

## SEEK 2017– pt.1 "UNCOMMON CLARITY -->

//--> Renewing our Spiritual VISION "

- Starting **TOMORROW, January 9th**, we will be entering into a **corporate** 21 day period of **fasting** and prayer (**--> Jan. 30th**)
- The month of **January** has become a very popular time for **churches** all over the **nation** and the world to fast together, **corporately**
- **What does Fasting do?** - Fasting and prayer bring us closer to God & it's a short season that releases long-term rewards. (**Multiplication**)
- Pretty much **every** church we are in **relationship** with through **RLCI** (**LINC**) & many of **big** name churches across the **nation** are currently doing a **corporate fast**
- **WHY?** Are they all just **copying** each other?
- **No**, its because we have all **learned** how **POWERFUL** it is to dedicate the **first** of the year to the **Lord**
- **Principle of the First Fruits**
  - **Grain** – before they could harvest
  - **Cattle/Livestock**
  - **First day** of the week, first week, of the first month
  - **First part** of all increase
  - **Principle** that Dedicates the first part to the Lord and in return He increases His Favor on and Blesses the Rest

( *What will that look like for us ?* )

### **Matt 6:33**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

✓ When we give God the **FIRST** He blesses the **REST**

\*\*\* You might say;

“That sounds **great**. I’m **all about** seeking **God** first, but that **fasting** stuff is just for religious **wierdos**”

\*\*\* **Actually**, .....

✓ **Jesus** **EXPECTED** every believer to **PRACTICE** **3** spiritual **HABITS**:

1. **Giving**
2. **Praying**
3. **Fasting**

**Matt. 6:2** – “When you Give” (don’t do like the hippocrits)

**Matt. 6:5** – “When you Pray” “ “

**Matt. 6:16** – “When you Fast” “ “

\*\*\*\* Then, in the **CULMINATION** of chapter 6, Jesus **concludes** by telling them,

..... If you’re **doing** these **3 things** with the right **heart**, as a **regular** part of your **life** .....that’s called **“Seeking FIRST the Kingdom of God”**

\*\*\* **Many** of us have heard that **scripture** quoted...

but don’t **realize** that Jesus **describes** **exactly** how to **accomplish** **“Seeking Him First”** if you read the **rest** of ch. 6

1. Giving
2. Praying
3. Fasting

(\*\*\* **He will reward** **openly**)

\*\*\* **Jesus** made it **clear** that **Fasting**, just like **Giving** and **Praying**, was a **normal** part of a Christian's life.

✓ **FASTING** is a **NORMAL** part of a Christians **LIFE**.

\*\*\* Jesus **also** made it **clear** that **all 3** of these habits have an **equal** level of **importance** in a **believers** life

\*\*\* What does that mean? = **Fasting** should be a **part** of our **lives** as much as **giving** and **prayer** is...

**Ecc. 4:12** - And a threefold cord is not easily broken.

- ✓ When we **INCLUDE** all **3** of these **SPIRITUAL HABITS** in our lives, it produces a **SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH** in our spirit.

\*\*\* There are **many** different ways to **fast** and many different **lengths** of fasts... (**Resource Table/Hand-Outs**)

//--> **BIBLICAL FASTING** in it's most **Basic Definition** is =

**“Refraining from food for a spiritual purpose”**

//→ **FASTING** is **NOT** just going without **food**. That is called **dieting** or just **starving**.

\*\*\* Whenever the Bible talks about **fasting** **prayer** is always **included**.

**\*\* (Tell story about fasting and smoking weed)**

- ✓ Fasting **BY ITSELF** is not a **MAGICAL FORMULA**.

**Acts 13:2**

<sup>2</sup> As **they ministered to the Lord and fasted**, the Holy Spirit said, .....**14:23** (Paul & Barnabas) choose spiritual leaders, and with **prayer and fasting** they entrusted the leaders to the Lord in whom they believed.

- ✓ **Fasting** **MUST** be done **hand in hand** with **PRAYER**.

