

TWENTY

DAYS OF

PRAYER +
FASTING



WELCOME TO OUR 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING HERE AT CROSS CHURCH!

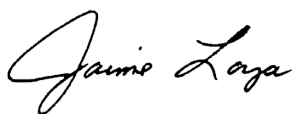
We are about to embark on a spiritual journey that is going to lead us all closer to Jesus. This guide is to simply point you in the right direction and to help you along the way. Our desire is to give you the encouragement and direction you need over the course of these next several weeks.

Our nation is in crisis. Our entire world is in desperate need of God. This is a time that we are setting aside to seek the Lord together as a church family. We believe that over the next 21 days, the Lord is going to speak clearly to you and become more real than ever before. As a result of this time of prayer and fasting, you will experience supernatural peace, powerful breakthroughs and so much more. Our prayer is that you would answer the call and make a commitment to participate for the entire 21 days.

If you have any prayer requests during our journey or praise reports that you would like to share, message us at info@crosschurchonline.com. We would love to know your story!

Please know that I am joining with you, praying for you and remember, the Holy Spirit will be with you the entire time.

Senior Pastor and Cross Church Founder,



TYPES OF FASTS

FULL FAST. Drink liquids only – especially water. On this type of fast, you may also take in clear broth and 100 percent fruit or vegetable juices in order to maintain your strength. You establish the number of days for your fast in your prayer time. Be sure to consult your doctor.

PARTIAL FAST. There are many options for partial fasts. Below are just a few for you to select from.

DANIEL FAST: The most frequently used example of a partial fast, found in Daniel, chapter 10. The Daniel Fast is a fast from meats, sweets, breads and any drink, except water, for a specific time period (Daniel 10:2-3).

The easiest way to think of this fast is you should eat vegetables, fruits and drink water only. Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition.

The following are examples of other types of partial fasts. But remember, the type of fast you select is what you and the Lord agree upon.

- give up one item of food or drink such as caffeine, coffee, soft drinks or sweets or give up one meal. Fast for a specific number of days . . . one day, three days, and so on.
- choose to fast from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. or from sun-up to sundown. When doing this type of fast, consider your work and sleep schedule. The hours that you sleep should not be considered part of your fasting period. So, the timeframe for this type of fast may vary.


When should you fast?

If you want to make fasting a way of life, work out a plan for the entire year to include days or meals to fast that works into your lifestyle. You may decide to fast one day a month or one meal a week. You may even decide to do a partial fast for one week every other month. Options are endless.

There are also other unexpected times that you may feel a need to fast—during family struggles, financial problems, etc. Specific times when you need to capture the attention and mercy of God in your life.

FASTING

Fasting for your specific needs releases the incredible power of fasting into your life.



Wherever you are in life or whatever your needs are today, fasting can benefit you. If you are struggling with your health or finances, fasting is a powerful spiritual tool. Maybe you need guidance from God or protection for your family. Fasting is a private discipline with public rewards. It is the spiritual key in certain seasons and situations of your life. Whatever your season in life, release the power of fasting into your needs.

FASTING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Fasting gives you the opportunity to pray and intercede specifically for your family. It's important to fast and pray for your children's and grandchildren's future. God is looking for men and women with fervent prayer lives who will do spiritual battle on behalf of their families! Fasting will open your eyes to the needs of your family. The Lord will point out the needs of your family members from deep within your heart and soul, such as encouragement for your spouse or special prayer and attention for a child. You can fast and pray specifically for a protective covering of safety around your family. Scripture tells how Esther's people were in danger. Her uncle Mordecai discovered a plot by Haman, one of the King's advisors, to destroy her family. Before she approached the king, Esther declared a three-day fast for God's protection (Esther 4:16). Haman wanted to hang Mordecai on the gallows he was building in his courtyard, but God turned it around and the evil conspirator was hanged instead on his own gallows!

FASTING FOR HEALTH & HEALING

The Bible gives us a perfect example of how denying ourselves physically can bring good health. It is the story of Daniel and his peers in Daniel 1. The "Daniel Fast" is a fast from meats, sweets, breads and any drink but water for 21 days (Daniel 1: 12; 10:2-3). This fast is a partial and a prolonged fast that yields health and healing. Daniel and three others refused to eat the king's meat and they "appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies" (Daniel 1: 15). Daniel and his men were healthier! If you have a physical problem, fast for healing. According to Isaiah 58 when you fast, "... your health will spring forth speedily."

