

# Alarming Prayers

## September 25, 2016

### I. Introduction

- The prayer of God's people influences the destiny of a nation.

**2 Chronicles 20:1-2** After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi).

**2 Chronicles 20:3** Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

**2 Chronicles 20:3 (ESV)** Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

**Numbers 14:9** Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.

**1 Samuel 15:24** Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.”

#### A. *Our response to the times*

1. Despair and disobedience are the wrong response to fear.

**Psalms 56:3-4** When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

2. Trust is the right response to fear.

- We must not give way to fear.
- We must not stop loving people.

3. Hate thrives on assumptions and ignorance.

- We must challenge our assumptions.
- We must honor each other.

**Romans 12:9-10** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Romans 14:13** Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

### *B. Our response to this election*

1. We must do our homework.
2. We must act upon our conscience.
3. We must pray!

## **II. Three Ways To Pray Alarming Prayers**

### *A. Pray With Determination*

1. Set Your Face

**2 Chronicles 20:3 (ESV)** Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

- *Will I pray?*

2. Set A Time

- *When will I pray?*
- You don't have to pray long... you just have to pray!

3. Set A Tone

**2 Chronicles 20:21-22** After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

- *How will my prayer include worship?*
- Prayer and worship are a victorious duo.

4. Set A Plan

- *What scripture will I read?*
- *What am I praying about?*

- Prayer Mate App

**Luke 18:1** Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

## *B. Pray With Fasting*

**2 Chronicles 20:3** Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

### 1. Fasting Is Modeled In Scripture

**Matthew 6:16-18** “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

### 2. Fasting Focuses Us

**Joel 2:12-13** “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, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

### 3. Fasting Prepares The Way For Spiritual Breakthrough

**Acts 13:2-3** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

- *A Call To Fast — October 11-13*

### 4. Fasting Requires Sacrifice

## *C. Pray With Others*

### 1. When We Pray With Others, It Strengthens Our Faith.

**2 Chronicles 20:4** The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

### 2. When We Pray With Others, We Model Spiritual Maturity.

**2 Chronicles 20:5** Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard and said:

**2 Chronicles 14:11** Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, “Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. Lord, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you.”

- The pattern of the parent influences the character of the child.

3. When We Pray With Others, We Build Unity.

**Romans 15:30** I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

4. When We Pray With Others, There Is Power.

**Acts 12:12** When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.