



40 Days of Prayer begins today at NCFE. So what? Why does it matter? OK, honestly, that's more than a fair question. And, truth be told, there's a second question that you ought to be asking. I'll give it to you. What's going to keep this **40 Days of Prayer** stuff from being just another "church thing to do" that comes & goes? All right, so let me take a stab at some answers. (1) Here's why it matters ... right now you need a *breakthrough* in your life. You know you do. Something new. Fresh air. Better life. God has designed prayer (conversation between you & Him) to be the means for getting the renewal you need into the very core of your being. This is why we're going to take 40 days together as a church (the time needed to develop a positive habit) to get prayer working in each of us. (2) Here's what will keep it from simply being a "flash in the pan." Here's what will allow it to last ... *God, you and some buddies*. Not too complicated actually. Good team if you ask me. So please, give me a few minutes to explain how you can take **40 Days of Prayer** from simply being a church gimmick to truly being a game-changer in your life.

THE STARTING POINT

*It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer."
(Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46)*

*Up to now, you haven't been asking for anything in My name.
So Me ask now and you will receive, that your joy may be complete.
(John 16:24)*

THE MOTIVATING POINT

*Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for you.
He breaks through ... gates of bronze and bars of iron!
(Psalm 107:15-16)*

THE LAUNCHING POINT FIRST STEPS TO TAKE

* Set your sights on our threefold goal: *The _____ of God.*

The _____ of God. The _____ of God.

* Join ... _____.

* Give up your _____.

Instead, _____ God and He will _____ you.

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

As a group with everyone helping, take 5 minutes to quickly review the main points of PJ's message. Discuss these questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. No one can "make" **40 Days of Prayer** a positive and life changing experience for anyone else. Each of us has to do that for ourselves. What then are some of the things that the Lord would have *you* personally do to prepare ahead of time, and bring with you to this campaign, so that you can gain the most from it?
2. At the same time, no one can grow spiritually mature by themselves. God designed spiritual growth to happen in a healthy relational setting with others. We follow Jesus together. What are some ways each of you can help the others in your group to really benefit from **40 Days of Prayer**?
3. PJ helped us see that we all need some sort of *breakthrough*. And in fact, we need many kinds of breakthroughs at many times in life. What are some breakthroughs you are hoping and praying for from the Lord over the next 40 days? How would such a breakthrough change your life? How will you use it for Him? If He gives you something different are you willing to accept it and trust that He know best?
4. What is it about prayer that most puzzles you? What are some things about prayer that excite you? In terms of your own personal prayer life, what are some goals you need to work toward during **40 Days of Prayer**?

1.7.18 – 1st message in a 9 week series on **40 Days of Prayer** by Pastor John K Nagle.
For more information about Jesus and NCFE, check us out at www.ncffchurch.org.