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January 5, 2025

Greetings CLC Family & Friends,

First Lady Faye & I cordially invite each of you to join us for a dedicated time of Prayer & Fasting as we seek God together during Covenant Life Cathedral's 2025 21-Day Corporate Fast [January 6-26, 2025]. This Fast will begin at 12:01 AM on Monday, January 6 and conclude at midnight on Sunday, January 26. CLC's 2025 Theme is "FOCUS '25."

During this year's Corporate Fast, we will be focusing on spiritual renewal, deepening our personal relationships with God, and seeking His guidance in every area of our lives for 2025. As we dedicate ourselves to special prayer, worship, and personal reflection, this will be an ideal time to reset our hearts, align with God's purposes, and prepare for the incredible things He wants to do in our individual lives as well as in CLC during 2025!

If you are participating with us this year and are new to Biblical Fasting, you may ask: **What is Fasting? A Biblical Fast can be defined as simply abstaining from food for spiritual purposes.** Fasting was encouraged and is expected by Jesus that His believers would fast (Matthew 6:17-18; Matthew 9:15). During our annual Fasts, some of us also abstain from our favorite television shows and other forms of entertainment and spend that time drawing closer to God instead. What makes this time of Fasting rich is by using those times to pray, read the Bible and worship God. Simply said – if Fasting is not coupled with Prayer and Bible reading, it's simply a diet, which is certainly not what this Corporate Fast is intended to be! **Prayer should always be our first response, not our last resort!**

Fasting is Focus! Among the many benefits of Fasting, the most obvious is "Focus!" Setting aside food and filling that void with Prayer, is like tightening the focus knobs on a microscope; what once was blurry becomes clear. When we remove distractions we focus on the important spiritual truths, such as: Thoughts, feelings, opinion; Vision, understanding, timing; Faith, hope, & love! It is time for us to refocus and recharge!!! We encourage everyone who can to participate in this Corporate Fast, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. Let's come together, believing that as we humble ourselves before God as a Corporate Body, He will move powerfully in our lives and in our Church! The ability to focus is extremely vital for clarity, productivity, and for noticing God's presence. As the Pastor of Covenant Life Cathedral, I am asking that we make some sacrifices for the next 21 days, as we thirst and hunger for righteousness. If we want something that we have never had, we have to be willing to do something that we have never done. I say that we have done it our way long enough!

Biblical Fasting requires reasonable precautions. Please consult your physician prior to beginning your Fast, especially if you have any health concerns, you are taking any medication, have a chronic condition, or are pregnant or nursing.

May the Holy Spirit lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. May He also deposit all that He has been preparing for us as individuals and as a Church Family for such a time as this. Now, let us begin this journey of Prayer, Fasting, Focus & Personal Devotion together in such a way as if our Church, family members, friends, co-workers, as well as others within our communities, etc., are depending on us because they are!!!

Included in this Prayer & Fasting Packet is also a Personal Prayer & Fasting Contract (which is between you & God) and a Daily Prayer & Fasting Devotional, which is another very helpful tool that can be used to go along with the Fast. I would also like to remind you that much strength and clarity can also be gained when the corporate body of CLC fellowship together. The weekly schedule is as follows:

- Sunday School Classes @ 9:30 AM Sunday Mornings
- Sunday Morning Worship & the Word Services
- Sunday Mornings @ 11:00 AM
- Tuesday Night Bible Study each Tuesday @ 6:30 PM
- Thursday Night Unity Prayer (Thursday Nights @ 6:30 PM).

Seeking God Together,

Partae Bob Humanicat

Rev. Dr. Robert "Bob" W. Hunnicutt Pastor, Covenant Life Cathedral

RWH:mwb

- 2025 Put God first in everything
- 2025 Make prayer a daily breath
- 2025 Read a passage of God's Word every day
- 2025 Walk by faith, not by sight
- 2025 Trust the Lord with all your
 heart
- 2025 Focus on Jesus, not the world
- 2025 Always trust God's plan

In this busy world full of distractions, focusing can often be challenging. Let's not allow stress to keep us from keeping our focus on God. The Bible talks about focusing in several different contexts – and here are the key Bible verses that relate to focusing. These verses relate to blocking out distractions so we can focus on God's messages to us:



"He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." – <u>Psalm 46:10</u>

"... in quietness and trust is your strength..." – <u>Isaiah 30:15</u>

"But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge..." – Psalm 141:8

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." – <u>Joshua 1:8</u>

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." – <u>James 4:8</u>

These verses relate to focusing the thoughts in your mind wisely:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." – Romans 12:2

"... we have the mind of Christ." – <u>1 Corinthians 2:16</u>

"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." – <u>2 Corinthians 10:5</u>

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." - <u>Colossians 3:2</u>

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to test and prove what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." – <u>Philippians 1:9-10</u>

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." – <u>Philippians 4:8</u>

These verses relate to focusing on the work that God has given you to do:

