

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

I. THE CALL TO FASTING AND PRAYER

- A. The Spirit is preparing the Church for the greatest revival and the most intense pressure in human history. As governments, kingdoms, religions and morals continue to collapse, God is using the upheaval as a means to awaken the church.

- B. The intensity of trying times will be manifested in and against the church first before they are witnessed by the earth. A fasting church is one of the issues that He is highlighting to give us strength to endure and stay focused. Revival will not come to the nations until regular times of prayer and fasting come to the church.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one [righteous in their own works] is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good [following God's commands], as to a faithful Creator. (1 Peter 4:16-19)

"Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God...(Joel 2:12-13)

- C. The End Time Church will experience a time of refining from the end time rage of the devil, from the dealings of our own flesh and from the persecution of others. It will be this time of refining that will begin internally but produce an outward declaration. The consecration of the church in returning to the ways of the Lord will bring the church to be a confident voice of the Lord.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you return, [to my ways] I will restore you; you will stand in My presence. And if you speak words that are noble instead of worthless, you will be "as my mouth". It is they who must turn to you, but you must not turn to them. [no compromise] I will make you as a wall of fortified bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to save and deliver you, declares the LORD. I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless." (Jer. 15:19-21)

And he [John the Baptist] will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:17)

- D. The consecration we are to pursue is that which includes fasting, praying and repentance which will be assisted and anointed with the renewal of our hearts through the washing of the Word performed by Jesus himself.

He (Jesus) might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless (Eph. 5:26-27)

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."... (Rev. 19:-9)

- E. Jesus emphasized that the generation that comes after the bridegroom is removed from the earth will be a generation that will practice regular fasting that is responded to by heaven. Fasting is the position of your heart. Our motivations must be clear, and our strategy must be more than skipping meals.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God... Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly... Then the Lord will be zealous for His land and pity His people.¹⁹ The Lord will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. (Joel 2:12-18)

II. A SHIFT IN THE SPIRIT

- A. Usually, there is a significant change or shift after dramatic events have occurred such as world war or natural disasters. However, 2020 was by far the most significant year within the last 100 years specifically when it came to the church. The change in the spiritual practices of the nation has been devastating to church attendance. Barna reports that before the pandemic 1 out of 4 people did not regularly attend church. After the pandemic it increased to 1 out of 3.

According to the study, adults under 50, experienced the largest changes in religious attendance. This group saw the largest percentages of those who attended religious services "less often" or "much less often" -- 30% of adults under 30, 24% of adults age 30-49. Overall, 22% reported attending religious services "less often" or "much less often." "In every case we have identified of significant change, that shift has shown adults moving away from biblical positions to alternative beliefs." George Barna, the director of research at Arizona Christian University's Cultural Research Center

- B. This tells us that the coming revival will begin mostly as a youth revival (18-30) due to the number of those that have walked away from biblical truths that will have great need to be revived but will only do so in the light of His soon return.
- C. When the renewed emphasis on His coming is combined with fasting and prayer it signifies a shift in the spirit realm. When there is a move upon the people of God to fast from the place of the longing of the heart it is a sign that something is coming. That is not to say people will do it but there will be a new acknowledgement that it should be done.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout [carefully observing the requirements of the Law] waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. (Luke 2:25-27)

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)

- D. It was the cry of this man and this woman that partnered with God to bring about His ultimate desire upon the earth. The birth of Jesus was a shift in the spirit unrecognized by the majority of Israel but understood through the consistent prayer and fasting. This principle will be repeated in the last days. Men and women of the church will be positioned again to agree with God for the coming of the Son of Man to bring about His kingdom on the earth.

And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:7-8)

- E. The shift in the spirit is the releasing of the young forerunners. The most hunted, tempted, lured, enticed people group on the earth will be the ones that will break out and break through the schemes of the enemy. The last days harvest will be a harvest of the young. The enemy is putting all his effort to get our kids addicted to anything that will distract them from their calling. Satan will overplay his hand again as he did with the young couple in the garden of Eden.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

III. THE BRIDEGROOM FAST: HEART POSITIONING

- A. The “Bridegroom fast” is based on the idea found in Matthew 9 when Jesus created a new wineskin for fasting. He taught fasting will come from an emotional heart of desire for Jesus’ presence rather than by desire for more power in ministry or to be delivered from a personal crisis, etc. This was a new paradigm of fasting.

Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?” 15 And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the Bridegroom mourn as long as the Bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the Bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.” (Mt. 9:14-15)

- B. The disciples of Jesus were not just following a rabbi who simply followed the law, the disciples actually enjoyed Jesus’ presence, feeling loved by Him and rejoicing in their relationship with Him. Jesus told them however that the joy they experienced in His nearness would change to mourning when He was taken from them by His death.
- C. The strength of the end time church will be found in the degree to which we miss Him and want Him to return. The main focus of the Bridegroom Fast is not revival it is Jesus. Fasting will put us in a state of proper emotion designed to create real tension concerning our deficit in this age and the great joy of the age to come.
- D. We do not fast to motivate God to pay attention to us—it is not to move His heart, but to move our heart. Fasting lessens our spiritual dullness by increasing the awareness of our lack and the only place that lack can be fulfilled.
- E. The Bridegroom Fast is primarily centered on desire in both understanding God’s desire for us and awakening our desire for Him. The idea that fasting changes us internally is unfortunately a new idea to most people. The change is most noticed and appreciated during the fast and continues for a short time afterwards but is soon dulled again usually in time for another time of fasting.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

IV. PRACTICAL DETAILS OF THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

- A. **When:** The first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. We will be following the traditional Jewish understanding of “day” meaning nightfall to nightfall. (*So the evening and the morning were the first day Genesis 1:5*) So, Sunday at nightfall will be the start of the fast and will end Wednesday at nightfall.
- B. **Who:** All IHOP EG prayer room staff and the Friday and Sunday communities are invited.
- C. **How:** We will be fasting food. Fasting media, entertainment, indulges are recommended along with the fast as the Lord leads. Anyone with chronic health problems should consult a physician. The necessity of eating something light with medication does **NOT** disqualify you from participating.
1. One week prior to the fast try to lessen or eliminate sugar, caffeine, white flour, dairy, fried foods. Increase your intake of vegetables, fruits, nuts.
 2. Two days prior to the fast completely eliminate sugar and caffeine. Increase your intake of salads with olive oil and smoothies.
 3. During the fast drink lots of water. (rule: at least half your body weight in ounces per day). Water with lemon, vegetable juice or watered-down apple juice, sports drinks but avoid high fructose corn syrup. Avoid highly acidic juices.

END TIME MESSENGERS: THE GLOBAL BRIDEGROOM FAST

ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

4. When breaking the fast do the opposite of when you began. Avoid indulging in solid food immediately after.

D. **Corporate gathering:** In an effort to make our time as impactful as possible, we will have three consecutive meetings:

1. **Sunday 6-7pm: Corporate beginning of the fast**
 2. **Monday 6-7pm: Meditation of a corporate scripture**
 3. **Tuesday 6-8pm: The Book of Revelation Prayer Set**
- *Wednesday sundown will end the fast on your own**