

# 2020 Week of Prayer and Fasting

## Kingdom & Character

---

It is our character that will inform our willingness to press in.  
“come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

To be a disciple is to be willing to learn.  
The learning doesn't happen through self it happens yoked with Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30).

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The joy is that we have the best teacher we could ever imagine.

God has the best plan for our lives and always wants the best for us. His word protects us and helps us live life to its fullest.

*Character* -> who you are, living according to our beliefs and convictions. Our faith informs and builds our character.

Question: What are your beliefs and convictions?

We demonstrate our character through our

- Devotion
- Imitation
- Obedience
- Friendship

with Jesus.

Hebrews 5:12-14

vs. 12-14, You need milk.

Milk is the beginning component of good, nutrient packed nourishment.  
If we nurse from the word of God it nourishes our ability to live in the new mind of faith that seeks to engage acts of righteousness.

Ephesians 4:22-24 to put off your old self,[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

\*\*The issues that you have with theology, doctrine, or practices of faith may have a lot more to do with your inability to digest solid food and your lack of righteousness than you are willing to admit.\*\*

He is pleading with the readers of his letter to continue in their faith. He is giving them a strong warning.

- Don't be foolish
- It is very dangerous to gamble with your eternity

Continue following the Superior Savior -> He is worth the passionate pursuit.

The key is not intelligence but obedience.

Listen - to good teaching and read the word for yourself

- Second Mile continues to be committed to be a church firmly planted in God's word.

Psalms 119:9-11 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Enjoy the satisfaction - satisfaction leads to transformation

Those who hunger and thirst will be filled / satisfied

Psalms 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!”

Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Discernment - hearing the mind of Christ

The writer calls adults mature people—those who are constantly making decisions concerning ethical conduct.

Their mental and spiritual training is perpetually put to use when they distinguish between good and evil.

These people, from childhood to maturity, have trained and continue to train their new self and character, pruned by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

*Side Note:* Purity, Obedience, common sense Jesus centered living

Matthew 5:3-12

Jesus is explicitly teaching about the character of a disciple.

If you press in God will transform your perspective to his, through these areas of blessing.

Pure in heart kingdom

Mourn comfort

Meek inherit the earth

Hunger and thirst for righteousness filled / satisfied

Mercy mercy

Pure in Heart see God (clarity)

Peacemakers representing God's family

Persecuted kingdom

Breaking the fast is act of worship, not gluttony.

Process what the whole week has been.

Respect the vessel God has gifted you with.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?