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

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." – Philippians 4:13

COVENANT LIFE CATHEDRAL <u>Preparing For 21-Day Corporate Fast</u> <u>Personal Prayer & Fasting Contract</u> (This Contract is to be made between you & God!!!) January 6 thru January 26, 2025

Affirmation: I believe in the power of God to revive individuals and people (Psalm 85:6) I believe God will pour Himself out on His people (Acts 2:17) and send times of refreshing from His presence (Acts 3:19). I believe when people humble themselves, pray, seek God's renewal and turn from their wicked ways, God will respond (2 Chronicles 7:14). Therefore, I will fast and pray for revival (1). In my Personal Life; (2). In my Ministry or other area(s) that God reveals; and (3). In Covenant Life Cathedral.

Vow: God being my strength, and grace being my basis, I commit myself to this 21-Day Corporate Fast for God's Glory.

Thanks Fast: What I will withhold.

Beginning: Date and time I will start _____ Corporate Fast Begins: Monday, January 6, 2025

End:	Date and time I will stop
Corporate Fast En	Date and time I will stop ds: Sunday, January 26. 2025
Purpose:	I am Fasting to
Bible Promise:	"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 heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)
Resources Needed:	
Prayer Partner(s):	
Steps After Fast:	
	Printed Name:
	Signed: Date:



Corporate Fasting: 1 Samuel 7:5-6, Ezra 8:21-23, Nehemiah 9:1-3, Joel 2:15-16, Jonah 3:5-10, Acts 27:33-37. Remember that it is the attitude of a heart sincerely seeking Him to which God responds with a blessing (Isaiah 58, Jeremiah 14:12, 1 Corinthians 8:8). What is your greatest need today? Do you need wisdom, power, healing, or protection? The Bible tells of men and women with the same struggles that we face today. They sought God's face through prayer and fasting for the different seasons of their lives . . . and so can we.

Isaiah 58:6-8 lists nine results we can expect from genuine fasting. To better illustrate these nine, I have given nine kinds of fasts the names of biblical characters, each of whose life personified the results of each fast. I do not suggest that these nine fasts represent the only types available to believers. Nor do I want to suggest that only one type of fast exists for a particular problem. These nine fasts provide models to use and apply to your particular needs and desires as you seek to grow closer to God.

1. The Disciples' Fast

Purpose: To free ourselves and others from addictions to sin.

Key Verse: "... This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21, KJV).

Background: Jesus cast out a demon from a boy whom the disciples had failed to help. Apparently, they had not taken seriously enough the way Satan had his claws set in the youth. Jesus implied that His disciples could have performed this exorcism had they been willing to undergo the discipline of fasting.

A "besetting sin" (Hebrews 12:1) does not describe your average sin of neglect or momentary lapse. This is not the sin of rebellion, where God says, "Thou shalt not," and you say, "I will," in his face. A besetting sin means habitual sinful behavior that victimizes you. It makes you a slave and takes away your will.

Thanks to the Disciples' Fast, God broke this man's addiction and he entered freedom in Christ.

2. The Ezra Fast

Purpose: To invite the Holy Spirit's aid to solve problems and overcome barriers that keep us from walking joyfully with the Lord.

Key Verse: "So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and he answered our prayer" (Ezra 8:23, NKJV).

Background: Ezra the priest was charged with leading the children of Israel from Babylon back to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Despite the king's permission, Israel's enemies opposed them. Burdened with embarrassment about having to ask the Persian king for an army to protect them, Ezra fasted and prayed for an answer to his problem.

The Ezra Fast applies to those difficult problems that won't go away. It's for the problems that we've tried to fix by prayer, but prayer was not enough.

3. The Samuel Fast

Purpose: To revive God's people and help them in evangelism outreach.

Key Verse: "So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, 'We have sinned against the LORD" '(I Samuel 7:6a, NKJV).

Background: Samuel led God's people in a fast because they were oppressed by the Philistines. As a result of their fast, God sent revival to Israel and helped them overcome their captors.

The Samuel Fast for evangelism and revival has been applied throughout church history. In the early 1700s New England Pastor Jonathan Edwards preached his famous "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" sermon, which most believe began the First Great Awakening that shook America and England. Before preaching that sermon, Edwards spent twenty-four hours in an absolute fast.

The Great Prayer Revival of 1859 grew out of a spiritual discipline similar to that described in First Samuel. Throughout the Northeastern United States, working people gave up their lunch hour to go to the nearest church building and pray. They went without food to give themselves over to prayer. God visited the United States with a sweeping revival.

4. The Elijah Fast

Purpose: To conquer habits and other emotional problems that control our lives.

Key Verse: "He himself went a day's journey into the wilderness . . . He arose and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights" (1 Kings 19:4, 8, NKJV).

