

Prayer and Fasting Guide

2024

CARRY AND RELEASE HIS PRESENCE

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

15 January to 04 February 2024

Lighthouse Community
Fellowship

PRAYER & FASTING

Welcome to 2024! As a church we believe that we need to fast together in unity – that means every member of our church both young and old. Please do not exclude your children or put limitations on them. Proverbs 22: 6 says; we must train our children in the way of the Lord so that when they grow old they will not depart from it. Prepare yourself spiritually by confessing all known sin. Forgive all who have offended you and seek forgiveness from those you may have offended. Use wisdom and pray for guidance, as we begin this new year.

Remember fasting without prayer is dieting. Start with a clear goal. Be specific. Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance. Prepare yourself spiritually by confessing all known sin. Forgive all who have offended you and seek forgiveness from those you may have offended.

When you fast your body detoxifies, eliminating toxins from your system. This can cause mild discomfort such as headaches and hunger pains. Press through with prayer. Generally, after the third day you should ease into the fast.

Fasting is not skipping meals but replacing them with scripture.

Seven areas that we will be focusing our prayer on:

1. Yourself.
2. Church Vision – One Cell – One Soul – One Month
3. Our Youth and Children.
4. Marriages.
5. Your Personal and Ministry goals for 2024.
6. Your Unsaved Family and Friends.
7. Our Country and Community.

We will be fasting for 21 days starting **Monday 15th January 2024 to Sunday 04th February 2024.**

Two ways I am suggesting we could fast:

1. Daniel Fast – fresh fruit and vegetables only
2. Abstinence during the day (6AM – 6PM). Vegetable diet in the evening.

In addition to this I want to suggest that during these 21 days of fasting **we abstain from watching TV so as to encourage family devotions and prayer.** I believe the Lord for transformation in each and every member's personal life, home and our churches. I have included the daily Bible reading and a prayer guide for everyone to follow.

We trust that you will experience God's blessing and rich reward during your time of prayer and fasting. Have faith to believe God for answers to prayer. We will be fasting and praying with you and for you.

Pastor Dean and Jessica

A Practical Guide to Devotions

You will need a Bible and a pen.

Open in prayer.

Questions to encourage interaction with Scripture:

1. Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
2. What did you like about this passage?
3. Did anything bother you? Why?
4. What does this passage tell us about God?
5. What does this passage tell us about Man?
6. What does this passage tell us about living to please God?
7. What does this passage say?
8. What does this passage mean?
9. What does this passage mean to me?

When finished, meditate on the scripture verse for the day, then prayerfully answer the questions or follow the suggestions for each devotion.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27

Daily Bible Study

Monday 15th January 2024

Love The Lord Your God

Scripture reading: Mark 12:30 (NKIV)

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment."

We love because He first loved us and gave his life for us as a sacrifice for our sins. One of the ways we show that we love God is by having a desire to serve Him. So choose to seek first, his kingdom and his righteousness, and everything else will fall into place.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are worthy of all our praise and worship. Take my life and mold it according to your plan and purposes. Help me to stay focused on serving you. Lord Jesus, give me the strength as I begin my fast to focus on building my relationship with you through prayer and reading the word daily in 2024. Help me Lord to *"carry and release your presence"* wherever I go!

Responding to the Word

1. Write down how you will prioritize loving the Lord Jesus with all your heart, mind and soul this year. What are some disciplines you will implement to achieve this.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Forgive Freely, Love Deeply

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (NIV)

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

The first and greatest command is: *“To love the Lord your God, with all your heart, mind and strength” (Matthew 22:37)*. Jesus didn't stop there; He said the second is just like it. We are to, *“Love your neighbour as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:39)*. Jesus commanded his disciples to not just love God, but to love the people of God. The Bible makes it clear that we cannot say we love God, and hate our brother. In fact it goes as far as to say that the love of God doesn't dwell in the person who harbours hate for someone else (1 John 4:20). God is love and He demonstrated how to walk in love through His Son Jesus. And since His very Own Spirit lives in us - His love dwells in us too, placing not just a responsibility, but an expectation for us to walk in the same manner of love to those around us.

How do we practically do this when people have hurt or disappointed, or done us wrong? We love others as an act of our will, with the love of God that is already in us! (*Romans 5:5*). The first step to having that love flow from our inner- man to others is by us choosing to forgive.

