

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 6pm to 7pm 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 Spiritual Family

Pastor Wayne Murray
Sunday, January 25, 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

Big Idea - Committing to be a regular and consistent part of a spiritual family draws me closer to God.

“let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

“We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing.”

Hebrews 10:25 GWT

It's Where You are E_____

“Not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25 Holman Standard Bible

“it is as likely that it means here private religious meetings, for the purpose of mutual exhortation: and this sense appears the more natural here, because it is evident that the Church was now in a state of persecution

- Clark's Commentary

It's Where You B _____

“Now you...are not foreigners or strangers any longer, but are citizens together with God’s holy people. You belong to God’s family”
Ephesians 2:19 CJB

There are _____ “one another” commandments in the NT.

It is impossible to keep the “one another” commandments without being part of a spiritual family.

It's Where You G _____

“Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ”
- Ephesians 4:11-13

It's Where You Get Strength to P _____

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.”
Hebrews 10:23 NASB

“It is the will of Christ that his disciples should assemble together, sometimes more privately for conference and prayer, and in public for hearing and joining in all the ordinances of gospel worship. There were in the apostles' times, and should be in every age, Christian assemblies for the worship of God, and for mutual edification. And it seems even in those times there were some who forsook these assemblies, and so began to apostatize from religion itself. The communion of saints is a great help and privilege, and a good means of steadiness and perseverance.”

- Matthew Henry's Commentary

Jesus example

“As His custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.”
Luke 14:6

The early church example

“They worshiped together at the Temple each day, . . . met in homes”
Acts 2:46 NLT

“They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple.”
Acts 2:46

“Some pastors have observed that many members of their congregation identify themselves as regular church-goers even though they may attend only twice a month or less. In earlier times, being a regular churchgoer meant coming to worship almost every Sunday.”

No Shows, The Christian Century

“Gathering together as the body of Christ is an absolutely essential element of any believer's life. I have never met a single believer who stopped or significantly diminished their church attendance without seeing a corresponding downward slide in the spiritual lives. Not going to church is hazardous to your health.”

- Karl Vaters, New Small Church

“Neglect of the ‘house of God’ is the natural consequence of neglected devotions.”

- James Nesbit Pulpit Commentary