Background: Elijah struggled with negative emotions. He fled when Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him, and he went without food for forty days in his search for answers from God. After this self-imposed deprivation, an angel of God ministered to Elijah in the wilderness and sent him back into service. The Elijah Fast is designed to break fear and bad emotional habits. A young man at a church altar stated that he couldn't stop cursing and that this bad habit was rooted in his subconscious.

5. The Widow's Fast

Purpose: To care for the basic needs of others.

Key Verse: "The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah" (1 Kings 17:16, NIV).

Background: God sent the prophet Elijah to a poor, starving widow. Ironically, the widow went without to provide food to Elijah. Today, many people do without food so we can give the money we save by not eating to humanitarian purposes.

6. The St. Paul Fast

Purpose: To gain clearer perspective and insight as we make crucial decisions.

Key Verse: "And he [Saul] was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank" (Acts 9:9, NKJV).

Background: Saul of Tarsus, later known as Paul after his conversion to Christ, was struck blind by the Lord while persecuting Christians. He not only was without literal sight, but he had no clue about what direction his life should take. After going without food and praying three days, Paul gained both physical sight and spiritual insight for the future.

If we follow the St. Paul Fast, we focus on God's will instead of our own when we face major decisions. God then brings us clearer perspective and the insight we need.

7. The Daniel Fast

Purpose: For physical health and healing.

Key Verse: ". . . Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank" (Dan. 1:8a, KJV).

Background: Daniel and his three fellow Hebrew captives ate only vegetables for ten days, keeping themselves from pagan foods. They became more healthy than others in the king's court.

8. The John the Baptist Fast

Purpose: For your testimony and influence.

Key Verse: "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink" (Luke I:I5a, KJV).

Background: John the Baptist took the "Nazarite" vow that required him to "fast" from wine and strong drink. His special diet, as part of John's purposefully chosen lifestyle, set him apart as a special testimony for the cause of Christ.

9. The Esther Fast

Purpose: That "the glory of the Lord" will protect us from the Evil One.

Key Verses: "... Fast for me.... My maids and I will fast . . . and so I will go to the king . . . [and] she found favor in his sight" (Esther 4:16, 5:2, NKJV).

Background: Queen Esther, a Jewess in a pagan court, risked her life to save her people from threatened destruction. Prior to appearing before the king to petition him to save the Jews, Esther, her attendants, and her uncle Mordecai, fasted to appeal to God for His protection.



DAY 1: DESIRE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES :

"1. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:1-2.

DEVOTION:

Imagine the scene: a deer running through the woods, literally dying of thirst. Panting, frantically searching for a stream to drink from. Water is life. More than food, water is essential, and the deer can find none. This is the image, David says, of his relationship with God. I'm thirsty, I'm desperate, I can't live another moment without His presence. I NEED God, David says. He goes on to say his tears have been his food night and day. He is seeking, waiting, weeping. He knows that without this water for his soul, he will die. This isn't a cute, coffee-cup psalm. This is a desperate cry for the only thing that can satisfy. David's desperation isn't a sign of spiritual weakness, but strength. It's when you stop realizing just how dependent you are on the river of God that you lose your desperation for His presence. As Pastor of this Covenant Life Cathedral, my personal prayer is that during this time of Prayer & Fasting, God will re-awaken us to our need for Him. Also, that these 21 days would be a catalyst that launches us into a lifetime of hungering and thirsting for the river of life (Psalm 63:1) - For the water that will never run dry (Isaiah 58:11) - For that stream that makes glad the city of God (Psalm 46:4).

PRAYER:

God, give me a renewed desire to be with You. Make my heart like the heart of David: desperate for Your very presence. Awaken me to my need for You. Make me like that deer. Thank You, Heavenly Father, that as I seek You, You will satisfy me with Your presence. Come Holy Spirit, fill me again with Your power and presence as I acknowledge my need for You, Lord God!!!

DAY 2: FAITH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible". Hebrews 11:1-3

DEVOTION:

Hebrews 11 is affectionately known as the "hall of faith". Those "people of old" who have gone before us and have lived their lives for the purpose of knowing, loving, and obeying God. It doesn't take much digging to guickly realize that the names on this list are not the picture of perfection. Their past is littered with sin, failure, doubt, fear, etc. Yet, in each of their lives, they made a decision to say "yes" to God, to turn away from their sin, to live by faith instead of fear. In spite of their doubt, they chose the path of obedience. For many of them, it cost them their lives. Their lives didn't turn out the way they expected, yet God used their broken paths to bring glory to His Name. God has plans and purposes for your life, for Covenant Life Cathedral, and for our city. He wants to use each of you, to bless you, and to send you into the world to do the seemingly impossible. He wants to use you to heal the sick, to speak hope to the hopeless, to bring salvation to the lost, and so much more. We can't please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), and yet faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). So, what can we do? We can ask God for faith, and we can choose to live a life of faith by simply saying **yes** to Jesus and obeying the words He has already given us in the scriptures.