Forgiveness is not an option for the believer. It must be a deliberate act of our obedience to the will of God. Once we forgive, we release the offence that keeps us bound in bitterness, and at the same time, we open up the door for God's powerful love to flood in! All it requires is faith and obedience.

Responding to the Word

1. Choose today to forgive those that you have not yet forgiven. Forgive because Jesus forgave you!

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

Wednesday 17th January 2024

Conquoring Through Prayer and Fasting

Scripture reading: Matthew 17:21 (NKJV)

“However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

There are times in our Christian walk when God appears silent. You earnestly pray yet your prayers appear to go unanswered. You are not alone in these times. The Bible gives an account of a weary father whose son had been tormented from childhood. He longed to see his son set free. He inquired of the disciples for help with his troubled son. Nevertheless, the answer was delayed by the disciple’s unbelief. Jesus then commanded the deaf and dumb spirit to come out of the lad. His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So, *He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but **prayer** and **fasting**.”*

There is no doubt that the Bible speaks of a spiritual realm that takes prayer and fasting to conquer. Daniel knew it. Paul knew it. Jesus knew it. You must know it too. You have things in your life that WILL not come off with just a prayer. *YOU must fight through with Fasting in addition to your prayers.* This combination breaks the back of the demonic forces in your world. Your physical action through fasting moves God’s hand in your favor.

Responding to the Word

1. What are some stubborn and unyielding areas in your life that
You will be fasting and praying for?

“... I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, ...” Psalm 69:10

Thursday 18th January 2024

No Condemnation

Scripture reading: Romans 8:1 (NIV)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Guilt is an emotion that is inseparably connected to condemnation. Both have no place in the life of a believer. That's because our old, sinful natures have been nailed to the cross of Jesus. The blood of Jesus has washed over us and completely cleansed us from our past sin - making us pure and blameless before Him! He replaced our old, sinful nature with His righteousness! Now what happens if even with this new nature, we make a mistake and give into the temptation to sin? The Bible clearly tells us in *1 John 1:9*, that if we turn to the Lord, and confess our sin to Him, He will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness! Hallelujah! We are not to run and hide from Him! We are to run towards Him and receive His forgiveness - clearing our consciences of all guilt and shame. A delayed repentance only delays our help from God. Condemnation is not for the Believer whose heart is engaged in loving and serving the Lord.

If after you find yourself under a weight of guilt and condemnation after confessing your sin to the Lord - recognise that weight is not from Him. His kindness and goodness lead us to repentance, and in returning to Him.

Meditate on what the Word says God's thoughts are towards you, and the truth of how He sees you. It will sharpen your ability to recognise the lies and trap of the enemy of your soul, to keep you in a place of misery and feeling unworthy. Let the truth of God's Word renew your mind to become righteousness conscious - so you are free to live being led by His Holy Spirit, never having to look back and be dragged down the spiral of hopeless guilt and condemnation again!

Responding to the Word

What lies and traps are the enemy sending your way to keep you bogged down under condemnation? Settle today who you are in Christ Jesus and never give in to the condemnation of the enemy!

"So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

Friday 19th January 2024
Do Not Draw Back

Scripture reading: Joshua 8:26 NKJV

“For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.”

Never relent until the enemy is defeated! You may be in a battle with, sickness, addictions, crime, debt, depression, unemployment, relationship or whatever other battles you are facing, like Joshua decide today to stretch out your arm with the sword and never draw your arm until the battle is won.

Our God is the captain of the armies of heaven. By faith stand with arms stretched out against every situation in your life and use the word which is the sword of the spirit and demolish that curse over your life in Jesus' name. Amen!

“Through our God we shall do valiantly, it is he who will tread down our enemies; we will sing and shout his victory Christ is King. As God has won the victory and set his people free, His word has slain the enemy; the earth shall stand and see that through our God we shall do valiantly.” Dale Mary Garratt

Responding to the Word

1. What battles are you currently facing within and without? Do not draw back, thrust forward in the Lord until you have victory!

*“Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.”
Psalm 108:13*

Saturday 20th January 2024

God Honours Faith

Scripture reading: Hebrews 11:8 (KJV)

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

God always honors faith. Abraham was a farmer. He took his wife, workers and animals and left everything. He didn't even know where he was going. He went because God told him. Remember, a good idea is not always a God idea, and a need does not justify a call. So, you don't just do it. You do it because God tells you to.

