find that all three of Them are together. Do you know that not one thing is done by God without all three - the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit - getting involved? You can not find one incident. Even Jesus going to the cross for us He was sent by the Father. And He gave Himself to the Holy Spirit to fulfill that task. He cried on the cross Thy will be done and not Mine. There is not one time when They work separately. They are in such harmony together. And Jesus said, "I pray that the church, all who believe in Me and all who believe in My Name will be one with each other as I, Father, am one with You and You with Me."

Compare to His oneness I think we have a long way to go before achieving perfect unity. Now you know why the power of God could not demonstrate the way that God wants. In the realm, that God wants His church to come into because the oneness that we much have with each other must be equal in quality and in essence. So the question is how can we be one? What must we do to be one? Lets look at some considerations in the book of Acts chapter 1 and 2. How shall we all come together? What will help us to be one together?

Acts 1:13-14 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying. Peter, James, John and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Notice here it says with one accord in prayer. Do you know there is only one place the church can be one together in prayer? When we are all praying and crying out to our same Father the church here was one in prayer. We must gather together to pray together. You could say to one another, "I pray in my house and you pray in your house." But it says that they were one in prayer in the same place. It's very important for the church to gather in one place to pray together. For us that may take scheduling our time, that may take separating and consecrating our time, that may take re-adjusting our activities. But the church must come together in one accord in prayer. Praying and working by yourself alone will never perfect you.

There is a special blessing that God reserves when the church comes with one accord in one place. See in Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, there were all with one accord in one place. We need to gather together in one accord in one heart in praying together. Are we prepared to put aside our priorities? Are we prepared to put aside lives and our plans and our own schedules to come into one place and pray together? We must come together in that one accord and one prayer together. It starts in prayer. It doesn't start at the fellowship table over the food. Sometimes right at the local cafeteria we start discussing something and we end up with disunity. Sometimes you thought that it should start at the fellowship feast. But at the fellowship feast, sometimes conversation takes an unwanted direction. When somebody brings something that hurt the other, there you have it eating at the same table but eyeing each other. We all must get into the prayer room together. How can you and I quarrel when or Father is standing watching over us? As we all pray together onto the Lord in one accord, our Father will be watching.

Do you know that when husbands and wives have disagreement that they could come to the Father together and pray themselves into unity? They could disagree over something but if they could both enter into the closet with God and pray, their unity can be restored. When you enter into the prayer, don't scold each other with the prayer. The husband would come and say, "O God what a wife you have given me. O Lord you know she is this way and you know what she had done etc." And the wife say, "O dear Lord this guy is a lion who roars at me all the time." There they are scolding each other in prayer. We are not talking about that kind of prayer.

But when we come before God, there must be a humbling of oneself. See certain types of coming together and praying together do not work because people are not willing to humble themselves. The husband should come and say, "I am sorry Father I have sinned." Then the wife comes and says, "I am sorry Father I have sinned." And then they both look at each other. Both have sinned so we are all in the same boat. And all of us must come together on the ground of humility and that takes fasting. When we fast together in a corporate fast, there must be a corporate humbling of ourselves before God. It is where we all humbly ourselves and say God we all need Your mercy, not just my neighbor but me, all of us need Your mercy, all of us come by Your mercy. I find no better way than for people to come in fasting and prayer. Fasting has to do with humbling it goes together in one.

Some of the most difficult people were spared God's judgment because they fasted. King Ahab is one striking example. When he took over Naboth's vineyard illegally and treacherously, Elijah came to him in I Kg. 21 and told him that God's judgment is coming on him because of this thing that he had done and God is displeased. The bible tells us that king Ahab fasted and prayed. And when he fasted and prayed most of us would have prayed, "O God don't answer him. Give it to him since he is such a wicked king." But do you know what God did? God said, "I have seen how he humbled himself."

I don't care how you think about yourself or what your situation is. We all need to seek God in fasting individually and we need a corporate fast to come before God into His throne. We need a corporate fast. If you want revival to sweep this land and if we are not faithful to do what God tells us to do we may not have the revival. God looks for the people to pay the price to bring the answer to all the prophecies of the past. We have a part in obeying God. There are many people all over in every nation and they prophesy about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the coming revival. They have been talking about for the past 20, 30, 40 years. Let us not just talk about it - let us bring it. And that last revival has something to do with the unity of the church together. It's going to be a price that we all have to pay. We have to take the time to come together for corporate fast and prayer.