PRAYER:

Thank You, God, for those believers who have gone before me and for those whom You have placed around me. Please increase my faith in Your character & Your Word and increase the faith of the people in Covenant Life Cathedral Church. Help us to believe every promise in Your Word and obey every command. Place within us a conviction that no matter what it costs us in regard to our comfort, our hopes, our dreams; that we will say yes to You. Give us the gift of faith, we pray, in Jesus' Name, Amen.



DAY 3: REVIVAL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

"O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy". Habakkuk 3:2

DEVOTION:

Holy discontent. I can't think of a better way to describe what the Prophet Habakkuk is expressing in this verse. "God, you've done AMAZING things in the past! Why do I not see those same things in my life? You healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry, parted the sea, made bread rain down from Heaven, made water flow from a rock, brought entire cities to their knees and filled them with the Word of God. What You did then, will You do it again?" This is the cry of Habakkuk's heart, and it has been the cry of God's people in every generation. We need God to move again. We need Him to awaken us, to revive us, and to put a holy discontent in us like He did in generations before us.

PRAYER:

"O Lord, I have heard the report of You, and Your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy." Put in me a holy discontent. Put in me a yearning for Your works and Word to fill my life, Covenant Life Cathedral, our city, state and nation.

Put in me a yearning for You to do the impossible in my life and through my life. Please, guard me from the temptation to settle into a life that is less than what You created me for. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

DAY 4: BLESSING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

24 "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. 27 So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." Numbers 6:24-27

DEVOTION

This is a priestly blessing, a blessing that Aaron and his sons prayed over the people of Israel generation after generation. It's an expression of God's heart for His people and His devotion to their good. We must reject the "prosperity gospel" that essentially teaches that God's greatest interest is your health, wealth and prosperity. That is not true! God's greatest interest is His own glory and the exaltation of His Son, Jesus. In rejecting that message, we must never lose the reality that God's disposition towards His people is a disposition of blessing and an outpouring of goodness. Romans 8:28 teaches us that God is so committed to our good, that He is literally working **EVERY** situation for the good of His people. 1 Corinthians 15:54 teaches that even death itself will be swallowed up (consumed) by the victory of Jesus and the saints (Christians). Therefore, praying God bless you, increase you, give you favor, prosper you, heal you, lay His hand upon your life and pour down blessings until there are no more need (Malachi 3:10) is an excellent and biblical prayer. The word peace here is the Hebrew word "Salom" and is a word that is so rich and robust that we have no English equivalent. It can be translated as peace, blessing, favor, satisfaction, wholeness, completeness, and even salvation. This is the heart of God, it is the mission of Jesus, and it is one of the greatest prayers we can pray over our lives, our church and our city.

PRAYER:

Pray Numbers 6:24-27 over yourself, your family, Covenant Life Cathedral. Pray it your neighborhood, workplace, and over our city.

DAY 5: PRESENCE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4

DEVOTION:

David had it all, and he could have whatever he wanted. Yet he knew that there was only one thing that would truly satisfy, one thing that would truly fulfill, one thing that really was the purpose of all of life. That was simply this: to be "WITH" **God.** It's not enough to know about God, or even to receive blessings from God. No, the deepest longing of the human soul is for connection with God, Himself, for a relationship with the Almighty. This is why later in Psalm 84:10 he says one day in God's house is better than a thousand elsewhere. David had access to every place on earth. Think on that! The most glorious, beautiful, spacious places. David says, there is no where like His presence. He says I will "ask" and "seek after". Both are important. Asking is prayer. Seeking is practical. Ask God to make this one thing the one thing in your life. Then consider: what are the practical steps you need to take to make that prayer a reality? David goes on to say once He's in God's House, He wants to see His beauty and inquire in His Temple. Our life is directed by what we see and hear. We behold what we become, and our thoughts direct our lives. David says, I want to behold you, and I want your thoughts to be my thoughts, your mind to become my mind.

PRAYER:

God, I want you more than anything else. Help me to seek you more than anything else. Help me to make You the priority of my life. Help me to see how much better You are, how satisfying Your presence is, and how fulfilling a life with You is. Help me to fix my eyes on Your beauty and to seek Your counsel above any other. Come Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and power, and lead me to the ONE for whom I was created. In Jesus' Name, Amen!



SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus". Acts 4:13

DEVOTION:

If you've ever had the thought that you don't know enough or that you're not compelling enough to share your faith, be encouraged! In this short passage, the Holy Spirit proves that He is enough and that He flexes His muscles and displays His strength the most when He is working through weak vessels. Your weakness, Paul says, is the very thing that puts Jesus' strength on display (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). What is an antidote to fear and timidity in sharing our faith? How do we step into a life of boldly declaring the words and doing the works of Jesus? The key for Peter and John is the same for us, simply this: to be with Jesus. It is in His presence that we find a boldness not from us, and we receive a power to do the works that only He can empower us to do (Acts 1:8).

