

It's Not Your Fight – Bible Study

“Biblical fasting is refraining from food for the spiritual purpose of bringing yourself into a deeper, more intimate and powerful relationship with the Lord.” – Pastor Jentezen Franklin

2 Chronicles 20:1-3 (NLT)

20 After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat.

2 Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already at Hazazon-tamar.” (This was another name for En-gedi.)

3 Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting.

2 Chronicles 20:13-17 (NLT)

13 As all the men of Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, wives, and children,

14 the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men standing there. His name was Jahaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite who was a descendant of Asaph.

15 He said, “Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

16 Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!”

Fighting is something that has become so familiar to us as Christians, Americans and humans for that matter, that often we don’t know what to do

when we're not fighting. If we would be honest, even in our relationships many of us will just pick a fight, because that has become the expectation.

Often, dysfunction has become the only way we know how to function. In the scripture we just read, the Israelites had three armies coming out against them. Like us, there are times when it seems like things are coming at us from everywhere. What do you do, when you don't know what to do?

MANY OF US JUST START FIGHTING WHATEVER IS THE CLOSEST.

However, if we will follow the example of God's people, decree a fast and seek the face of God, we will receive an instruction that may not make sense, but will always cause a victory. With this in mind, let's examine: **It's Not Your Fight**

John 10:27-28 (NLT)

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me,

Every assignment, every call of God, every direction from God has to originate somewhere. When we fast, we do like Paul said, "We present our bodies a living sacrifice." By temporarily denying our flesh, we allow our spirits to become more aware of the Holy Spirit. When our spiritual ears are more sensitive to God's voice, we can more readily hear and respond in obedience to His instructions. **STOP FIGHTING AND START LISTENING**

1. Fasting positions you for specific instructions.

Mark 2:22 (NLT)

22 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins."

It's interesting that most of us do things the way we've always done things. This is especially apparent in our relationships. She does this. Then, I do that. And, we always end up like this. But if we want something else, we have to do something different. **I WANT NEW WINE, NEW HEALINGS, NEW MIRACLES, NEW LEVELS, NEW DIMENSIONS!!!** Fasting empties out and sheds the old skins and prepares you for new ones. **STOP FIGHTING TO BE WHO YOU USED TO BE. LET HIM ANOINT YOU TO BE WHO HE'S MAKING YOU NOW.**

2. Fasting prepares you for new levels of anointing.

Psalm 50:12-15 (NLT)

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it.

13 Do I eat the meat of bulls? Do I drink the blood of goats?

14 Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High.

15 Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.”

If we're not careful, we will allow our Christianity to get into ruts and routines without even realizing it. When we don't take time to do what it takes to stay sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, our praise, worship and even our offerings can become more about religion than relationships. Fasting reminds us what a relationship is about. **I'M WILLING TO GIVE UP SOMETHING I LIKE FOR SOMEONE I LOVE...**

3. Fasting replaces religious behavior with a relationship mindset.

Matthew 4:3-4 (NLT)

3 During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Whether done corporately, like we are doing or individually, fasting is personal and private. **We are fasting and sacrificing because we are expecting God to do something in us.** As we deny ourselves physical foods for a season, we are literally reminding ourselves of our true source. When you pray (it's God) When you give (it's God) When you fast (it's God). **When I pray, I remind God that I need Him... When I give, I remind God that trust Him... When I fast, I remind God that I want Him.**

4. Fasting reminds you that God is your true source.

2 Chronicles 20:21-24 (NLT)

21 After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!”

22 At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.

23 The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other.

24 So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.

The Kingdom of God works through sowing and reaping. When you sow a seed, you plant it in the ground and no one sees it for a while. You don't even know what's going on in the ground. But after some time you will see it again, only in a different form. When you and I fast, we go without some natural food. And, nobody knows what's going on in the ground of our hearts, minds and spirits. After a while they'll see us again...**THIS TIME WE'LL BE FREEE, STORNG, HEALED, DELIVERED, ABUNDANT.**

5. Fasting privately causes promotion publicly.

Often, fighting and dysfunction have become the only way we know how to function. However, if we will follow the example of God's people, decree a fast and seek the face of God, we will receive an instruction that may not make sense, but will always cause a victory. Remember: **It's Not Your Fight.**