**Matt. 17:19** - ..the disciples came to Jesus privately & said, “**Why could we not cast it out?**” <sup>20</sup> So Jesus said to them, “**Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith AS a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there & it will move, & nothing will be impossible for you. Yet THIS kind doesnt go out except by prayer & fasting**

//--> Even **JESUS** couldn't cast **this** demon out without **fasting**.

\*\*\* **Fasting** gives us the **power** to do **far more** than we could **possibly** accomplish in our **own** strength

**\*\* Jesus** fasted because He **understood** that there were **some** supernatural **things** that could only be released through **fasting**.

**\*\* SO, How many supernatural things** do you think **God wants** to release into our **lives** that can only be accessed through prayer and **fasting**?

**\*\* How many Supernatural Things** may we have missed because we haven't fasted and **prayed** (disciples/cast out)

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## **GET YOUR EDGE BACK**

✓ FASTING gives us back our spiritual EDGE.

**\*\*\* We live** in a **busy** culture that puts **high demands** on us

**\*\* As the cares & circumstances** of life that we **deal** with every day **pile up**, we get spiritually dull

**\*\* AND when our spiritual edge** gets **dull**, we end up working **10x harder** and we make **10x less progress**

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Story = CHAINSAW / DULL CHAIN / NEIGHBOR DROVE OVER

## **Ecc. 10:10**

If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength;

**\*\*\* Abraham Lincoln** said – “Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I'll spend the first 4 sharpening my ax”

✓ The best way to RE-SHARPEN our spiritual EDGE is through FASTING

**Is 58:6** -“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?

<sup>7</sup> *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?... Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.* <sup>9</sup> *Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’*

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## **UNCOMMON CLARITY**

**Fasting** is like spiritual “**Drano**” that **cleans out** all the junk, *circumstance*, situations, **failures**, and lies of the **enemy** out of our **spiritual pipes**.

✓ **FASTING** and **PRAYER** restore the **FLOW** of Gods **LIVING WATER** in our soul.

✓ Just as **FASTING** restores our **SPIRITUAL** health, it also restores our **PHYSICAL** health.

\*\*\* **Fasting** flushes out and **eliminates** numerous **toxins** form our **bodies**

\*\*\* **Tests** have **proven** that an average American consumes about **5 lbs** of **chemical Preservatives** and **Additives** a year.

\*\*\* **Fasting** is **necessary** to flush out these **toxins**

\*\*\* **That’s** why the first **few days** of fasting you will feel like there is a **film** on your **tongue**, because there is!

\*\*\* It is all the **toxins** leaving your **body** – that’s why its **so important** to drink **lots** of water

\*\* Dr. **Don Colbert** states that **fasting** helps your body **heal itself**. It gives your **digestive** system a **rest**, it will **lower** your **blood pressure** and can lower your **cholesterol**.

\*\* Dr. **Oda Birchinger**, who supervised over **70,000 fasts**, stated:

“ **Fasting** is a royal road to **healing**, for anyone who agrees to **take it**, for **recovery** and **regeneration** of the **mind**, body, and **Spirit**”

– *He continued...* “It can **heal** and help **Rheumatism** in the **joints** and muscles, **disease** of the **heart**, circulation, **blood vessels**, stress related **exhaustion**, skin disease, irregular monthly cycles, **hot flashes**, respiratory **diseases**, allergies and **eye diseases**”

\*\*\* **Another** doctor who studied **fasting**, saw **so many** great **results** he started to fast **himself** to record the **results**

\*\*\* Dr. **Tanner**, at age **60**, fasted **50 days**, and in the **middle** of his fast, he **said** he saw the **unspeakable** glories of **God**

→ **And** at age **77**, he fasted **53 days**, and among **other things** that happened, his once **thin**, grey **hair** was **replaced** by **new black hair!**

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### **Daniel 10:1**

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. <sup>2</sup> In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. <sup>3</sup> I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

\*\*\* **This** is where we get the “**Daniel Fast**”

....."No Meat, no Wheat, no Sweets"

### **Daniel 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. <sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. <sup>14</sup> Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision *refers* to *many* days yet *to come*.”