PRAYER:

God, I thank You because You are strong when I am weak. You don't need me to become something I'm not! I simply need to be filled with Your presence and step into the work that You have already prepared for me to do. Please, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and power to open my mouth and boldly tell the people I encounter today and, in the days, to come the Good News of Jesus Christ. Help me to be bold and give me a deep and abiding confidence in Your work in me and Your Word spoken through me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 7: COMPASSION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"36. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38

DEVOTION:

The #1 emotion we see expressed in the life of Jesus is this: Compassion! The Latin root for the word compassion is "**pati**", which means "**to suffer**", and the prefix "**com**"- **means** "**with**". Compassion, originating from **compati**, literally means to "**suffer with**". The connection of suffering with another person brings compassion beyond sympathy into the realm of empathy. Our God is a God of compassion. Jesus was moved with compassion, and to be like Him means that we become a people marked by our compassion. This is to be the driving motivation for our works and our words. Compassion was always preceded by Jesus "**seeing**" the people. The same will be true in our lives. Only when we enter into the world of the people around us, and "**see them the way God sees them**", will our hearts break for them as God's heart does.

PRAYER:

God, please help me to slow down and see the people around me. Give me Your eyes to see them as You see them, to enter into their suffering and to love them with Your kind of love. God, please break my heart for what breaks Yours. Remove apathy and fill me with a holy discontent for the suffering of those around me. Give me grace to step into that suffering with a hope in your supernatural ability to meet the need, to heal the wounds, and to give hope to the hopeless. Ultimately to point to the eternal life to come that You promise to all who trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen!



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"26. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27. and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28. even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28

DEVOTION:

A defining mark of the Ministry of Jesus is that He came not to be served, but to serve. **This is an upside-down kingdom**. When the world is climbing the ladder, hustling to get mine, trying to make it, in essence doing everything possible to get everyone possible to lift up and serve ME... Jesus enters the scene and says He is going to do everything He can to serve everyone He can. And He calls us to do the same. Question: Have you entered into the upside-down kingdom of Jesus in your thought life and your daily pursuits? What would your life look like if you entered into every relationship and moment asking the question **"what can I do for them?" instead of "what can they do for me?"** How would your friendships, your marriage, your workplace, your neighborhood relationships change? This, Jesus says, is greatness. What is one thing you can do today to pursue greatness by serving someone else?

PRAYER:

Jesus, thanks for being the ultimate servant and example of a life poured out for God and others. Please help me to choose others above myself today and to put on Your model for greatness. Please purge from me the worldly standard for a **"great"** life and help me to see greatness through the lens of a life poured out for You and others. Make this my posture, my disposition, and the heartbeat of my life. For Your glory and the good of others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 9: JOY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"7. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. 8. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. 9. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. 10. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. 11. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:7-11

DEVOTION:

The Christian life is a life of joy. Unfortunately, Christians have often been known for our judgment, our hypocrisy, and even for our grumpiness. We need to own this, ask God to forgive us, and choose a different way: the way of Jesus. Joy is not a feeling, it's a choice. If it wasn't a choice, the Bible couldn't command it. But it does. Over and over again, believers are commanded to simply "rejoice". Philippians 4:4 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16 command us to rejoice "always". In every season, under every circumstance, the Bible teaches, choose joy! We are commanded to sing for joy (Psalm 5:11) and to shout shouts of joy (Psalm 32:11). The afflicted and the needy are commanded to rejoice (Isaiah 29:19), as are the righteous and upright (Psalm 33:1). The choice to rejoice is a declaration of the goodness and faithfulness of God. Every command to rejoice is based upon the character and faithfulness of God Himself. Friends, there may be nothing more powerful we could do today for our own souls and for our witness than to choose joy. Make the decision, right now, to rejoice. Reject a complaining, critical spirit. Take on the spirit of joy. Begin your day today and everyday by thanking God for the blessings in your life and declaring that "This is the day that The Lord has made, I WILL rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

PRAYER:

God, thank You for today. Thank You for the breath in my lungs, for Your new mercies, and for the purposes You have for me today. This is the day that the LORD has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it. I refuse to give in to a complaining and critical spirit. I refuse to allow depression, anxiety and fear to win the day today and any day. I will lift my voice to praise Your Name. I will rejoice and I will choose joy. This is not falsehood or forced emotion. This is a choice based upon the reality of Your faithfulness and the truth of Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen!



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"18. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

DEVOTION:

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He is more passionate about His lost children than we could ever imagine. For God so loved the world that He gave Jesus (John 3:16) that none should perish. This is God's heart: that not a single person be judged for their sins. His heart is for every person to come under the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Forgiveness and new life have been made possible through the work of Jesus. Yet He has entrusted the message to us; He has given to His people the mandate to take the message to the ends of the earth. This does not happen primarily through stages or mass media. No, this work primarily happens person to person, neighbor to neighbor, co-worker to co-worker. It's a mission we can't accomplish on our own. We need His presence and power, both of which He has already given to us. There is no time to waste. Hell is hot and eternity is forever!

