



March 21, 2020

YOUR PASTORS ARE CALLING FOR A FAST

For 3 days - starting Monday, March 23 – Wednesday, March 25 - we are asking the entire congregation to step into a season of prayer and fasting.

Why? This idea of fasting has strong precedent in the scripture. When the nation of Israel faced impossible situations a fast was often the choice of the people to repent and return to God. After Jonah decided to mind God, he told Nineveh of its impending doom. The king declared a fast for himself, all of the people, and even the animals. For three days there was to be fasting across the land.

Their fast brought repentance, transformation, and mercy. What do we need as we face COVID-19? I would say our need is pretty much the same. If we follow the track of some of the other nations who are ahead of us, we will see an increase in death and illness that could decimate our state and would likely sweep relentlessly across the heartland from both coasts.

Is COVID-19 God's judgment? We don't know, but either way we should ask God to bring His aid by turning the tide and stopping the effect of this disease.

Solomon's prayer to God stated, *"If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* II Chronicles 7:14

God's promise is for His people. We are His people.

As I watched President Trump's press conference earlier this week in which he encouraged meetings of almost any size to be halted for the next 15 days, I thought to myself, "These are surely desperate measures." And yet, The President and his team articulated the logic behind their request that would place certain strain on families, churches, restaurants, activity centers, arenas, vacation destinations and much more for the rest of the month, I determined that the sacrifice would be worth it.

Prayer and fasting is a drastic measure too, and will also come at a cost. What if God would choose to bring healing to our land through our prayers? Would that be worth the sacrifice?



A fast is designed to get our attention first. Food is the most obvious and often practiced fast. Water should be consumed in large supply if you're stepping into a fast of food. However, there are many different ways to fast. Social media, sugar, coffee, sweet drinks or cola are just a few ideas. Whatever you choose should be replaced with times of fervent prayer and diligent pursuit of God's forgiveness and favor.

We have two specific reasons right now to fast and pray.

1. We are in the throes of choosing a new lead pastor. We need wisdom, for our choice really should be God's selection. We want the mark of our vote to be placed by God's decision rather than our hand. Pray that God will continue to provide guidance and that His sovereignty will reign.
2. Pray that God will mercifully stop this virus and allow our lives to grow into His purpose. Pray that God will curb the death and destruction that this virus has brought. Pray that the economy that has been so decimated will return. Pray that God will use this time to cause people to return to Him or discover His salvation.