

21 Days of Fasting and Prayer January 12 to February 1

Fasting is simply defined as abstaining from food for a designated period of time for a spiritual purpose. These purposes include consecration to God and more intense focus on prayer. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the time of fasting and prayer in some way. Following are the suggested guidelines for the corporate fast.

- Week 1** Eliminate: Fried foods, beef, pork, bread, sweets, caffeine
Meals: Fish, chicken, fruits, vegetables, juices,
Week 2 Meals: Fruits, vegetables, juices, Water
Week 3 Meals: Water and fruit or vegetable juice.

For more information and help concerning fasting please see our web page at www.graceassembly.org/21days

If you are physically unable to participate in the fasting guidelines above, please consider participating in some way. If you are taking medication of any kind you should consult your doctor before participating in a fast.

Children and teenagers are not encouraged to participate in a fast involving abstinence from food. Children and teens are encouraged however to participate in the fast by abstaining from something(s) during these 21 days.

If you were not able to write down what prayer request you are focusing on during the fast, please fill out a card and leave it on the platform in front of the pulpit. Others will be praying for you during the prayer times.

21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily prayer times at the church worship center 6:30 to 7:30 this week
- Worship center open every day for a time of prayer and seeking the Lord 8am to 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Night services for adults will be given to worship, prayer and encouragement during the fast (January 15 through 29) 7pm to 8:15 p.m.
- Daily devotionals sent via email and social media concerning fasting
- Share your testimonies concerning fasting at info@graceassembly.org

CLOSER

Getting Closer To God Through Quiet Times

Pastor Wayne Murray
Sunday, January 18, 2015

@TheGraceAG

#Closer

@waynemurray777

Series verse

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.”

James 4:8 NLT

Whenever a man tells me that he doesn't feel very close to God, the first question I ask is, “Tell me about your devotional life.” Often the problem is just there.” - Patrick Morley

What is a quiet time?

Being intentional about having a conversation with God. This usually means listening for God's voice by reading the Bible or devotions, and speaking to God through prayer.

*“A daily quiet time is a private meeting each day between a disciple and the Lord Jesus Christ. It should not be impromptu. We can commune with the Lord on a spur-of-the-moment basis many times each day, but a quiet time is a period of time we set aside in advance for the sole purpose of a personal meeting with our Savior and Lord.” **Greg Ogden, Discipleship***

Big Idea - If you have a regular and consistent time with God you will be closer to God.

Why is a consistent quiet time with God so important?

1. We were created to have _____ with God.

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”

1 Corinthians 1:9 NKJV

2. Jesus Christ Died On The Cross so Fellowship Can Be

“ in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
Ephesians 2:13 NIV

Jesus is our example of the importance of this time

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”
- Luke 5:16

3. It is the Only Way to Grow Up and Be _____ Spiritually

"If we are weak in communion with God we are weak everywhere."
C H Spurgeon

“ (I) have treasured his words more than daily food.”
Job 23:12 NLT

Jesus, quoting the Old Testament, declared that people need to live by every word coming out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)

Peter called the Scriptures nourishing milk (1 Peter 2:2)

The writer of Hebrews thought of the Word of God as solid food (Hebrews 5:14)

“if you don't “come apart” periodically with God, you will literally come apart.” - Vance Havner

The more time we spend _____ God the more we will be come _____ God.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”
Romans 8:29 NKJV

How do we become like Christ?

Get C _____ to Him.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.”
Matthew 6:33

How do we build the habit of daily quiet time with God?

PICK A P _____

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”
Matthew 6:6

Where is the best place for you to have a daily quiet time with God?

PICK A T _____

When is the best time of day for you to have a daily quiet time with God?

PICK A P _____

What is your next plan for reading the Bible and prayer?
*Purchase a prayer book in the Hub
Pick up a Bible reading guide in the Hub
Utilize You Version app on your phone
Use a devotional book*

Spiritual maturity is the consistent application of elementary principles.”
Damon Thompson

"Every one of us is as close to God as he has chosen to be."
J Oswald Sanders