FASTING FOR OUR NATION

When Samuel took over as priest and judge over the nation, he declared a fast for national revival. Samuel told the people to fast and seek God to return His presence to the nation (1 Samuel 7:3). Our society today critically needs believers who will fast and pray for revival. "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" (2 Chronicles 7:14)

FASTING FOR FINANCIAL NEEDS

If you face a financial struggle that seems like one that you can't overcome, you are not alone. Ezra faced a big problem with the silver and gold he was responsible for in Ezra 7 and 8. He had been given silver and gold from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:14-17), but thieves threatened his financial security. Maybe you feel like thieves have stolen what belongs to you financially. When Ezra faced an uncertain financial journey, he declared a fast (Ezra 8:21) and God answered his prayer! If you will fast, pray and obey God's commandments, He said you will be blessed (Deut. 28:2). The widow in 1 Kings 17:10-16 also faced an uncertain future. Although the woman had very little, she gave up her own food to help Elijah, the man of God. The book of Isaiah says we are called, "... to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out . . ." (Isaiah 58:6-7). You can add a new dimension to your fasting if you set aside the money you would normally use for food to help a food bank, support world missions

or give to some other ministry that is helping the needy. In the story of the widow, God multiplied the meal in her barrel to last for three and a half years!

FASTING FOR DELIVERANCE

In Mark, chapter 9, Christ's disciples were frustrated because they could not cast out an evil spirit. Jesus said, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29). If you are afflicted with addictions or sin, you can go on a fast that frees you from besetting sins as referred to in Hebrews 12:1. Besetting sins are those that ensnare us and hinder us from achieving God's purpose for our lives. Through fasting we can break free from the addictions and habits that are not pleasing to God. "Is this not the fast that I have chosen; "To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6). Christ said the key to deliverance from sin is fasting and prayer. Maybe you struggle with the emotional bondage of depression or anxiety. Elijah also battled negative emotional feelings. When Jezebel sent word that she wanted to kill Elijah, he became distraught (1 Kings 19:4). He was depressed and even suicidal. That's when an angel came to Elijah and instructed him to journey back into the presence of God. The Bible says that Elijah fasted for 40 days and 40 nights as he returned to Horeb, the mountain of God. God delivered Elijah from feelings of suicide and fear. He gave Him hope, courage and direction.

FASTING FOR GUIDANCE

Are you faced with a major life decision and don't know what to do? Maybe you have a job opportunity . . . a broken relationship . . . or an unfulfilled dream. Fasting can help you clear away the clutter of life and discern God's voice. Saul was going the wrong direction in life. He was hunting down followers of Christ and persecuting them when the light of God's truth knocked him off his path (Acts 9:3-6). Saul headed to Damascus and "was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank" (Acts 9:9). He didn't know what to do, but he fasted for God's divine direction. Then God sent the disciple Ananias to him with guidance (Acts 9:17). Through this process, Saul became Paul, one of God's chosen apostles. Through his fast, Paul received the direction he needed and so can you. When you don't know what to do or when you face a daunting decision,

that's when you need to fast and pray
fervently for God's direction.

FASTING FOR THE LOST

John the Baptist and his disciples fasted often, according to Matthew 9. He was on the Nazarite diet, which fasted alcohol all the time. He ate little more than locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:1-4). Because of John the Baptist's constant fasting, I believe he had a greater testimony and influence on the lives of people in his generation than any other man (Matthew 11:1, John 1:6-7). If you and I want to win the lost in our communities, in our nation and around the world, we must do spiritual warfare through fasting and prayer. When you deny yourself and focus on God's will through prayer, He will begin to open doors of evangelism in your life.

NOTES:

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Devotional: WEEK 1 THE POWER OF SECRET PRAYER

Pastor J Alan Mendoza

“There are certain things that we can only receive from God through secret prayer.”