PRAYER:

God, thank You for Salvation. Please give me boldness to go and do the same. Fill our hearts with a passion for Your mission and help us to do for one person today what You have called us to do unto the ends of the earth. Help us to proclaim with our deeds and words that You are the hope of the world. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

DAY 11: NATIONS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"12. And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." Matthew 21:12-13

DEVOTION:

God's heart has always been for every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Revelation 7:9). From Genesis to Revelation, God is interested not in seeing some people brought back into a relationship with Him and restored to their God-given purpose in life, but ALL people (2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16). In the passage above we see Jesus treating this not as some small mistake, but as something worthy of great devotion and severe correction. Jesus is not kind and gentle in His rebuke. He is driving people out, flipping tables, and making quite the scene to make His point. God's house is NOT to be a place for acquiring wealth, personal comfort, or any other self-serving purpose. Instead, the Church, more than any other organized group of people in the world, is to exist for the purpose of praying for and serving the world.

PRAYER:

God, please give me a heart for the Nations. I'm sorry for where I have made my life or our church about me. Please forgive me and help me as I repent and turn back to a life that is lived for You and the advancement of Your Gospel to the Nations. Break my heart for what breaks Yours and help me to leverage my life for the greatest gospel impact both here in my neighborhood, city, and the world.

DAY 12: HEALING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"35. And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:35-36

DEVOTION:

It has been said that anytime you find Jesus He was coming from, going to, or currently healing someone. God never intended sickness and death; this was a result of sin entering into the world (Genesis 2:17). God's promise for those who believe in Jesus is to forgive our sins, heal our bodies, and restore us to His original intent for our lives. Healing is promised and expected in scriptures (Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 103:3, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Matthew 12:1). We know that the kingdom has come in Jesus (Mark 1:15), yet it has not fully come (1 Corinthians 15:54). Therefore, we pray expectantly, knowing that God will heal (whether it be in this life, or in the life to come). We expect God to supernaturally heal the sick when we pray for them, and we have a strong theology to ground our hearts when it doesn't happen when or how we expected. The supernatural healing of the sick is a sign that confirms the message we preach (Hebrews 2:4). Therefore, we ought to consistently and continually pray earnestly and fervently for the healing of the sick both within and outside of our Church, for both believers and unbelievers. For the prayer, however God chooses to answer, is to God's glory and the good of people.

PRAYER:

Ask God to give you greater faith to pray for the sick to be healed and expectation to see that prayer is supernaturally answered. Ask God to give you boldness to offer to pray for the supernatural healing of those with whom you encounter, and those you already know. Begin praying for yourself or others you know who deal with chronic illness and ask God to supernaturally heal their bodies. Take a moment to entrust yourself and others to God, that His ways and timing are perfect.

DAY 13: REPENTANCE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning (repentance) and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15

"Bear fruit in keeping with repentance". Matthew 3:8

"Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" Romans 2:4

DEVOTION:

The Hebrew word for Repentance is **"subah"**, which means simply to **"return"** and is used throughout the scriptures to describe a return of mind, heart and action to God. To repent is to **"turn away from our wicked ways"** and to turn ourselves back to God. Repentance can be dramatic (as it was in the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32). It is a one-time event (the day we repent and believe in Jesus, Acts 3:19) and a daily practice (Matthew 3:8). John Calvin said, "the human heart is an idol factory. Our hearts become factories of idols in which we fashion and refashion God to fit our needs and desires." The practice of repentance is as simple as asking God to show you where you have put other things above Him, turning away from that and returning to Him. So, how do you know what your idols are? Someone said you know what your idols are based on what you daydream about. What are you daydreaming about?

God, what do I love more than You? What people or things have my heart above You? Please show me. I repent, and in this moment, I am returning to You! Please help me to return to You with all my heart and mind (with every fiber of my being)! Help me to align my life to Your Word, and Ways and to walk with You. I love You; God and I want to love You more. Thank You for abundant grace and mercy. I don't deserve it, yet You give it freely. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

DAY 14: LOVE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"1. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. 7. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10. But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12. For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13

"7. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12.No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:7-12

PRAYER:

God, thanks for Your love. Open the eyes of my heart to see and receive Your love. Increase my capacity to receive Your love. Holy Spirit, fill me with the love of God, give me deep revelations of God's love and transform my thinking patterns and heart-attitudes to conform to God's love. Help me to love my brothers and sisters in Christ as You have loved me. Make me more like You, Jesus. Help me to walk by Your Holy Spirit and not the desires of my flesh. Make my hands like Your hands, my feet like Your feet and my mouth like Your mouth. I want the world to see Your love through my life. Help me to give myself, unconditionally, in love to the people around me. Amen!