As we begin this year, what are your plans, aspirations, and goals for the year? Are they based on faith? Are they God honoring or are they just mere presumptions?

During this time of prayer and fasting, seek clarity and direction from the Lord. Diarize, put down on paper what plan or vision God is giving you. If needs be discuss with your spouse and or seek godly council about what God has impressed upon your heart for the year ahead. Then like Abraham step out in faith and accomplish your goals and vision for the year.

Responding to the Word

1. Briefly list your goals for the year ahead.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

Sunday 21st January 2024
Surrender – Culture Shock

Scripture reading: John 13:35 (NIV)

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

We live in a culture where it is becoming more difficult to distinguish Christians from non-Christians. How should we, as Christians in the church, respond to our cultural chaos?

First, we need to be sold out to Jesus Christ and live our lives powered by His Spirit, with humility and grace. We do that through our individual worship – spending time daily in scripture and in prayer – and through our corporate worship weekly with God’s family at church.

Next, we do that same thing within our families, systematically worshipping together daily and every weekend with other believers.

Love is the distinguishing mark of a Christian. If we worship and love as God prescribes, our lifestyles and attitudes will noticeably stand out, and we can make a difference that will shock the culture!

Responding to the Word

1. Examine your life. How would you rate your love for fellow Christians?

*“God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” 1
John 4:16*

Monday 22nd January 2024

Speak The Truth

Scripture reading: Isaiah 5:20 (NIV)

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

We need to call sin by its name. As believers, as followers of Jesus Christ, our standpoint has no grey area. It's either black or white. It's either right or wrong. Remember, people don't have to like us, but they must respect us for what we stand for. All it takes for evil to abound is for good people to do nothing. Jesus says in Revelation 3:16: ***"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."***

Strong words! Starting at home as parents you need to tell your children the absolute truth. You cannot compromise; they will not respect you for that. They might not like what you are saying at the moment because all their friends are doing something different, but we have to stand for truth and righteousness, and our gauge has to be the Bible.

"The Word says it; we believe it and that settles it." - Smith Wigglesworth.

Young people are looking for truth. They want to know the truth because the truth will set them free. Let us be strong, bold, courageous and full of love and tell people the truth. His name is *Jesus!*

Responding to the Word

1. As we wait upon the Lord – are there any grey areas in your “walk and talk?” Bring those areas to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to bring alignment to your “walk and talk” as you commit to speak the truth in love.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

A Praying Family

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:30 (NLT)

“And if it seems evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

As the old saying goes, *a family that prays together stays together*. God blesses families who pray together, giving them increased peace, love, and harmony in the home. Family prayer is also a great way to help younger children develop the habit of praying on their own. Sometimes busy schedules can make it difficult to pray as a family. But it's worth the effort. Try choosing a time when you are all normally together, such as mealtime or right before bed. A family's ability to pray together is the very glue that holds them together. A family that puts its emphasis on prayer to the Almighty has a foundation that may occasionally be rocked, but they will endure all thrown at them.

Responding to the Word

Today let us stand in authority and claim our family's restoration, salvation, healing, deliverance, and prosperity. May each of our family members come to experience daily the supernatural manifestation and presence of the Holy Spirit this year. *Lets pray:*

- Heavenly Father, I stand before you this day and claim my family for You in Jesus name. Help us to live in the bonds of unity as we seek to serve you.
- Father, I ask that Your Spirit take charge of the lives of my family members **(name them)** helping us to be loving, humble, gentle, hospitable, forgiving, bearing with each other in Jesus name.
- Dear Lord Jesus, no one can come to You except the Father draws him. Therefore, father, bring every member of my family to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (John 6:44)
- LORD, help us to put our own needs aside and use the spiritual gifts that YOU have given us to serve one another well. In Jesus name.” (Romans 15:5)
- KING of kings and LORD of lords, I dedicate this home to You from today onwards. Rule and rein in this house. Be the LORD and Saviour of this home. In Jesus name! Amen!.