Jesus taught that spiritual acts, such as giving, fasting, and prayer, should be done in secret. In other words, such things done in private are to assure that only God knows about them... so that our motives can remain pure, desiring only to please and honor God, rather than seeking recognition from people.

When it comes to this idea of secret prayer, I can't help but to think of the example that Jesus gives us through His own life. Not in the sense that He was some kind of “secret prayer agent” hiding his prayer life from His disciples because he was ashamed to be seen praying, or because He didn't want to be found out about or something. Rather, Jesus shows us that there is power in getting alone with God through secret prayer. As a matter of fact, Jesus was constantly getting away from the crowds, His disciples, and the busyness of life to spend alone time with His heavenly Father.

- **Luke 5:16** says, *“But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer”.*
- **Matthew 14:22-23** *“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray....”*

If there's anyone who modeled the practice and discipline of secret prayer, it was Jesus. I believe one of the many reasons Jesus stressed the importance of Secret Prayer was because He understood that there are certain things that we can only receive from God through secret prayer.

“There are certain things that we can only receive from God through secret prayer.”

Read that again and let it sink in.... I wonder, what are you not receiving from God because you haven't made it a discipline to get alone with God in the secret place? It's in the secret place where God makes Himself known to us like never before. It's in the secret place where God often speaks to us the loudest and the clearest — where He does His best work in our lives. But let's face it, life can get really crazy and loud sometimes. There are so many things competing for our attention and our affection. Things like work, our kids, our spouse, our friends, and even church. Although all those things are good, If we are not careful, we will get pulled into the whirlwind of a busy life and neglect the most important thing; intimacy with God. This is why Jesus was such an advocate for secret prayer.

Read: Matthew 6:5-8

“But when you pray... Not, “if you pray” but “when you pray”.

Jesus assumed that if we call ourselves Christians we should already be in constant communication with God. Jesus warns us as his disciples, that there's a lot of people who pray not do be intimate with the Father, but to be recognized by people! Jesus had a pet peeve; he had a problem with the Pharisees because they were all about getting the attention and being recognized by the people. They thought they were better than everyone. When in reality, Jesus identified them as white washed tombs. **(Matthew 23:27-28)**

As believers, we need to be careful that we don't become like the Pharisees who were really good about looking spiritual and praying in public, but yet didn't know God in private. If we want to be effective tools in the hands of God, we need to devote ourselves to private prayer.

“Private prayer produces public power.”

Secret Prayer is an invitation from God to be refreshed, renewed, and refocused. As we begin the new year, I believe God is inviting us back into the place of secret prayer. The Holy Spirit wants to give you what your soul is searching for. He wants to download His heart into you, and show you great and mighty things.

Secret Prayer Changes Everything!

21 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Day 1: Consecration *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. . . . Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:8,10).*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, sanctify me. I need You. Nothing else will satisfy me. Fill me with the Holy Spirit today. I want to be baptized in the Spirit. I want to walk in the Spirit. I want to talk in the Spirit. I want to live in the Spirit. I'm tired of living where everybody else is. I don't want to be like everybody else. I'm coming up higher after You. I'm going to seek You with all of my heart.

Day 2: Guidance *“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21). “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and he delights in his way” (Psalm 37:23)*

Prayer for the Day: Father, You have a perfect plan for my life. I ask You to give me knowledge of the path that You want me to walk that I will not miss Your will. God, you know where I am. You planned my life before I ever showed up; I ask for Your perfect will now. Show me your way and direct my life, giving me guidance beyond my mind into your perfect will. I ask you for it, I receive it and I believe it. I worship You, Father. I thank You that You are going to guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I will be led by Your peace. I will delight in Your way, oh God.

Day 3: Strength *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, I'm Yours. Oh, I need thee every hour. I really need thee. I offer you my weakness “for your strength is made perfect in my weakness...” (II Corinthians 12:9). Empower me to stay strong through the physical challenge of the fast and to grow stronger in my faith. All I need is You. You alone are my strength, oh God. Thank You, Lord Jesus that You are touched with the feeling of my infirmities. You see the struggles in my life, and You know how they have shaken me. They've not shaken You, Lord. Free me from every fear, every limitation, from drawing back, from intimidation. You are my peace, my strength.

