## The Assembly 21 Days Of Prayer And Fasting

## Ready, Set, GROW

Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.

First of all, let me say a big Thank You to everyone who took the time to pray and fast here at The Assembly. What a powerful 21 days this has been and I believe many have been empowered by the Holy Spirit by participating with us.

I truly believe prayer and fasting are the roots from which miracles come from. If you haven't heard there is a tree called the Chinese Bamboo tree. When planted, the care for the tree is imperative - water, fertile soil and sunshine.

In the first year, no growth above ground. The second year, again no growth above ground is seen. Same goes for the third and fourth years as well. Patience is tested and some begin to wonder if their efforts will ever be rewarded.

However, in the fifth year, the tree will grow 80 feet in just 6 weeks. Yes, 80 feet! So the question has to be asked. Did the tree grow 80 feet in 6 weeks or did the tree grow 80 feet in 5 years? I believe the tree grows 80 feet in 5 years.

You see without the watering, fertile soil and the exposure to the sun, then the root system the tree needs for its quick and massive growth would be negated. What we don't see during that long period of no growth on the outside, there is tremendous growth happening inside the soil. Roots are taking hold to make sure the tree can grow to its proper height.

The same is true with our prayer and fasting. Just because you don't see much progress as you seek God and try to build yourself up in the faith doesn't mean you're not growing. God is working on you now. He is helping you defeat the flesh and curb the distractions in your life so that your focus can be on Him and not the struggles we face.

So we too, like the Chinese Bamboo tree, need the empowerment of the water (the Holy Spirit), the fertile soil (God's Word), and exposure to the sun (God's Son, Jesus Christ). And as we continue to stay in these things, then all of the sudden, when difficult times come, tragedy strikes, or the enemy attacks, we will be able to stand "in the power of His Might" Ephesians 6:10!

So get ready and get set for this to be one of our greatest growth years ever.

## **MORE IN '24!**