

Faith, Prayer & Fasting

Matthew 17:15-21 (KJV) - Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Giving Honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Psalms 66:13-14, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic is "Faith, Prayer and Fasting."

Lent is a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving observed by many believers. It typically begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday, serving as a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter and a reflection on the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How are you observing this Holy season? What are you giving up? What are you praying for? What are you sacrificing? Are you intentional about your prayer life, time, devotion, and stewardship? According to the text, we see a man who is crying out for Jesus to have mercy on his son. His son was mentally deranged and in great trouble and would oftentimes fall into the fire or into the water. (TLB) The man couldn't deal with this situation any longer, so he brought his son to the disciples to get help. Can you imagine taking someone to a group of physicians and realizing that none of them could help or even cure the disease?

You've got to have Faith

Jesus replied "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me." In other words, it takes faith to move obstacles. Have you ever stopped and simply exercised your faith? Without faith it is impossible to please God. You see, one that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6) Faith moves mountains!!! Faith is the power opens the door. Faith can be increased, built up, and multiplied. Hallelujah, to the Lamb of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17). Every time you read your Word. Every time you quote a scripture. Every time somebody testifies about the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father... Your faith grows. Like a Snowball rolling down the side of a snow-covered hill... It's Growing. There are some obstacles that will absolutely, positively be moved – you only need to have faith that God will do exactly what He said He would do. You are above and not beneath. You will be blessed in

your going out and in your coming in. You just need to believe. Tell somebody I Believe!!! Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!!

You've got to have a Prayer Life

Jesus exercised His faith. He showed this process to the disciples and demonstrated it to perfection and rebuked the devil. The devil departed out of the child, and he was cured that very hour. Did you notice that Jesus didn't argue about it? He didn't spend a lot of time talking about it. He exercised His faith and demonstrated the action of binding the demon because he had faith, a prayer life, and fasted. In Luke 18:1 Jesus said "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint not." He told the story of the unjust judge to help us understand the power of intentional prayer. Christ had faith. He also had a strong prayer life, which the disciple saw with their eyes as Jesus prayed in their presence, and during times when he was alone. Jesus also believed in the power of fasting. Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!!

You've got to Fast

The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him, "Why couldn't we cast the demon out of him?" Jesus replied to them, "Because of your unbelief. Let me tell you, there are some situations and circumstances in this life where you will need to usher in the power of God. This means you need to have faith. You need to have a prayer life. You need to fast. Yes, in your weakness God's strength is perfected. I wish I had somebody that would just stand up and say, Faith, Prayer, and Fasting Power!!! Because the Lord said, "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goes out only by prayer and fasting. Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!! Yes, you must rebuke the devil and claim the blessings that the Lord promised you. Furthermore, Christ was helping the disciples to understand that there are some situations that will change – only through fasting and prayer. Are you ready for a change? It's time to rebuke the enemy! Claim your blessings. Claim your healing. Claim your good health. Claim your healing. Hallelujah, there are some major challenges that you will overcome through prayer and fasting. Get ready for your breakthrough. Get ready for your miracle. O' I feel my Help coming on. Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!!

In closing,

You've got it. You have access to God through Jesus Christ. You have a power that is beyond your daily thoughts and imagination, if you are willing to exercise your faith, prayer life, and fast. They all work together. Yes!!! Christ was showing us all... the power of faith, prayer, and fasting working together. Hallelujah Lord. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) Where would this world be, if-to the glory of God, we exercised our faith, prayer, and fasting?

Where would this nation be, if-to the glory of God, it truly exercised its faith, prayer, and fasting. I would ask where you would be – but I believe you will exercise your faith, prayer, and fasting. Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!! Trust the Lord and follow His model. Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!! And the Peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil.4:7) Start today – with Faith, Prayer and Fasting!!! In Jesus Name. Amen.