Day 4: Sanctify Yourself

“So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp, and they commanded the people,

saying, ‘When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.’ And Joshua said to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you’” (Joshua 3:2-5).

Prayer for the Day: Thank You, Lord. God, I ask You to sanctify me as I push back my plate and as I pull away from the TV and read Your Word during this period of fasting. Cut off the works of the flesh. Cut them off so I can be used for your glory. I seek Your face. I'm hungry for You. Lord, I want to feel conviction again. I need to raise my standard. Convict me of it. I lay down, “Every weight that does so easily beset me” (Hebrews 12:1). I need your touch. I'm coming after You. There's a dream in me. There's a call for my life. I'm going for it.

Day 5: Freedom from Condemnation *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17-18).*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, I want to go beyond courtyard kingdom living, and move into that “intimate” place with You. I have carried tremendous guilt and condemnation, but your promise is, “Therefore now, there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1). I worship You, God. I'm entering into Your rest this day. I receive supernatural peace. I thank You, my Father. No condemnation, no guilt, no shame, Jesus, You are my righteousness. Thank You for dying for me. Thank You for the cleansing power of Your blood that gives me confidence toward God. Thank You for loving me while I was yet a sinner. Oh, I bless You, Lord. I bless You, Lord.

Day 6: Wisdom in Parenting *"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children" (Isaiah 54:13).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, I know that only homes with Christ positioned in the middle of everyday living will succeed in this wicked time. I need You, Lord, in order for me to be the man/the woman that You call me to be in my home. Give me wisdom to create a place of physical rest and of spiritual rest where my family can bring a crisis and lay it on a "bed" of faith. Help me to communicate with my spouse and my children. Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway. God, we really need You in our home. We need a little church in our home. God, I give you

everything; take my home; take my family; take my future; in Jesus' mighty name.

Day 7: Household Salvation *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31)*

Prayer for the Day: Oh God, save my children. My cry, Father, is save my children. Touch my children. Straighten their paths. I paint them as a target for Your Spirit to touch them and mark them. Anoint them this day. I thank You and praise You that salvation will come to this house because of the blood of Jesus. Even when it looks like it is not working, I thank You that the blood of Jesus covers my family. "No weapon formed against us shall prosper." Your promise is that if the enemy comes one way, he flees seven.

Devotional: WEEK 2

A TIME FOR BOLD PRAYER

Pastor Eric Garza

"Pray a bold prayer that will take your faith to new levels."

Joshua 10:12-14

12 On the day the Lord gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the Lord in front of all the people of Israel. He said, "Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies. Is this event not recorded in The Book of Jashar? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and it did not set as on a normal day. 14 There has never been a day like this one before or since, when the Lord answered such a prayer. Surely the Lord fought for Israel that day!

Joshua finds himself leading Israel in battle once again, and he prays a bold prayer that causes God to supernaturally act on his and the nation of Israel's behalf. Joshua needed the sun to stay in its place in order to have enough daylight and time to defeat the enemy. His prayer was daring, unorthodox and audacious. With his uncommon and courageous prayer, he ventured to believe God for the impossible, that the sun in the sky would stand still. Wow! It was a supernatural, miraculous event. Joshua already had experience with God helping defeat Israel's enemies in prior battles, so his tested faith enabled him to ask God for something absolutely amazing.

What a faith! God answered Joshua and caused the sun to stand still with sufficient time for Israel to win the battle. God came through for Joshua then and He will come through for you now! God desires that you have victory over every enemy that ever comes against you, your family, your marriage, your children, your finances and your purpose. Prayer is a weapon for victory. Joshua used it as his greatest weapon and so should we. His bold prayer was enabled because of his deep abiding faith and intimate relationship with his God.

What bold prayer have you prayed lately? What are you believing God to do in your life? Prayer takes you to the source of all that you need, Almighty God. You are invited, during this fast, to take Joshua's example and pray a bold prayer that will take your faith to new levels and believe God for the improbable, the impossible and the extraordinary. God is perfectly able and willing to use His divine nature to act on our behalf in our everyday lives if we have the audacity to ask.

Keep believing, keep pursuing God and keep praying.