Every one of us can say we are busy but let us remember the hundred and twenty disciples of them who found the time to come together. It is not mentioned here but I believe they were fasting at that time. I believe they remain fasted in unity seeking God with all their hearts. There were 120 of them. Do you know there were more of them whom Jesus told to wait? Look at I Cor. 15:5 He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. There were five hundred over people who had seen Jesus after His resurrection. Why do you think Jesus appeared to the five hundred over disciples? It is because He tells the five

hundred over disciples to wait for Him in Jerusalem. He prepared the 500. He talked to the 500. He told them what they must do. But only 120 of them were showed up and gathered together. You would have about 390 people who were too busy. Three hundred and ninety people had other programs in their lives that they considered more important than obey Jesus Christ to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. Three hundred and ninety of them who says, "I have bought me a cow, I have married a wife." We must realize that if we love God, we must put priority on our lives to move into what God has for us. We can not run away from it. God's Spirit is calling the church worldwide together in prayer. We are praying individually but God is calling for the church to get together in one accord and pray. Will you be among the 390 or will you be among the 120? Choose you this day.

We have to get together in prayer in one place. And we have to gather together in Acts chapter one with one purpose of heart. Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. What was their objective in coming together to pray? They had one objective. Their objective is to come before God and pray for what Jesus promised. Jesus told them in Lk. 24:49 Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. Three hundred and ninety of them could not tarry. About 120 of them tarried and waited. Some of them may have started on the first day but gave up halfway. Bu there were 120 of them who carried on till the 10<sup>th</sup> day. They had one objective to be clothed with power from on high and to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The church knew the secret of one accord prayer.

In Acts 2:2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled he whole house where they were sitting. They were waiting with one accord for that which was prophesied by Joel. This sort of thing will not happen individually. There were apostles in their midst. It doesn't mean that if you are an apostle or evangelist you can separate yourself from the body of Christ. We are part of the body of Christ. To be waiting on God in one accord.

Do you know why in East Malaysia the native Christians there have such wonderful manifestations of the Holy Spirit? Every morning the church gets up early and pray together. They would ring the village bell and the people would gather together to pray. And deep in the jungles, they would gather for hours in homes to pray together. No wonder God gave them special signs and wonders. It takes that kind of unity and one accord to bring that special power and blessing of God. We must have an objective. What is our objective today? We all receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit better. We can pray better, we can pray more in tongues. Our objective is to pray for the perfection of the body of Christ. Our objective is to pray for the revival that has been prophesied of the glory that is reserved for these last days. The only time the church gets into disunity is when they forget about their vision and their objective and start looking at one another. But when we keep our eyes on the field and the harvest and on the Lord there is no time to get into disunity - we will fall into ranks and march like a mighty army.

Zechariah 10:1 Ask the Lord for rain. In the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain. Grass in the field for everyone. It says in the time of the latter rain ask. Ask corporately; come together in fasting, in prayer before God. Seek Him with all our hearts, minds and souls. Praying in one accord. Acts 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said; "Lord You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and

all that is in them. They were in one accord, one unity together. And that kind of unity they have is expressed in Acts 2:44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common. In other words, they did not count one above the other. They all were in common unity.

Now Acts 4:32 this is the unity that they have. Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. I know whose heart that was. All of them have the same heart the Father's heart, a heart of love. They were with one heart and one soul. Their minds agree together. They submit one onto another. We all know that our souls are our individual personality. But they moved as one personality. They moved as one soul together. That was the kind of unity they have. And God is calling the church back to this level of unity. God is calling us to forgiveness. God is calling us to come in the blood. Lay aside your grievances. Pull out every root of bitterness in your life and come to His throne by His blood. Forget about those past hurts and bad times that you have had with each other in the whole body of Christ at large but come together because the time is urgent. The hour is late and we want to see and be a part of that revival. The enemy is unleashing right now extra forces. Remember the bible tells us the devil knows his time is coming up and he is working like he had never done before. We would have to come together in one heart in one soul and in a sense, one physically because it says none of them say of the thing he possess is his own they had all things in common. Now with that kind of unity look at verse 33 With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. God is calling the church today to seek Him in fasting and in prayer.