



UNTO THE LORD - 7 DAY FAST DAY 1 July 23rd, 2023

Pastor Brian Gibbs

Good morning, Victory. Together, we are stepping into a brand-new fresh week of Fasting and Consecration unto The Lord. These weeks always provide us the opportunity to go deeper in our devotion and quality time with the Lord—and fasting purposely separates ourselves from the clutter and noise of life. All of our lives are busy and full of responsibility. We recognize that every day we must receive fresh inspiration and direction from The Holy Spirit. We are choosing what is best when we decide to fast and draw nearer to The Lord. This always pleases our Master.

Here at Victory, we are being intentional to help each one of us to cultivate a more meaningful lifestyle of prayer and fasting. This is the secret source of life—communion and fellowship with Him. As we draw in closer to the Lord through the Word, in worship, communion and prayer times, He fortifies our hearts and souls and our identity in Him as sons and daughters. As it says in Isaiah 58, we are to “take delight in approaching God to know His ways.” Those are beautiful words because the Lord is our chief delight. His presence is our very life.

In Luke 5:16, the scripture says, “Jesus often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” The discipline of prayer and fasting is vitally important on so many levels. When we follow the example that Jesus laid out before us, to withdraw to a sacred space, a quiet place, and seek Him, the reward is always experienced in deeper love and the awakening of the heart.

I’ve said it before, and I will say it again—fasting is not a religious duty, but it is our love language of hungering and thirsting for the Lord. Jesus gave us the promise in Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Being “filled” means to be completely satisfied by the Lord Himself.

Throughout this coming week, you and I most certainly hit those hunger thresholds, but take delight in your commitment of fasting to eat the Word, drink in His Presence through worship and rejoicing in His covenant love over you. I believe this week you and I will be wonderfully satisfied in Jesus. He will refresh you and nourish your heart and mind. The Lord will speak to you and focus you. He will direct your steps forward and give you fresh inspiration. He loves His time with His sons and daughters.

“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.” Matthew 6:16-18

God bless each and every one of you today.
Arise and shine.