Day 8: Marriage *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and Mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, we need You in our home. We need You in our marriage. We need You in our family. We need You, Father, to be the Lord of our marriage. Forgive us, Lord, for angry words spoken. Forgive us, Lord, for the wrong actions taken. Forgive us if we have broken the covenant. Help us today Lord, to love You by loving our mate. Allow our children to see parents who care, who love, who touch, who talk and who communicate, because the marriage they will duplicate will be the one they see between us. So help us, Lord. We need Your supernatural power in our marriage. Help us and strengthen us to keep You as the focus of our marriage.

Day 9: Finances & Provision *“The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow” (Deuteronomy 28:12). “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:18).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, I thank You that You are my source of supply. I thank You that You know how to break bondages off your people. Help me to attack my lack by applying the wisdom of Your Word. Oh God, You said, “I’ll bless the work of your hands.” I’m going to pay my debts and live on the rest. I ask You that the anointing of the Holy Spirit break every yoke of bondage, break the yoke of borrowing, break the yoke of overspending from my life. I decree that this is the year of the Lord’s release. I receive it and thank you, Lord. Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You that You will bring increase and cause me to profit even right in the middle of a famine.

Day 10: Career *“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You today, and I want to be a cross bearer in the marketplace. I want people to see You through me. I want You to anoint me with a kingly anointing. I receive this high call that is just as sacred as the call to preach. I understand my purpose and I WILL go into the marketplace with a fresh anointing. In my job, I will carry Your cross. In unseen and unspoken ways, people will know there’s a difference on my life. I receive that anointing right now as I dedicate myself to You. Use my life for Kingdom authority. Help me to be a culture changer where I work. Help me to change the culture in my workplace until it’s actually abnormal for

somebody to take Your Holy Name in vain, not because I preached a sermon to them, but because Jesus has shined through me into that darkness. I give You the praise for that, Lord. In Jesus’ name I will not fail You in my calling.

Day 11: Pastors *“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine” (1 Timothy 5:17).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, I pray for our pastors, for their wives and for their precious children. In Jesus’ name, Lord, let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done in their lives and in their children as it is in Heaven. I pray for my church. I pray for every ministry and for every pastor to be led by Your Spirit and to walk in peace. Lead them not into temptation, but deliver them from evil. Anoint them with fresh oil. Your anointing makes the difference. Your anointing breaks yokes. Thank You for Your precious anointing, Holy Spirit. I stand against every spirit of division, in Jesus’ name. Touch our pastors, Lord. I pray that You bring a spirit of unity to our church. Father, I ask You to release Your glory in our church, in Jesus’ name.

Day 12: Protection *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust” (Psalm 91:1-2)*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, I want You close in my life; I want to be under the shadow of the Almighty. You are my refuge. You are my fortress. You are my God. I will not be afraid. I will not fear because I will call on that Name that is above every Name, JESUS. Lord, teach me to appreciate my life in this season. Help me to quit looking into the future, never living in the now. You will be with me in the day of trouble. I worship You, Jesus. Thank You for the covenant right into the secret place of the Almighty. You lift me out of fears, out of the strike of the adder and the attack of the lion. I praise You, Lord. I praise You. I worship You, oh God. Lord, I enter into that tent where every provision is made... even for protection from fears and protection for my family. You are worthy, Lord. I worship You, Jesus. You are my refuge, You are my fortress, You are my strong tower, Jesus. Whom shall I fear?

Day 13: Health *"For I will restore health to you, And heal you of your wounds," says the LORD" (Jeremiah 30:17).*

Prayer for the Day: Lord, thank You that You are our Healer. You were wounded for our transgressions and You were bruised for our iniquities. By Your stripes we are healed! And Lord, I just claim miracle healing in my life and the lives of my loved ones. I worship You, Jehovah-Rophe, the God that healeth. Your Words "are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:22). Thank you for sending your Word to heal me. "...my Hope is in you God: for I shall yet praise You, You are the HEALTH of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 43:5). I give you praise and thank You today that my body is being healed by the life-giving power of Your Word, in Jesus' name! Thank You, Lord.