Wednesday 24th January 2024

Chosen To Do The Job

Scripture reading: John 15:16 (KJV)

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

Chosen! You may be sitting at your workplace or business or having sleepless nights just thinking and saying, *"I can't take much more of this."*

Whatever your "this" is, Jesus says you can! He says, *"I chose you, and I appointed you..."* Now, remember the story of Abraham and Sarah? When God told Sarah she was going to have a baby, that's Isaac, and that he would be the father of many nations, she went behind the tent and started laughing and giggling, and the Lord said, *"What are you laughing about?"* And she said, *"Nothing."* And He said, *"You were laughing!"* And the Lord said in *Genesis 18:14*: *"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"*

There is nothing too hard for God. He would never have chosen you and given you the job at hand. You are favoured of God!

Dust yourself off, get back on your feet and get back into the race. The Lord has chosen you!

Responding to the Word

1. What hassles or challenges are you facing in your workplace, business or ministry. As you fast - bring these situations before the Lord in prayer. Trust God for the breakthrough.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14

Thursday 25th January 2024
Surrender – Praying For The Sick

Scripture reading: Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

How is your physical health today? Are you or your family or friends ill or have a chronic condition? Being unwell in body or caring for a loved one that is unwell or infirmed can be a challenging and daunting task.

Isaiah 53:5 tells us that by the stripes of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we are healed its past tense meaning that it's done! We are healed!

Today, believe the Word as you pray for a miracle. Choose to repent or forgive so that nothing will hinder your prayers and trust God that he will cause all things to work together for your good.

A prayer for the sick:

Our loving and Heavenly Father, I know that you love us. Thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ to die on the cross so that we can be saved from sin and be healed from all sickness and disease.

I ask in the name of Jesus that you would heal me / loved one / friend from this disease. Have compassion and bring healing and restoration from all sickness. Help me trust in you. In Jesus name I ask these mercies. Amen.

Responding to the Word

1. Write down the names of those you know need healing and bring them before the Lord in prayer.

“Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.” Jeremiah 17:14 (NIV)

Friday 26th January 2024
Empowered – Praying for South Africa

Scripture reading: Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.”

PRAY THE WORD OVER SOUTH AFRICA:

1. Father, we will be still and know that You are God. You will be exalted in South Africa; You will be exalted in the earth! (Psalm 46:10)
2. We repent and return our nation to you so that our sins may be wiped away, that times of refreshing may come from Your presence, Lord. (Acts 3:19)
3. Lord, we cast all our cares of our nation upon You, for You care about us. (1 Peter 5:7)
4. We ask Father that You give strength to our nation. May You bless South Africa with peace! (Psalm 29:11)
5. Father, we ask that Your presence will go with us and that You will give us rest as we stand on Your Word for South Africa. (Exodus 33:14)
6. Thank You, Lord, that the promise of entering Your rest still remains. (Hebrews 4:1)
7. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, but we thank You, Jesus, that You have come to give South Africa life in abundance. (John 10:10)
8. Lord, help our nation to listen to You so that we will dwell in safety and be secure, without fear of evil. (Proverbs 1:33)
9. We pray that we will lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make South Africa dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)
10. Lord, we stand in the ways and see, and we ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and we choose to walk in it. Thank You that through it, we will find rest for our souls and as a nation. (Jeremiah 6:16)
11. Thank You, Father, that You will fight for South Africa, and we shall hold our peace. (Exodus 14:14)
12. Thank You, Father, that You are in our midst, the Mighty One who will save our nation; You will rejoice over us with gladness; You will quiet us with Your love; You will rejoice over us with loud singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)
13. Lord Jesus you are the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6), we pray against violence and unrest during the national elections this year. May your peace reign over our national elections this year. In Jesus Name Amen!

Saturday 27th January 2024

A time for great exploits!

Scripture reading: Daniel 11:32 (NKJ)

“...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

Many of Daniel’s dreams, visions and angelic visitations point to future times and events after the cross of Jesus. With the acceleration of the devil’s evil agenda on the earth, the Bible says that in the last days, God’s Spirit will be poured out on all flesh, and the knowledge of His glory will fill the whole earth - through His people who know Him. (*Joel Acts 2:17; Habakkuk 2:14*). We are living in those days right now. There is great evil, just as in the days of Noah and Lot.

But there is also God’s mighty Presence in His people who know Him. Our mandate is clear and precise - we are to work the works of the Father, by His indwelling power, with great confidence and boldness until the moment He takes us away.

Remember today that you are a citizen of a greater Kingdom, not just a citizen, but also a representative. The Kingdom of God is far higher than anything in this world, and with His power on the inside of you, you have the authority and dominion to stand boldly for Jesus and do exploits in His Name.