DAY 15: HOLINESS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

"1. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. 2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night. 3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." Psalm 1:1-3

"14. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16

DEVOTION:

The Christian life is a life of becoming more like Jesus as we walk with God. Throughout the scriptures God's people are called to a life that is holy on the basis that God Himself is holy. The word holy is from the Greek word **"hagion"** which means to be **"dedicated" or "set apart".** Think of nice China in a China cabinet. It is set apart from the other dishes. It's special and distinct, and everyone in the family knows it and that it is only to be used for special occasions. Because of it's worth, value, maybe it's identity as a family heirloom it is treated with great care and given great dignity. It is also to be with God's people. Our behavior changes because our identity changes. We no longer belong to the spirit of this age as we have been purchased at the high price of the blood of Jesus, and we belong to God our Father. We are no longer slaves to sin - we are sons and daughters of the King. This new identity in Christ is the basis on which the Apostle Paul makes the appeal to the Christians in Rome to no longer engage in old, sinful practices (Romans 6:15-23). As He says in Galatians 5:1, "for freedom Christ has set you free".

Why are you not living a holy life? Turn back to God. Confess it to a fellow believer (James 5:16). And receive God's mercy.

As Lamentations 3:22-23 says "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

PRAYER:

Father, forgive me. Renew a right spirit in me. Renew my mind in Your Word and my heart in Your presence. I receive Your mercy. I lay this at Your feet, and I ask for the strength to never return to it again. Make me holy, as You are holy. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

DAY 16: UNITY

"1. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2. It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore." Psalm 133

DEVOTION:

The universe is made up of physical laws, like the law of gravity. These laws are created by God and facts of life. In the same way there are physical laws, there are also spiritual laws and spiritual realities God has created that cannot be changed. One of those is the blessing of Unity. When brothers (believers) live together in unity, God cannot help but pour out a blessing on their lives. This applies to our marriages, our small groups, our parenting, church-life, etc. This applies to the way we think, speak and act towards one another in person and behind closed doors. Covenant Life Cathedral cannot help but to flourish when believers commit themselves to the ways of Unity. A Church cannot help but fail when believers become divided. Therefore, one of the greatest commitments we can make to our fellow believers is to choose the ways of **Unity**.

What is the blessing of Unity? The oil on Aaron's beard represents the anointing of God to do the work we are called to do. The oil is poured on Aaron's head and is running down his beard and the collar of his robes: this is an abundance of oil, representing an abundance of God's anointing.

The dew of Hermon: Dew creates an atmosphere for growth. It is refreshing, lifegiving and plant-life cannot help but thrive in its presence. When Unity exists believers mature, mission advances, and God is glorified.

PRAYER:

God, give me a heart that loves Your people. Remove any divisive ways from me and help me as I devote my life to the building up of the body of Christ. God, please unite the churches and believers throughout our city so that You will command blessings like never before. May we be one, as You are one, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 17: LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"1. First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4. Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4

"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." 1 Peter 2:17

DEVOTION:

One of the great tensions in the Christian life is that we are called to pray for and show honor to those in positions of leadership in our society. This would be easy if those leaders were always godly in character and made decisions that aligned with the character of Jesus. As we well know, that is not always the case. When the Apostle Peter penned the above words in 1 Peter 2:17, the emperor at the time was Nero: a man who hated Christians and murdered them in masses. It is suspected that Peter was martyred in the persecution executed by Nero, himself, in the years of AD 64-65. Why does this matter? Because even at the hands of the most wicked rulers, we are called to surrender our lives into the hands of the most glorious Savior. When the Church learns to be a prophetic voice that can call upon the society for repentance and reform and still maintain her surrender to the sovereign hand of God in both praying for and honoring its leaders, then God will be glorified, and the gospel will advance mightily.

PRAYER:

God, help me to honor those in leadership at my workplace, government officials, etc. Help me to honor the leaders within Covenant Life Cathedral and to pray for each of them. Please bless the leaders in my life. Open their eyes in a greater way to Your love for them, give them wisdom to lead, fill them with the power of your Spirit to do their work and help them make decisions that honor You today. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

DAY 18: THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART 1 (FATHER)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

^{*5}And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:5-8

DEVOTION:

Prayer is not performance, it's Relationship! We know Jesus is not condemning **"group praye**r" in this passage, for the early Church was marked by their **"gathering to pray".** What He is condemning here is using prayer as a platform for religious posturing. A few checks and balances: Are your prayers more impressive with others than when you're alone with God? Do you find yourself trying to 'sound spiritual' or overly express your '**passion'** in praying with others in a desire to impress them? If so, you may have fallen into the trap Jesus warns of here. The good news is, your prayer life can be revived, and you can walk free from religious posturing. Return to God, go into your room and get on your knees, then begin praying simply and humbly like a child. Stay in that place until your heart is more focused on Christ than it is on others. Repeat daily for the rest of your life.

