

You're Almost There – Bible Study

John 6:16-21 (NLT)

16 That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him.

17 But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum.

18 Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough.

19 They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified,

20 but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!"

21 Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!

It is with great enthusiasm and tremendous excitement that we share something with you. We want to stand like the prophets of old and let you know, **you're almost there. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO EVERYTHING GOD PROMISED.**

In the scripture we just read, the disciples were waiting for Jesus. Like many of us, they became impatient. So, they left the shore and started rowing without Jesus. Soon things got very rough. The Bible records that in the middle of the rough conditions, Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. Initially, the disciples were afraid. But when they found out it was actually Jesus, they were eager to let him on the boat. As soon as they did, every translation we read says **IMMEDIATELY** they arrived at their destination.

Somebody asked, "Why are we fasting?" The answer is quite simple; to recognize more readily when Jesus on our boat.

What is Fasting according to the Bible?

"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

With this in mind, let's examine: **You're Almost There**

Luke 9:23-24 (NASB)

23 And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Denying oneself temporary gratitude for eternal fulfillment has been the secret of success to countless successful people. If we really want to win, we cannot do or have everything we want all the time. Boxers, body-builders, brides to be, students, and people with good credit have all learned an important lesson. **YOU CAN HAVE SOME RIGHT NOW, OR ALL FOREVER...**

1. Fasting sets you up for victory.

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

A fast is not doesn’t last forever. However, the payback is eternal. If you fast for 21 days and only hear one instruction from God, the 3 weeks will soon be over. However, that one instruction, if followed will have altered the course of your life. It will have accelerated the timetable of your destiny, that without it you may have missed. **GET READY FOR THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HAVE ETERNAL BENEFITS.**

2. Fasting is temporary. The benefits are lasting.

Romans 8:6-8 (NASB)

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

In order to properly understand the implications of Biblical fasting, we must grasp this concept. We, like God are tripartite beings. **We are spirits. We possess souls. And, we live in bodies.** The part of our being we listen to

is vitally important to the fulfillment of our destinies. When we fast, we silence the voice of our flesh (senses) and open ourselves up to hear more clearly the voice of the spirit (Holy Spirit). ***“Your success or failure will be determined by whose word you’ve chosen to honor.” - Dr. Mike Murdock***

3. Fasting silences one voice, in favor of another.

Acts 13:2 (NASB)

2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

The Bible says, “While they were fasting, the Holy Spirit said, **the Holy Spirit said, the Holy Spirit said...**” The Holy Spirit is always talking. The problem is, we are not always in a position to hear His voice. **FOR 21-DAYS WE ARE POSITIONING OURSELVES TO HEAR FROM GOD!** He’s bringing clarity to our assignments, right now. Here’s the question. What is He saying to you?

4. Fasting brings clarity to our assignment.

Matthew 17:19-21 (NASB)

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?”

20 And He *said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

21 But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

There are certain issues and challenges that have plagued us and our families for years. The young man, in the scripture had been tormented from childhood. After one encounter with Jesus, everything changed. The disciples were perplexed, because they could not give the young man any relief. Jesus tells his disciples, “This kind only comes out if you’re willing to fast and pray!!” **OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT DURING THIS FAST, STROGNHOLDS WILL BE BROKEN AND DELIVERANCE WILL TAKE PLACE.**

5. Fasting is the only way to break certain strongholds.

Denying oneself temporary gratification for eternal fulfillment has been the secret of success to countless successful people. As we temporarily fast, let's get excited for what is to come. Right now, we are accelerating the timetable of our destinies as we become more sensitive to and aware of God's instructions. Remember: **You're Almost There.**