Day 14: Worship

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23)

Prayer for the Day: Father, I humble myself before You today to seek Your face. I repent for complacency in my worship. I repent for being content in my worship. I'm not "face to face" with You like Moses was, but I do want to know You more intimately. Like Paul said, "I have not apprehended." I'm not satisfied. I'm hungry for You, oh God. I love you and I praise You, Lord. Worthy! Worthy! Worthy are You, Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord! Oh, God it all flows out of You; I'm coming after You. You are my reward, not success, not material things. You exceed all of those things! In Your presence is fullness of joy. If I am in Your presence, then I get joy. Out of that joy comes strength. Out of that strength comes spiritual warfare to resist the devil, and he flees from me. I want to be close to You more than anything. Here I am. I give You my all. I give everything to You. Thank You that in Jesus' name, I enter into Your rest, enter into Your peace, and enter into Your grace. I worship You Lord. I worship you, Hallelujah!

Devotional: WEEK 3 NOW'S MY CHANCE

Pastor Chris Martinez

Acts 8:1-4

During seasons like the ones we have all recently been in, it may feel like we are all going backward or regressing from what we were set out to accomplish. The reality is that during moments like this, we all have an opportunity to get further along than we would have in the first place!

The Bible says that a man may make plans in his heart, but God will direct his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

What may seem like going back to us, could be all part of God's plan to get us further along, to grow us, to prepare us for the bigger thing that is waiting for us in our future! This is not the time to let, as some would call our "stinking thinking" get in the way of what God wants to do in our world through us. Every single word we say has power! This is our opportunity to speak life over our situation and over the world we live in. (Proverbs 18:21)

The devil will try and attack us with negative thoughts, but we can fight against those thoughts with the truth of God.

Acts 8:1-4 says, "A great wave of persecution (or we can say pandemic) began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria." But Saul (or we can say a virus or the situations we have faced) was going everywhere to destroy the church. He (or it) went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison (or quarantine).

BUT the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. This is certainly not the first time the church has been scattered due to something out of our control. But the power of the church does not lie in a building, it lies in the body of Christ rallying together and walking in the power of God. During these 21 days of prayer and fasting, we have a chance to draw near to God through His Word. We have often heard that our prayer is how we connect with God, but sometimes there is still a lot going on in our background. When you fast you have an opportunity to disconnect from the world. This is where you become more sensitive to what God wants to say and do through you!

Will you choose to continue to listen to God's promises and speak of His Truth?

Day 15: Release, Restoration

"Turn ye even to me with all your heart . . . with fasting and with weeping, . . . I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the canker- worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm. . . ye shall praise the name of the LORD your God . . . and my people shall never be ashamed"(Joel 2:12, 25-26).

Prayer for the Day: Father, in Jesus' name I humble myself before You in fasting. Thank You for releasing me from my past & forgiving all my sins. Thank You for restoring my life and giving me the reward of eternal life. I give You praise and glory and honor. Bless Your people as we continue to fast and pray. Bring the "spirit of release" causing Your people to walk in financial freedom. "Release" our loved ones. "Release" those that are bound by fear, depression and abuse. Release those bound by nicotine, gluttony and other addictions. Release them from all bondage. Loose the bands of wickedness. Undo the heavy burdens. Let the oppressed go free. Release our families from every shame and guilt. Thank You that the wicked bands will be broken! Hallelujah! Lord, the palmerworm has attacked the roots of Christian heritage in our families. But You said, "I will restore the family tree of faith!" I give you praise. My family is going to walk in the Spirit! Oh Hallelujah! Father the greatest "reward" is You. Thanks for the stuff, but we're fasting for more of You. You are our reward and our exceeding greatness. We praise You, Jesus. Glory to God!

Day 16: Revival *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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" (II Chronicles 7:14).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, I come to You once again to lift up this nation, offering prayer and supplication. Once again, I ask You, Lord, for Your will to be done in this nation and around the world. I plead the Blood of Jesus over all nations! In Jesus' Mighty Name, I stand against all the weapons of the enemy, the plans and strategies of terrorism against our nation. I ask for a covering over our military and our representatives. I plead the Blood of Jesus and release the angels of the Lord around their paths. Guard our borders, Lord. Touch our leaders. I ask you, oh God, to visit them and give them dreams and visions that stir their hearts toward You as never before. I pray for those in the inner circle of power that You would turn their hearts to walk in Your wisdom. I ask for Your mercy on us! Forgive us for we have sinned against You as a nation. We need a sword! God, let the fire burn in the churches, and in our lives until we get a sword in our hands! Purge us, cleanse us; heal our lands we pray in the mighty Name

of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the strong and mighty One! The One mighty in battle! Jesus, we worship You. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon our nations, in Your mighty name. Amen.