PRAYER:

God, I'm sorry for using prayer to seem impressive to others. Please forgive me and help me return to the heart of prayer. Help me to come daily into Your presence and teach me to pray. Teach me to call upon Your Name with humility, like a child. I want to know You, Lord, Amen!

DAY 19: THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART 2 (KINGDOM)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"9. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10.Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11. Give us this day our daily bread, 12. and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. 14. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15. But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:9-15

DEVOTION:

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Kingdom of God is anywhere the King, Jesus, is ruling and reigning. In His Kingdom there is no more sickness, death, or disease (Revelation 21:1-4). Sin is repented of, the sick are healed, the captives are set free, the hungry are fed, orphans are brought into families, the Words of God are treasured, and Jesus is glorified. This is what we pray for when we pray **"your kingdom come"**.

PRAYER:

Your Kingdom come, Jesus, in my life, in my family, in Covenant Life Cathedral, and in our city. Spend a few minutes praying for various aspects of God's Kingdom that come to mind over these spheres of life.

DAY 20: THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART 3 (FORGIVENESS)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"9. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10.Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11. Give us this day our daily bread, 12. and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. 14. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15. But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:9-15

DEVOTION:

Un-forgiveness is a prison and a poison. Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 18 of a servant who owed his master 10,000 talents (worth 6,000-18,000 days wages, estimated at about \$1-\$3million). The servant begged for forgiveness and the master showed him mercy. Upon receiving mercy, the servant found his own servant who owed him 100 denarii (100 days wages, estimated @ \$18,500). Instead of mercy, the forgiven servant choked and imprisoned his servant until he could repay every penny. The master found out, and the forgiven servant now spent the rest of his life in a prison. Why? Because he refused to extend the same forgiveness to his debtor as His master had done for him. So, it is when a believer refuses to forgive a wrong done when God has forgiven us so much. Please do not allow unforgiveness to exist in your life. Forgiveness is not an emotion, it's a choice! Forgiveness does not require trust or reconciliation; some people will never earn that right again. That does not justify our withholding forgiveness from them. Release them, and yourself, from the debt they owe. Entrust them to God, and ask God to bless their life, and you will find your heart flooded with God's mercy once again.

PRAYER:

Father, I forgive! I release my debtors from the pain, the hurt, and the wrongs they have done to me. I will not hold their sins against them, in the same way You did not hold my sins against me. Thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Please give me a greater love for my offenders and help me to pray for their good regularly. In doing so I remind myself of Your mercy towards me, and I express Your mercy to them. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

DAY 21: PERSEVERING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

"1. And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4. For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5. Yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming." 6. And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8. I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Luke 18:1-8

DEVOTION:

Covenant Life Cathedral Church Family & Friends, it has been a joy to fast and pray together with each of you for these 21 days of Corporate Prayer & Fasting. My prayer is that our knocking on Heaven's door would not cease as these 21 days come to an end, but that these 21 days would have set a pace for us to continue knocking as the weeks and months in 2025 continue. As we see in the text above, God loves and is compelled by a persistent person who will continue to come to the door of Heaven and knock until they receive their answer. God is not put off by it but compelled by it. Whatever you have been praying for these 21 days: whether for children or grandchildren to know God, for physical healing for yourself or others, for the salvation of a friend or family member, job or financial situation, etc., don't lose heart if those prayers don't seem to have made any progress. Keep coming, keep knocking, and keep believing that the God who called you is hearing you and is answering you. Will the Son of Man find faith on the earth when He returns? I pray He does in us!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank you for the gift of these 21 days. Thank You for the times in Your presence, and for the gift of seeking You in prayer. Help me to persist and persevere like the widow in Luke 18. Help me to keep knocking on Heaven's door, and to battle in prayer for the salvation of my lost friends and loved ones. Help me to keep contending for physical healing for myself and others. Make me one who stands at the gates of prayer to ask, seek and knock until You return. May You find faith in my heart when You come. Amen.

At midnight on Sunday, January 26, 2025, we will be concluding Covenant Life Cathedral's Corporate 2025 - 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. Whether or not you are a member of the CLC Church Fellowship, thank you so very much for sharing in this year's Prayer & Fasting journey with us! I pray that it has been a rich and rewarding experience for you. If you are not a member of the CLC Church Fellowship and currently do not have a Church Home, please prayerfully consider connecting here with us.

Feel free to share any Praise Reports that you feel occurred as a direct result of your obedience to God during this time of Prayer & Fasting as well as any Comments that this time of Prayer and Fasting have meant to you. You may send your Praise Reports or Comments to the Attention of Pastor Bob Hunnicutt via the Church's main Email Address: covenantlife4543@aol.com.

When submitting this information, please include your name and contact telephone number.



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