

21 DOP Vision Cast

Stand Alone Sermon

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING IS COMING!

To fast means to voluntarily abstain from certain foods, eating and/or drinking, or certain activities for an extended period of time. Biblical fasting is a discipline of voluntarily denying one's self in order to be available for prayer & communion with God. It is an ultimate act of self denial for the glory of God.

A FEW QUICK HITTER TO THINK ABOUT

1.) Do the fast for the glory of God not the recognition of man.

Matthew 6:16-18 (ESV)

"16 And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

2.) Avoid doing the 21 days solely as a diet plan. The goal is closeness to God.

The CHIEF goal of the 21 days should NOT be to get a little slimmer or to learn to not take eating dessert for granted. The CHIEF goal is to sacrifice something for the glory of God to grow in closeness WITH God.

3.) Replace sacrifice with God.

4.) Show up to the corporate times of prayer.

MY ENCOURAGEMENT

At a minimum in the 21 days of prayer & fasting would you consider fasting social media & unhealthy secular media entirely? The majority of us would admit that it is these two things, social media & unhealthy secular media, that take up a TON of our time each day. They compete for your attention. They have way too much of our allegiance & commitment. What if for 21 days you sacrificed those things for the glory of God?

PRAYER FOR THE LOST

Isaiah 59:1 (ESV)

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear..."

PRAYER PRECEDES MISSION

Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV)

*“35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore **pray earnestly** to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)

*“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 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.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”*