



## **UNTO THE LORD - 7 DAY FAST DAY 1 April 16th, 2023**

**Brian Gibbs**

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**I want to thank each of you for joining us in our UNTO THE LORD Fast. Today is DAY #1. Together, we begin a very special time of consecration and humility as we open the door to a deeper, more intimate and more powerful relationship with our Heavenly Father.**

### **SACRIFICE**

**There's no way to get around it—Fasting is sacrificial. Fasting is really challenging. Fasting cuts the carnal away and separates us unto the Spirit-filled life. A life of surrendered union with the Holy Spirit. Fasting focuses us on seeking the heart of God and draws the line and raises the standard toward a life of holiness and devotion. Fasting is the big “S” word—Sacrifice. That's not a word most are hearing in the churches of America and what's worse is, many Christians are offended with the idea of having to sacrifice for the Gospel.**

**The American church for the most part is busy about church growth, gimmicks and discovering that next great apparatus they can attach to their church program to appeal to the people. We've just come through the holiest week for Christian's globally, honoring the sacrifice of God's beloved Son upon a torturous cross—and leading up to the Resurrection celebration of Jesus from the dead. Amazingly, churches are still wasting time on the nonsense of having easter egg hunts and dressing people in bunny suits to welcome them into the church sanctuaries. It's embarrassing. I'm not looking for that. Frankly, in my opinion, that's wood hay and stubble that will be revealed by fire. I'm not interested in building a culture of accommodation in our church. I want to see God's glory and fire resting on Victory!**

**I want to see a people who burn for JESUS. I want to see a people who burn for the Spirit of Holiness. I want to see a people burning hot for The Lord, wanting nothing to do with the silly and empty fluff—and coming out from the spirit of this age.**

I want to see a people who know they are set apart unto the Lord and that God has called them to be sacred and holy to Him. This is what God desires for His people—a people of His Presence.

A lifestyle of fasting will keep you burning hot. Fasting will keep you from the dangers of lukewarm living—which Jesus despises. Fasting will keep you well acquainted with the revelation of real sacrifice. Jesus never backed up from sacrifice—He stepped forward and embraced it as a Son. Amazingly, the Apostle Paul wrote this concerning Jesus —“...*though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered*” (Hebrews 5:8). That is strong language right there, but it’s a revelation.

The Apostle Paul wrote, in Philippians 3:10, a bold prayer and desire for an experiential revelation that he knew would require sacrifice and self-denial. He writes, “...*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*” This is the kind of prayer that denies the flesh and crushes self-entitlement. This is the kind of prayer that separates us from the momentary and temporal things and dare I say, worthless things—and sets our hearts to the eternal and triumphant.

The suffering and sacrifices as sons and daughters of God is something we too must embrace. Though it’s not a popular message, it’s a real part of the Christian life and part of walking in biblical grace. With the urgency of this hour we live in, I believe it is critical we understand that we will continue to see persecution rise against believers and must understand that part of our responsibility (as the real church) is sacrifice and the sufferings of Christ.

Fasting places us before the Lord, *presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God*, which the apostle Paul said is not extreme as some would believe, but actually *reasonable*. This kind of sacrifice produces in us power and life—so we are not be conformed to this world. (see Romans 12:1-2)

**There's no way to get around it—Fasting is sacrificial. In this special week as we present ourselves to The Lord with fasting and prayer, I pray that you would receive a fresh empowerment and anointing from the Holy Spirit that manifests in holy courage to stand strong in your faith. I pray that you will grow bolder and more fierce in your fight of faith and your fight against evil. I pray that you would not back away from sacrifice and hardship, but rather understand, that as God's beloved child and as the army of God, we must face difficulties head on knowing that our victory is secured in Christ.**

**Let the words of the apostle Peter encourage you as you engage this truth that I am speaking about. *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified (1 Peter 4:12-14).”***

**Our King Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).***

**Be strong in The Lord. Remember, the reward of true sacrifice will always forge overcomers. The best is yet to come, dear friends.**

**Together Triumphant,  
Pastor Brian**