You have been set apart by God to destroy all the works of the enemy and release the Gospel of Jesus Christ with great conviction and power! So, determine to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit who is within you. Obey whatever He tells you to do with great boldness, standing your ground for righteousness and speaking His truth at all times. You have been chosen by God to live in these last days, and anointed to do great exploits for Him on this earth, so step out in His power and victory today!

Responding to the Word

Use this time to strengthen and ready yourself as you wait upon the Lord to do mighty exploits for the King of Kings and Lord of lords!

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Sunday 28th January 2024

Keep The Fire Burning

Scripture reading: Leviticus 6:12-13 (NLT)

“Meanwhile, the fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must never go out.... Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times.”

It's essential for every believer in this hour to be on fire for the Lord. The fire of God keeps us in a place of being pure and blameless before Him. It is a purifying fire that burns away all the things that would hinder our walk of faith and victory in Christ. The Bible calls these things unnecessary weights that entangle us and keep us from running our race and fulfilling our God given assignment with strength, skill and purpose. Surrendering our hearts to the fire of God keeps us in a place of absolute allegiance, devotion and submission to Him. Which is another reality of the fire of God burning in us. It fuels a fervent passion within us for Him and His purpose on the earth. It emboldens us with confidence to stand our ground against the enemy and operate in the power of God.

Our prayers are more specific and effective when our hearts are burning with the fire of God. Demons tremble and flee, their demonic bondages effortlessly break off of people and the life-giving flow of God's love, goodness and healing power overflows from our spirits without resistance when the fire of God is made to burn bright and strong inside us.

As a natural fire is kept burning by throwing more wood onto it, God's Word is the wood that keeps His fire burning in us. The secret to keeping the fire burning is praying in the Holy Spirit. As we do this, we keep our minds engaged in what the Spirit of God is wanting to do in and through us. It keeps a flow of His divine wisdom, strength, joy, peace and power alive and active in us. Be sure to keep the spiritual wood of God's Word being piled up inside you, and His Holy Spirit fanning the flames by praying in your heavenly language. Then listen intently to His voice and allow what is burning on the inside of you to be released on your words and in your actions as you carry and release His presence, doing His bidding on the earth.

Responding to the Word

Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your life today.

“...for our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29

Monday 29th January 2024

Keep Your Oil Pure

Scripture reading: Exodus 27:20 (NKJV)

“And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.”

Oil was needed for the lamp of the tabernacle to burn continually. However, there was one condition: the oil had to be pure. It had to be clean and free of any form of impurity. Because it was holy, there could be no blemish or defect in it.

It had to be of the highest quality. In the past, people used oil to keep their lamps burning. We see this in the parable of the ten virgins. Just as the oil of the sanctuary had to be clean and pure, so too must the oil we carry in the vessels of our bodies be clean and pure, if we wish to burn brightly amidst a crooked and perverse generation. We contaminate or dilute the quality of the oil in our lives by what we allow our minds to dwell on, what we allow our speech to be seasoned with, and what we choose to partake in.

The Bible says in Titus “To the pure, all things are pure”. Everything about us should be pure: our thoughts, our speech, our conduct. We are to cleanse ourselves from the filth that is in the world and present ourselves as clean vessels to the Master. The level of purity we carry will determine the level of brightness we will shine. The purer the oil, the brighter the light. Let us offer our bodies as living sacrifices and strive to live pure and clean lives so that we can be prepared for every good work!

Responding to the Word

Everything about us should be pure: our thoughts, our speech, our conduct. How are you doing in these areas of your life?

“Let your clothes always be white [with purity], and do not let the oil [of gladness] be lacking on your head..”

Ecclesiastes 9:8

Tuesday 30th January 2024

Advancing The Kingdom Of God

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 12:13 (NIV)

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

The Body of Christ consists of all believers’ forming one collective body. When we recognize the value each of us has to establish God’s kingdom here on earth, we will be able to advance such a mighty onslaught against the kingdom of darkness and see the greatest harvest of souls, ever seen, come to know the Lord. *1 Corinthians 12:27* says, *“Now you [collectively] are Christ’s body and [individually] you are members of it, each part severally and distinct [each with his own place and function].”*

In the times we are living in, we need to be a unified body with a single focus to see God’s kingdom come, and His will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven (*Matthew 6:10*). The only way this can be accomplished is through prayer, us individually being baptized in the Holy Spirit and filled with His power. That’s because believers that are filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit operate in a unity and love that gets the job done with God’s blessing (*Psalms 133:1-3*). It’s also why our enemy, the devil, works hard to bring division and strife amongst God’s people. While we walk in love with each other and in the unity of the Spirit, we will grow strong together and be a formidable force against the enemy while we do the works of God (*Ephesians 4:1-5*). The Body of Christ is God’s army here on earth today and you are part of it!