- ✓ **DANIEL** fasted **21 days** and was given **CLARITY & UNDERSTANDING** to the **VISION** God had given him.
- ✓ Through a **21 DAY FAST**, God will give you **UNCOMMON CLARITY & UNDERSTANDING** to the **VISION** He has given you.

\*\*\* **Fasting** and **prayer** help us **regain** our **sensitivity** to the things of **God**.

.....(My Glasses).....

**\*\* God** has a **vision** for all of us. A **place** He wants us to **get** to, a **direction** He wants us to **go**.

**\*\*\* Fasting** helps us **focus** past the **scratches**,

**\*\*\*\*Fasting** helps us to **FOCUS past the glass, past the SCRATCHES**, and **see** more clearly the Vision that God has for us...

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**John Wesley** –

**\*\* Founder** of the **Methodist Church**,

**\*\*\* His teachings** have **influenced** many of our **modern church movements** & denominations

//-> This is an **exerpt** from his **diary** in the early days of his **preaching** ministry near **London, England**:

**“Sun. Morning, May 5** – Preached at St. Ann’s, asked not to come back anymore

**Sun. Night, May 5** – Preached at St. Johns, deacon said “Get out and stay out!”

**Sun. Morning, May 12** – Preached at St. Judes, can’t go back there either

**Sun. Morning May 19** – Preached at St. Somebody Else’s  
- Deacons and Elders called a special meeting and said I couldn’t return

**Sun. Night, May 19** – Preached on street, kicked off street

**Sun. Morning, May 26** – Preached in meadow, chased out of meadow because a bull was let loose during the service

**Sun. June 2** – Preached at the edge of town, kicked off the Highway

**Sun. Night, June 2** – Preached in a pasture – 10,000 people came & listened to me !

//→ Can you say **“UNCOMMON CLARITY ?!?!?”**



\*\*\* We know that **John Wesley** was a man of **fasting** and **prayer**

\*\*\* He had **Uncommon Clarity**, a **clear view** of what God had **called** him to do

\*\*\* He saw **past** his **failures**, his **mistakes**, **offense**, he saw **past** the **clutter** of the **world**,....he saw **past** the **scratches** on the **lenses** of life....

\*\*\* **God** wants to give you **UNCOMMON CLARITY**

\*\*\* **GOD** wants to give me **UNCOMMON CLARITY**

\*\*\* **GOD** wants to give this **CHURCH** **UNCOMMON CLARITY**

\*\* **THAT'S** what is going to **happen** through this **21 day fast!**

### **Jentezen Franklin** - **"FASTING"**

*"Whenever a believer chooses to begin a spiritual fast for one day or for several days, he or she makes a choice to break out of the routine in order to draw closer to God. I don't know of anything that has been more powerful in my Christian life, as evidenced by a multitude of powerful testimonies that stem from our annual corporate fast at Free Chapel.*

*I am more convinced than ever that fasting is a gateway through which God releases His supernatural power into our lives. The choice is ours: we can either open that gateway or ignore it and keep on going in our routines. Fasting is what prepares us for a new anointing. Fasting makes you more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. I am also convinced that God wants to pour out supernatural blessings in our lives, but many of them will never be realized until we seek him in fasting and prayer. Fasting is the most powerful tool Jesus used when combating satan face to face in the desert. That same weapon is available to us today! "*

\*\*\*\* **WITHOUT FASTING & PRAYER** in our lives, we remain **trapped** under a **ceiling of limited supernatural interference**,

.....yet **WITH** F&P, we **SMASH** through the **Ceiling of LIMITATIONS** into the **REALM** of **OVERCOMING FAITH** that has the **ABILITY** to Conquer **ALL**



//→“ If it doesn't mean anything to you it **wont** mean **anything** to God”  
( ***Fast TV ? ? ?*** )