

Fasting is the voluntary abstaining from food for a certain period of time... hours, days or weeks for the purpose of focused prayer. A fast can be partial or complete, with liquids or without. Daniel fasted from "pleasant things" for 21 days. Jesus (and others throughout history) embraced a complete fast for 40 days. Fasting is to be done in secret as an act of worship unto the Almighty. It is not to be demonstrated before men to reveal your piety.

So why fast? First of all, fasting subdues the flesh. You are actually humbling yourself in a very practical way. From this place of weakness, your prayers are empowered...you gain faith and spiritual confidence. In the very depths of your being you realize that you are laying it all down for the fulfillment of God's purposes. Let's point out you're not trying to earn something from God. You are simply cooperating with Him as He leads you beyond your flesh into the realm of the Spirit. Nonetheless, self-denial is a normal part of Christianity. *"If anyone come after Me, let him deny himself..."*

All through the scriptures you will see God's people fasting for very specific reasons. *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."* Acts 13:2,3

Don't forget to pray and worship... ministering unto the Lord. During your time of fasting, approach the throne of grace with all boldness and confidence. Press in! God is listening. Just prior to the Revivals of the past, faithful intercessors were called to seasons of fasting.

## Pray with Authority

We have been given the keys to the Kingdom and we have the power to bind and loose in the heavenlies, authority to legislate in the spirit realm. We must change things in the heavenlies before they can be changed on earth. Do you understand? There is a battle raging in the spirit realm. There are demonic forces that hinder the establishment of righteous government, godly education, just courts, honest business, etc. The enemy works diligently to disrupt, destroy and kill. We must rise up in our God-given authority to demolish these strongholds. *"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."* Romans 16:20

There is tremendous power in Spirit-breathed declarations and decrees. By the leading of God, boldly speak forth those things that are not... as though they were. Pray; live a holy life; walk humbly; honor God and obey His commands. Worship Him! As we do these things, we gain authority in the Spirit! The enemy will be dislodged and righteousness will spring forth in the earth. Also remember... when you enter this realm of authority there will be greater responsibility / accountability. You are a son of God, a mighty warrior. Step forward into your destiny.

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# How to Pray for Revival

Let's make it clear right from the start: Any prayer prayed for Revival is heard and answered. Revival is on God's heart and He is quickening us to pray. He is hearing and collecting all believing prayer... and He will soon answer with a glorious outpouring of His Spirit. How the Lord desires to see a red-hot, on-fire Church!

In other words, God is receiving the brief prayers said in the car as well as those prayed in the closet... fortified with fasting and fervency.

Having said that, let's discuss how we can be more effective in our prayers: our heart attitude and how we should pray.

## Attitude of Heart

*"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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* 2Chr 7:14

The Church has fallen asleep; we are complacent and sinful. We have become like the world rather than being a changing force. Fervent prayer for Revival will be made manifest when we can finally admit that the plans and programs of men have failed... and we come to the realization that we are not capable of rousing ourselves. Only then will we call out with humble desperation. Israel was in bondage for 400 years; did Yahweh deliver them because they got it all right? No... but because they cried out in utter helplessness. How we need Him now!

Our Lord is at work among us. He is bringing us to the place of humility and desperation. Do not despise this work in you, dear one; embrace it! From this place of humility and spiritual poverty you can truly cry: *"Revive me Jesus, I need You; forgive me for my sins. I can do nothing without You. Revive Your Church, Lord; have mercy on us. Transform our city by the power of Your Spirit. Amen."*

## Prevailing Prayer

Blind Bartimeaus (Mark 10:46) simply refused to quit in his appeal for the Lord's mercy. Likewise, the woman with the issue of blood would not be denied (Matt. 9:20). Time and again throughout the New Testament Jesus rewards believers who refuse to go away without an answer.

*"Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."* Matt. 7:7 *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication."* Eph. 6:18

The Bible remains clear: God has been, is and will continue to be looking for believers who will not give up, no matter how long it takes or what it requires to receive an answer. *"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know."* Jer. 33:3

God stands ready to honor your prevailing prayers for Revival with His manifest presence and power. Like Bartimaeus, we cannot give up if we desire to see... to see a glorious outpouring of His Spirit! (Excerpts: *The Power of Prevailing Prayer* by Robert)

How should we pray for Revival? With importunity, persistence, perseverance, and tenacity... pressing in. Continually, for extended periods or segmented. Alone or with others. In the Spirit and with our understanding. In faith, with all authority, fasting sometimes included. Prevailing prayer is praying until you get an answer!

## Adding Weight

*"So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."* Mark 9:29

While praying, I saw a clear image of an apothecary scale. You know, the one that hangs in the balance. You put the item to be weighed on one side and a measured weight is placed on the other. On one side

I saw various problems: sickness, the need for salvation, etc. On the other, prayers were added until the scales were tipped. Do you see it?

And then the Lord impressed on my spirit: "Although God receives every prayer prayed according to His will, certain things add weight to prayer: 1) Faith 2) Fervency and 3) Fasting. It may be worth briefly reflecting on this. It appeared that He was collecting the prayers in a bowl and when there was a sufficient amount, the scales would tip. I assumed this meant the problem was solved, the prayer answered. Obviously some problems required only minimal prayer while others needed more.

When faced with the need for a general revival, one would assume that much prayer is needed. I mean we are not talking about an individual's need, but the needs of tens of thousands, or millions. This will require much prayer, beloved. Some have already been praying for two or three decades or longer. These prayers have not been wasted; God has been collecting them. Will you add some weighted prayers soon?

## With Fasting

*"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."* Matthew 6:17-18

Have you ever considered fasting? Many Christians are beginning to understand the need to pray, but few have explored the "secret place" of fasting. What is fasting?