

## SH/FT

SUMMER COPORATE PRAYER AND FASTING

## DAY 1: A CONSECRATED LIFE STARTS WITH THE HEART

#### Scripture:

I Samuel 16:6-7 NKJV
"So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!" But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."



#### Reflection:

When you think of a person that is devoted to the Lord, what qualities of their life come to mind? Like Samuel. we can see signs of a person's life that appear to demonstrate a strong devotion to the Lord. However, the Lord cannot be fooled, "He does not see as man sees... but the Lord looks at the heart." True devotion to the Lord is not primarily indicated by religious acts, serving in ministry, or even doing a good deed for someone else. Rather, when the Lord has your heart, Godly actions become the fruit of prioritizing a relationship with Him. As you seek to grow closer to the Lord, start with what cannot be seen by others, such as your motives and desires. Holding yourself accountable for the condition of vour heart may never be acknowledged by others, however, it will be rewarded by Someone even Greater, and that is the Lord.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that Your thoughts are not our thoughts, and neither are Your ways our ways. Search our hearts and reveal whatever is not of You. Teach us Holy Spirit how to live a life surrendered out of true devotion to the Lord.

Related Scriptures: James 2:14-20

## DAY 2: A CONSECRATED LIFE FEARS GOD BY LOUING OTHERS

#### Scripture:

Genesis 50:17-20 NIV "...This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs theu committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of uour father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am Ini the place of God?"

Reflection:

In the Christian life, there is no doubt we are called to love our neighbor. Yet our reason for obeying this commandment is key to sustaining our ability to yield to it. As Joseph was presented a choice to either forgive his brothers who wronged him or give them their due punishment, he humbled himself - "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?" As believers, our reason for choosing to love others through acts such as forgiveness, should be fueled by our fear of God. This fear can be understood as a reverence for who God is as Creator and knowing His great love for His creation through sending Jesus as an atonement for our sins. If God saw it fit to offer forgiveness to a humanity that would rebel against Him, who are we to think holding unforgiveness is a better choice when we are wronged?

Trust God who created all life, through following His example on how we should treat one another.

#### Prayer:

Father God, we humble ourselves before You knowing You are Creator God. All of humanity is made in Your image, therefore out of reverence of You, we submit to Your commands on how we ought to treat our neighbor. We confess any unforgiveness we are harboring in our hearts, knowing Your directive to forgive others is for our good. We express sincere gratitude for forgiving us of our offenses against You, by giving Your son Jesus Christ as an atonement for our sins.

Related Scriptures: 1 John 4:7-12

# DAY 3: A CONSECRATED LIFE STEWARDS WELL WHAT IS GIVEN BY GOD

#### Scripture:

Daniel 1:8-16 NIV "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the roual food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this wau..'Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what uou see.' So he agreed to this and tested them for ten daus. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than anu of the uoung men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine theu were to drink and gave them vegetables instead."

#### Reflection:

The value we often give to something can be reflected by how well we treat it. For some, when borrowing an item, there is a sense of responsibility to take extra precautions to return it in the condition it was given or an even better state. In a similar way, our physical bodies are not our own, but have been created and given by God to be used for His glory. Daniel had a resolve not to defile his body with the royal food and wine because of His respect for The One True God who created him.

In addition to keeping in obedience, Daniel also became a witness for others to discover a better path to a healthier life. As believers in Christ, treating our physical bodies well is not about self-glorification, but can serve as an outward expression of our respect for God and our resolve to steward well what He has entrusted us with.

#### Prayer:

Lord, we come before You presenting our bodies as vessels for Your purposes. We know our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we ought to treat well what You have entrusted to us. We ask for wisdom and strength through the Holy Spirit to steward well the physical bodies You have given, whether that be in our nutrition, physical exercise, or even getting adequate rest. We also pray to be mindful of what we engage our bodies in, and repent of any immoral actions. Thank You Lord for the various ways You have kept us in good health. We trust in You for healing our physical body in whatever area we are in need of. May our lives be a witness to others for Your glory.