Responding to the Word

1. Pray for:

- Unity in the body of Christ.
- Pastors, church leaders and ministry partners.
- The spreading of the Gospel throughout the earth via the various mission organizations.
- Our churches – KCF,LCF, HCF,TCF.
- The vision of our church.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

Wednesday 31st January 2024

Tests and Trials

Scripture reading: Zechariah 13:9 (NIV)

"This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'"

If you're being tested today, you're in good company! Job, the most righteous man on earth, was tested. And when he emerged, he told God, *"I heard about you from others; now I have seen you"* (Job 42:5 CEV). In the heat of the furnace, you experience God up close and personal.

We learn our most profound lessons when we're tested... Like what we're capable of... where we need to grow... and that there's still more to learn! When your faith is being tested, the last thing you're thinking about is learning a lesson... you just want to survive. But the lesson we learn from Job is that when we keep our faith in the most testing of times, we'll *'come out as gold'* (Job 23:10 NAS).

Remember, *Life is a lesson; there are no mistakes, only lessons. If you don't learn the lesson the lesson is repeated and each time it's repeated it gets harder. You know you have learnt the lesson when your actions change."*

James says, *'Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials'* (James 1:2 NIV). What trials and tests are you facing today? We often face our greatest temptations and trials during or just after fasting - the last thing we feel is joy when facing trials. If anyone could speak with authority on praising God in trials, it was Paul.

When you get through this test, you will have a testimony to God's strength and faithfulness, and be able to say, "The Lord is my God!"

Responding to the Word

1. How are you faring under tests and trials?

*Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10*

Thursday 01st February 2024

Using God's Word In Prayer

Scripture reading: Exodus 33:12(NIV)

"Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'"

Moses talked with God like a friend, sharing what he felt and thought. And God wanted it that way as recorded in *Exodus 33:12*. Moses is mirroring back to God what God had previously said to him. Remember when you reminded someone, "You were the one who said..."? That's what Moses is doing here: reminding God of His own words.

And God wants you to remember His Word and to speak it back to Him (*See Isaiah 43:26*). Not because He needs to be reminded but because you and I do! And because His Word is the only Word that He is committed to fulfill (*See Matthew 24:35*).

When you pray using God's Word, you are praying in His will, and you're guaranteed to get a hearing. So, learn and memorize Scriptures that touch on your needs and desires, and when you talk to God, recall them, and pray them back to Him. For example, when you pray, *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"* (*Mark 11:24 NIV*), God will acknowledge it!

The more you learn of His Word, the more your prayer time will conform to His will and the more you will feel aligned with Him. Keep your Bible handy when you talk to God so that He can direct your thoughts to the words He wants you to pray.

Responding to the Word

1. Let us determine today to pray God's Word back to Him.

"Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it." Jeremiah 1:12

Friday 2nd February 2024

Gaining God's Favour By Praying God's Will

Scripture reading: Exodus 33:13 (NIV)

"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

Moses' the humblest man on earth talks with God *"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you."* Moses is in a national crisis that could end Israel's relationship with God, and what is he praying for? Not, "God, I'm in a tough spot. You have to resolve this for me!" But, *"teach me your ways so I may know you!"*

Moses wants more than just to know God's awesome works. His heart cries out to know God's heart and what makes it tick - the inner ways of God. "To know Him" includes all the other things Moses could ever seek, including the solution to his problem. And God gave him what he asked. *"He made known his ways unto Moses"* (Psalm 103:7 KJV).

Here is more of that conversation: God responded, *"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest"* (v. 14 NIV). That "you" in the Hebrew is singular. God promised to accompany Moses and give rest to him. Anybody else would have accepted gladly. Not Moses. His prayer was bigger than his own concerns. *"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here"* (v. 15 NIV).

