

Fervent and Faithful In Prayer

A Call to Biblical Fasting - Disciplined Abstinence

Romans 12:9-13

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10. *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*
11. *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*
12. *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*
13. *Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

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faithful in prayer.
13. Share with God's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.

Three words stand out:

Zeal - enthusiasm for the things of God.

Fervor - boiling hot for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithful - regular, obedient, with an honest-to-God prayer life. Not betraying a faithful trust

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Romans 12:9-13

I. Do You Pray - Faithfully?

II. Do You Pray - Fervently?

George Mueller - James 5:16

So What's Your Impossibility?

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

An Invitation to Prayer

I. Do You Pray - Faithfully?

All of us as followers of Jesus Christ are called to pray. Jesus words are saturated with commands for his disciples to live in dependence on him. Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing.” Yet often we behave spiritually as though prayer were a disease to be avoided. We function in the human and not in the divine. We are content to live limited by our own resources and our own efforts. God never intended it to be so.

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray to God in Secret – Matt 6:6

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray Constantly – 1 Thess 5:17

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray Everywhere – 1 Timothy 2:8

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray for All Men – 1 Timothy 2:1

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray With All Prayers – Eph 6:18

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray in Faith Believing – Matt 21:22

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray Boldly – Hebrews 4:16

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray For One Another – James 5:16

~~✍~~ ~~✍~~ Pray Fervently – James 5:16

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

National Day of Prayer

On May 5, 2005, we will again lift our prayers across the nation and its territories for God to be the Lord of the United States of America. What an opportunity for each of us to leave behind a legacy of thriving faith and prayer. — from "Prayer Lines," the official newsletter of the NDOP

For the first time in U.S. history, a bill enacting a permanent national day of prayer passed both houses. The Senate bill, S., was introduced in 1988 by South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, while the House version was introduced by Ohio democrat Tony Hall.

The measure amends a 1952 law which required the president to proclaim a day of his choosing each year. President Reagan signed the bill into law in the Oval Office on May 5th and read a prayer translated from Russian. The prayer was found on a young soldier, Alexander Zatzepa, who was killed in action in 1944.

"Hear me, Oh God. Never in my whole lifetime have I spoken to You but just now I feel like sending You my greetings. You know from my childhood on they always told me that you are not. I, like a fool, believed them. I've never contemplated Your creation and yet tonight gazing up out of my shell hole, I marvel at the shimmering stars above me and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

Will You my God reach Your Hand out to me? I wonder. But I will tell You and You will understand. Is it not strange that the Light should come upon me and I see You amid this night of Hell and there is nothing else that I have to say. This though, I am glad that I have learned to know you. At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But You are looking on and I am not afraid.

The signal... well, I guess I must be going. I have been happy with You. This more I would like to say. As you well know the fighting will be cruel and even tonight I may come knocking at your door. Although I have not been a friend to You before, still will you let me enter even now and I do come? Why am I crying, oh my God, my Lord? You see what happens to me. Tonight my eyes were opened. Farewell, my God. I'm going and I am not likely to come back. Strange is it not, but death I fear no longer."

Foxhole Conversions

It is a sorry state that the church refuses to live in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ in its prayer life. When we only call on God in emergencies and have no faithful extended prayer life we are not living as sons, but as paupers.

II. Do You Pray - Fervently?

James 5:16 The effectual **fervent prayer** of a righteous man availeth much.
NIV – “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

George Mueller - James 5:16

George Mueller lived in the 1800's in England. He felt a burden from God for orphaned children. Having no money, no organization, and no backing, he simply prayed, and prayed, and prayed... for 73 years he built an orphanage of 5 large homes which housed 2100 children. Never did they miss a meal or lack clothing or shelter.

He never publicized, never sent a newsletter, never asked for donations, never told anyone of their needs but God alone.

God always answered prayer.

- ✍ ✍ He built 5 costly orphanages to house them.
- ✍ ✍ One house alone cost \$600,000.
- ✍ ✍ 2,100 children were clothed, fed, housed.
- ✍ ✍ \$ 7.5 million dollars came in.
- ✍ ✍ \$200,000 a year was needed.
- ✍ ✍ Many days began with no money and no food.
- ✍ ✍ He kept no reserve funds but spent every dime to enlarge the ministry.
- ✍ ✍ He provided for 9,500 children in 73 years.
- ✍ ✍ God always supplied.

So What's Your Impossibility?

George Mueller is a man just like any of the rest of us. His God is the same God and Father who loves all of us alike. There is no problem God cannot solve. There is no crisis He cannot resolve. There is no limit to his provisions, and there is nothing impossible with Him.

- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ besetting sin or temptation.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ family or marriage crisis.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ financial need you can't solve.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ major decision to make.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ n impossible, immovable mountain.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ n unsaved son, daughter, or friend.
- ~~✍~~ ~~A~~ heart grown cold.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Actually it is 42 Days - April 18 - May 29

We are not actually asking you to fast for 40 days, but during the 40 days take one day a week to seek the Lord and employ one of these fasts. At least ONE DAY each week for six weeks spend extra time in prayer as you discipline your body and mind by practicing abstinence.

~~✍~~ ~~TV~~ Media Fast – no TV, radio, newspaper, Internet

~~✍~~ ~~C~~affeine Fast – no coffee, pop, tea

~~✍~~ ~~S~~weet Fast – no sweets, desserts, sugar

~~✍~~ ~~F~~ood Fast – no meals, juices and drinks

~~✍~~ ~~L~~iquid Fast - no solid food, only soup & crackers

~~✍~~ ~~P~~eople Fast – go away for a day. Retreat w/God

The purpose of the fast is to humble oneself before God. It is limited in time and duration. It is meant to draw us near to God, so he will draw near to us. It is to purge ourselves of leaven, or ferment that pollutes, poisons, or taints the mind and body. We are calling God's people to give themselves to faithful and fervent prayer for six weeks, which is 42 days. It is not a marathon. To avoid the marathon mentality we deliberately do not fast without food for 40 days lest pride enter our hearts and ruin the God-seeking. We will therefore vary the fast from week to week. Each week fasting from something different and allowing a variety of diets. It needs to be emphasized as well that these fast weeks do not need to be taken consecutively. It is not a marathon.

April 18 to May 29

Or choose dates that better suit your life.

An Invitation to Prayer

Many people are not sure what to pray about during an extended time of prayer such as this. I would like to suggest just some of the things I pray for on my extended prayer retreats.

For Your Own Life and Others

-  ~~Seek~~ the Mind of God
-  ~~Seek~~ the Hand of God
-  ~~Seek~~ the Provision of God
-  ~~Seek~~ the Salvation of Souls
-  ~~Seek~~ Deliverance from Sin
-  ~~Seek~~ Healing of Mind & Body
-  ~~Seek~~ Restoration of Marriages

For Our Church

Our church has experienced wonderful growth over the past three years. So many people are attending that there is not room enough to receive them. Our classrooms are jammed to capacity in most of our Sunday School classes, children, youth and adults. We desperately need to add on if we are to maintain and keep pace with our growth. We don't presently have the money necessary. Will begin believing God with us for his blessing in these areas?

-   Wisdom and Direction
-   Adjacent 16 Acres of Land
-   Provisions for Building for Ministries
-   Children's Pastor/Director