



“Feasting on God”

Sermon Notes

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

February 3, 2013

Fasting is...

A. A biblical discipline for Christians.

- Jesus fasted. Matthew 4:1-4
- Jesus expected His followers to fast. Matthew 6:16-18
- Fasting was practiced throughout the Old Testament.
2 Chronicles 20:2, 3, Ezra 8:21-23, Esther 4:15,16, Isaiah 58:6
- The early church fasted. Acts 13:1-3, 14:23

B. What brings about God's will on earth.

Matthew 6:9, 10

C. About feasting on God.

Matthew 4:1-4; Deuteronomy 8:3; Lamentations 3:17-26

“Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God by finding in him a source of sustenance beyond food. Through it, we learn by experience that God’s Word to us is a life substance, that it is not food (“bread”) alone that gives life, but also the words that proceed from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). We learn that we too have meat to eat that the world does not know about (John 4:32, 34). Fasting unto our Lord is therefore feasting—feasting on him and on doing his will...In fasting, we learn how to suffer happily as we feast on God. And it is a good lesson, because in our lives we will suffer...”

Dallas Willard,
The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives,
HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY, 1988, pp. 166-167.

When should we fast?

A. When we need a weekly or monthly reminder to feast on God.

Lamentations 3:24

B. When we face significant challenges.

Esther 4:15-17

C. When we need God's direction.

Acts 13:1-3, 14:23

“One of the greatest spiritual benefits of fasting is becoming more attentive to God—becoming more aware of our own inadequacies and His adequacy, our own contingencies and His self-sufficiency—and listening to what He wants us to be and do.”

Elmer Towns,
Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough,
Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1996, pp. 17-18

D. When we need a spiritual breakthrough.

Ephesians 6:12, 18, II Corinthians 10:3, 4, and Isaiah 58:6

“I do not think fasting is mandatory for believers today. I do believe the discipline is available to strengthen you spiritually and to help you overcome the barriers that might keep you from living the victorious Christian life.”

Elmer Towns,
Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough,
Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1996, p. 13.

Prayer Guide

Week of February 3, 2013

Colossians 4:2-6:

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Personal

Pray specifically (remember Nehemiah 1:11 from last week’s sermon) for...

- The challenges and problems that God has allowed in your life.
- The salvation of your spiritually lost neighbors, coworkers, friends, family.
- For opportunities to share Christ’s love (see verse above!).
- Each member of your family.

CBC

Pray specifically for...

- CBC to be a light in our communities.
- Individual and corporate growth in Loving God, Loving Others, and Reaching Out.
- Each of us to make an incarnational impact in our homes, community, and around the world.

In light of our vision to serve the community and the increased facility needs that come with that, pray specifically for...

- The need for a full time Facilities Maintenance Assistant.
- Those who have or will submit their resumes. (We are accepting resumes until Monday, February 11, 2013.)
- The interview process starting the week of February 11, 2013.
- Wisdom in discerning who the Lord wants in this position.
- God to meet this need by our goal of a mid-March start date.