In other words, "Lord, it's not for me I'm praying; it's for us!" And God answered that prayer.

Are your prayers bigger than yourself and your own needs? The Bible says, *"For God so loved the world..."* (John 3:16 KJV). Do you pray for your church, community, nation, and the world? More so for the nation of Israel.

You and I have been called to and should pray God's plans and purposes to be accomplished in our lives, the lives of others and over the nations of the earth!

Responding to the Word

1. Examine your worldview and prayer life. Does your prayer include praying the will of God over the lives of others and over the nations of the earth?

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." John 17:20

Saturday 3rd February 2024

Contend For The Faith

Scripture reading: Daniel 3:28 (NKJV)

“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were bold and certain of their conviction in front of the greatest threat of their lives. They made it clear to the king that if he threw them into the furnace, their God would deliver them and even if God did not deliver them they wanted it to be made clear that they would NEVER bow down to or worship any idol or god, other than their own (*Daniel 3:17-18*).

There may be times, after we take a stand in faith that things appear to get worse instead of better. This isn’t because our faith is not working, it’s because the opposition to what we believe is flexing its muscles, trying to convince us to back away. Understand, every sickness, circumstance, and demonic principality knows they have no option but to bow to the Name of Jesus. It’s really just a question of who stands and who caves to the pressure. That’s why *Hebrews 10:39* says *we are not of those who draw back, but of those who believe!* We don’t quit - we stand our ground according to God’s irrefutable Word - until every opposition to it comes into line with its truth.

Don’t become casual in your stance against whatever is threatening your victory today. Stand your ground, on the truth of what God has promised you in His Word. Spread the Good News and contend for the faith today!

Responding to the Word

1. What challenges or trials are you facing in contending for the gospel?

“...be, of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Sunday 04th February 2024

Put On The Whole Armour Of God

Scripture reading: Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

"¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

As believers, we are living, breathing, and walking Temples of God. What a glorious reality this is, our bodies may be flesh and bone that were formed from dust but on the inside of us we have a great treasure in the form of the Holy Ghost. *2 Corinthians 4:16* says that even though our outward man is perishing, our inward man is being renewed day by day! That's because it's full of the supernatural life of God! When a believer recognizes this wonderful truth, everything begins to change. We think and act from a perspective of victory - knowing that whatever we face and wherever we go - we see and go with the Person and power of God in us! God has trusted us to carry His glory and undeniable Presence within us.

Therefore, don't for one second think you are not valuable, or that you are a nobody in this glorious kingdom of God. You have the presence of the Holy Spirit abiding in you, you are extremely valuable. Remember this as you carry and release His presence wherever you go this year.

"...Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

Daily Prayer

Prayer For Yourself

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection during this time of prayer. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I take a stand against all the workings of Satan that would hinder me in this time of prayer, and I address myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of Satan in my prayer. Satan, I command you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to leave my presence with all your demons, and I bring the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ between us.

Heavenly Father, I worship You, and give You praise. I recognize that You are worthy to receive all glory, honour and praise. I renew my allegiance to You & pray that the blessed Holy Spirit would enable me in this time of prayer. I am thankful, heavenly Father, that You have loved me from past eternity that You sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to die for all my sins so that I may be saved.

Heavenly Father, come and open my eyes that I might see how great You are and that you are Jehovah-Jireh my provider.

I am thankful for the armour You have provided, and I put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of peace, and the helmet of salvation. I lift up the shield of faith against all the fiery darts of the enemy, and take in my hand the Bible which is the sword of the Spirit and use Your Word against all the forces of evil in my life. I put on this armour and live and pray in complete dependence upon You, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Open my eyes and show me the areas of my life that do not please You. Work in my life that there be no ground to give Satan a foothold against me. Show me any area of weakness. Show me any area of my life that I must deal with so that I would please You. I take a stand today for You and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life. I give my body to You, recognizing that I am Your temple.

By faith and in dependence upon You, I put off the old nature with its weakness and I put on the new nature with its strength. I put off today the old nature with all its deceitful lust and I put on the new nature with all its righteousness and purity.