Day 17: Victory *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, I'm making a choice. I'm going to "put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Lord, You said, "Sing, oh barren one." So I will sing to You, God, even when it looks like I don't have anything to sing about. I will give You songs of deliverance and praise, oh God. Glory to Your name, Jesus! I will keep on praying. I will keep on praising. I will keep on living for You, God. My faith is overcoming. I'm never going to get tired of fighting the flesh and the devil until I make it through the pearly gates of Heaven. I am an overcomer. My faith makes me an overcomer, not my feelings. You are with me now as You have been and forever shall be. I praise You for total victory. I'm driving the devil out. Praise God. I'm tired of mixing the Word with everything else and not having the strength in me to overcome anything. I am making a choice to praise You in all things.

Day 18: Prayer *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).*

Prayer for the Day: Father, if Your Word abides in me, I can ask what I will and it shall be done. I don't want anything in my will that You don't have in Your will for my life. Father, in the name of Jesus, I just lay everything on the altar today. Everything I know I just lay it on the altar and say, "If it is Your will, Lord." I say again, "Not my will, but Your will be done in my life." I'm asking You, Father, to put a new mantle on me for prayer. Teach me how to abide in Your presence every day. And Father, in the name of Jesus, I just thank You for authority to decree a thing and it shall come to pass.

Prayer for the Day: Touch my heart, oh God. Touch my heart. Touch me. I don't want to be cold. I don't want to be hard shelled. I want to be tender. I want to be sensitive. I want to show the world your compassion and grace. I want Your anointing on me. Touch my heart. I feel the incrustation of worldliness and materialism and the cares of this life. Melt it! Melt it!

Prayer for the Day: Lord, my flesh is weak, but Your promise is, “They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). I am waiting on You today and asking You to fill me with new strength. Fill me with Your life force. As I seek Your face, I praise You that I will not get weary! I receive Your strength in my body and in spirit, in Jesus’ name. Thank You, Lord. Holy Spirit, Comforter, Counselor, I need you to take control of this situation. Fill me with Your power; I worship you. Hallelujah.

Prayer for the Day: Lord, here I am, send me. Use me. Witness through me. There's a "field" in my home. There's a "field" in my neighborhood. There's a "field" at my job. There's a "field" in this city. There's a "field" in my family. Oh God, forgive me for not praying; forgive me for not witnessing. Forgive me for not really believing that I can "reap a harvest" for You. Forgive me for not believing that You can use my influence, my affluence, everything that I have to reach the lost for Your glory right where I am! Father, I ask You to use me as a light to a dark, dying world. I give You glory and I give You praise for all that You will do through me!

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YOU DID IT! CONGRATULATIONS!

Over the past 3 weeks, you have set time aside to seek the Lord. We believe that over the next few months and for the duration of this year, you will see the Hand of God move in your life like never before. Expect His presence to go before you and work things out in your favor and according to His will for your life. So, what's next?

Here are some practical ways you can continue on your journey and draw even closer to the Lord:

- 1. Stay connected to your local church. If Cross Church is your home, then we believe that the Lord has placed you among this group of believers to both receive and make a difference. Be faithful with your church attendance and help support the vision of Cross Church financially.*
- 2. Serve at your church or campus. Make a difference by serving others. There are various ministries you can get involved in to use your gifts and talents to serve families that attend Cross Church as well as the community around us.*
- 3. Stay strong spiritually. You can do this by reading and applying God's Word, developing a consistent prayer life as well as fasting regularly throughout the year.*

The year 2021 will be a "Year of RECOMPENSE" for the people of God! The Lord is moving and we declare that REVIVAL is NOT Coming, it is ALREADY HERE!

Let's move FORWARD in the path and purpose that God has for us and believe that our greatest days are right in front of us!

Senior Executive Pastor,

Abram Gomez



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