

CLOSER

INTO THE BIBLE

“But forget all that - it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:19 NLT

“And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him.”

James 4:8 TLB

“Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to reveal his strength against the accuser by going through the ordeal of testing. And after fasting for forty days, Jesus was extremely weak and famished. Then the tempter came to entice him to provide food by doing a miracle. So he said to Jesus, ‘How can you possibly be the Son of God and go hungry? Just order these stones to be turned into loaves of bread.’ He answered, ‘The Scriptures say: bread alone will not satisfy, but true life is found in every word, which constantly goes forth from God’s mouth.’”

Matthew 4:1-4 TPT

“Sound the trumpet in Zion! Call a fast and gather all the people together for a solemn meeting.”

Joel 2:15 TLB

“And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who give all their passion and strength into seeking him.”

Hebrews 11:6 TPT

“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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

SERMON TAKEAWAYS

5 Major Cleansing Changes That Fasting Will Bring To Your Life

- 1. Spirit Of Release**
- 2. Spirit Of Restoration**
- 3. Spirit Of Renewal**
- 4. Spirit Of Reward**
- 5. Spirit Of Revival**

How To Maximize Your Fast

- 1. Decide why you're fasting**
- 2. Choose and commit to a certain type of fast**
- 3. Fast in community**
- 4. Fast in secret**
- 5. Replace food with the Word of God**
- 6. Document your fast**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Is this your first time fasting? If so, what spiritual benefits are you looking forward to the most? If you have fasted before then share some of your past experiences.*
- 2. Pastor Matt shared that fasting is mentioned over 70 times in the Bible and that no one in the Bible did great things without fasting. With that in mind, why does fasting seem so foreign to us in our day in time?*
- 3. Out of the 5 points which one are you believing God for? (Release, Restoration, Renewal, Reward, Revival)*
- 4. The things that you do now will impact you and your family later. What are you doing now that will draw yourself, and others, closer to God?*
- 5. What will you pray and fast for (If you don't know your why, you will lose your way)? Invite 2-3 on this fasting journey with you and allow them to encourage you as you are fasting.*

PRAYER FOCUS

Draw close to God and He will draw close to you (Jas 4:8). Spend time in prayer this week and allow God to evaluate your life and bring clarity to you. Pray and ask God what you need to pray and fast about.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EQUIP SEMINAR - Spiritual Disciplines - Jan 15th, 22nd & 29th @ 6:30p - Mocksville Campus - 653 Wilkesboro St, Mocksville

Join us for 3-week seminar on spiritual disciplines that will practically help you draw closer to God and develop spiritual muscle. You will gain new insights into fasting, prayer and how to have a meaningful quiet time with the Lord. Space is limited so, SIGN UP & REGISTER ON THE APP TODAY

THRIVE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE - February 21-22, 2020 7PM

God's design for our marriages is not merely survive, He wants our marriages to THRIVE! Join us for a powerful, 2-day conference with Clayton & Shari King (NewSpring Church) as your marriage reaches new heights! Make an investment into your marriage and sign up on the app today!