I am thankful that you have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I completely surrender myself to You, Heavenly Father, as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed to this world. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I pray that You would show me Your will and enable me to walk in all the fullness of the Holy Spirit today.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father that the weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Therefore, in my own life today I tear down the strongholds of Satan, and I refute the plans of Satan that have been formed against me. I affirm, heavenly Father that You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. I pray and ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In which areas are you trusting God for change or breakthroughs:

Church vision and motto

I pray for our vision “One Cell to bring One Soul in One Month” Help me to use my gifts and talents to fulfill this vision. Help me to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to Raise up pastors and leaders for our churches. I thank you Lord for Lighthouse, Trinity and Harvest Community Fellowship churches that have been planted out. I pray for unity in our churches as we take territory for Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord, we choose to carry and release your presence wherever we go in 2024.

Your Word says in Colossians 1:27, “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Lord be the glory and lifter of our heads this year as we carry your presence wherever we go.

Goals

Heavenly Father, I thank you for my plans and goals for 2024. Thank you for your grace that enables me to accomplish my goals for the year. I believe that I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. May my goals bring honour and glory to your Holy Name! May I RESOLVE to do what is right and pleasing to you before I seek my own ambitions.

Marriages

I pray for all the married couples in our church. I plead the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on them. Holy Spirit, I ask you to help those who are going through challenges and difficulties. Help them to continually walk in Your love and forgiveness. Remind them of their marriage covenant and Your will for their lives. I pray Your blessing on every married couple in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. *(If you are married, pray for your own marriage as well).*

Children & Youth

Heavenly Father, I bring all our children to You. Help them to honour and obey their parents. I pray that their parents will raise them in love and discipline. I come against negative influences in their lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Take captive their thoughts and help them to focus on their studies and exams. Protect them in their coming and going in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. *(If you have children pray for them by name and bless them).*

Unsaved

Heavenly Father I know it's Your will that none should perish and that all would come to repentance. I break Satan's bondage over the lives of my unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to be a witness to them.

List the names of at least five unsaved family or friends that you are believing God for their salvation. Never stop exercising your faith in believing God to save these precious souls. Preserve in prayer!

1) _____.

2) _____.

3) _____.

4) _____.

5) _____.

Our country

"If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14 - KJV)

Heavenly Father, I pray for healing in our country. I pray for peace and prosperity in South Africa. I pray that our government and all our political parties will seek your wisdom to govern diligently. I pray for the men and women You have raised up for such a time as this: that they will rise up and take their rightful places in government. I pray for the state president and his cabinet. I pray that those who have hidden agendas and evil schemes will be exposed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray for peaceful elections this year.

I pray for the protection of our policemen and women. Give the police wisdom in maintaining law and order in the country.

I pray for the well-being and safety of my community. I pray that all forms of criminal activity will be exposed, and that the perpetrators be brought to book. Give me wisdom and boldness in reaching my community with the Gospel.

I pray that the Gospel would continue to have free course in our land.

Receiving...Blessings

I ask You, Lord Jesus, to bless me with a fresh anointing of your strength, discernment and wisdom so that I can walk in holiness and in total submission to Your will and Your ways. Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have been delivered from curses and have entered into the blessings of Abraham. I now receive Your great love for me, Your deliverance, healing and freedom.

Thank You Lord Jesus!

Deuteronomy 28:1-13

I will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. My physical and spiritual children will be blessed. The work of my hands, my family, my ministry, my career and my finances will be blessed. I will be blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out. The Lord will make me the head, not the tail. The Lord will cause the enemies who rise up against me to be defeated before me. They will come at me from one direction but flee from me in seven. The Lord will establish me as His holy people, as He promised me on oath, if I keep the commands of the Lord my God and walk in His ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that I am called by the name of the Lord.

Amen.

1 Chronicles 4:10 (NIV)

The Prayer of Jabez

“Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!”

Closing Prayer

Matthew 6:9-14 (NKJV)

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom &
the power & the glory forever.

Amen

Some Additional Scriptures To Meditate On And Pray

“There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.”

Proverbs 21:30 (NIV)

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7 (NIV)

“Yet Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands.” Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

“It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. .
.” Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7
(NIV)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

“Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!” Psalm 40:16 (KJV)

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Philippians 4:6-7
Daniel 9:4
Esther 4:15-16
Mathew 6:16-18
Mathew 4:4
Joel 2:12-13

Exodus 34:28
Ezra 8:21-23
Isaiah 58:6
Mathew 4:12
Mathew 18:18-20
Ephesians 3:12-13

Psalms 63:1-3
Colossians 1:27