#### **Related Scriptures:**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

## DAY 4: A CONSECRATED LIFE IS PERSUADED BY CHRIST NOT CULTURE

#### Scripture:

Galatians 1:6-10 NIV "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called uou to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - which is really no gospel at all. Evidently, some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ..... As we have alreadu said, so now Isay again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what uou accepted, let them be under God's curse! Am I now truing to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I truing to please people? If I were still truing to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Reflection:

Culture can be defined as "the way of life for an entire society". It is easy to be persuaded in living life the way everyone else does because it is the norm. However, what is the norm doesn't make it of Christ. Rather, various scriptures in the Bible inform us that following Christ will cause us to be seen as different from those living by the world's standards. Even more, we ought to be careful of a 'Christian culture' that has an appearance of godliness but is void of true surrender to Christs' teachings in our hearts. Jesus Christ was clear that He is the way, truth, and life.

Therefore, let us not be easily persuaded by the ways of culture, whether that be in the world or even within the body of Christ.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as followers of Christ we submit to the fact that we are called to live in the world but not be of it. We desire to abide in Jesus by keeping His teachings in our hearts and following His ways. Holy Spirit increase our discernment of what is of Christ and redirect us where we have compromised His truth and settled for our culture. May we be true ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven, having wisdom to avoid extremes but the courage to stand out because of our true allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Related Scriptures: John 15:18-20

## DAY 5: A CONSECRATED LIFE WORSHIPS GOD NOT RELIGIOUS FORMALITIES

#### Scripture:

John 4:20-23 NIV "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." "Woman" Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks"

Reflection:

Being raised in the church certainly has its benefits in building a foundation of Christian values, especially early in life. At the same time, humans are creatures of habit, and we can find ourselves protecting routines out of comfort and familiarity. Coming together as believers in Jesus Christ to encourage one another in the Lord and to worship God in one accord, is vital to our spiritual well-being. However, worship is not a song selection lead by a worship team. It is not dimmed lighting and smoke machines. Neither is worship restricted to being done in a church building. Worship is a posture of yielding to God that starts in the heart, expressing itself outwardly in our daily lives.

Worship the Father seeks isn't something that is immitated or forced, but is done "in Spirit and in truth".

#### Prayer:

Our Father who is in heaven, truly we pray today hallowed be Your name. We worship You not out of formality, but from relationship with You. Where we have lost sight of what it means to truly worship You, we ask for Your forgiveness. May the songs we sing in private or together as a church body come from sincere hearts. Jesus, You are our focus, not our customs or traditions.

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 29:13-16

## DAY 6: A CONSECRATED LIFE IS NOT CONFUSED BY SUFFERING

#### Scripture:

1 Peter 4:12-15 ESV "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But reioice insofar as uou share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If uov are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or a s a meddler."

#### Reflection:

Suffering and hardship in life is inevitable, yet our response to it is what makes the difference. Challenging moments in life shouldn't cause you to throw in the towel of your faith, as tempting as that may seem. Neither should suffering be immediately thought of as a punishment from God. Being a follower of Jesus Christ doesn't give a pass from experiencing life's valleys, but you do have a Shepherd who is able to lead you through the trials and dark moments in life. On the contrary, suffering in isolation from Christ or because of disobedience, only leads to despair. Though unpleasant and often easier said than done, "rejoice insofar as you share in Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed".

#### Prayer:

Jehovah Rohi, You Lord are my Shepherd. In the valleys of life, lead me beside still waters, which is peace mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit in moments of trials. You Jesus are known as a Man of Sorrows for how You have suffered on the cross. May we be encouraged in knowing that not only can You empathize with our suffering, but have overcome it. Therefore may we too overcome and not give up in faith, as Your Spirit lives within us.

Related Scriptures: Psalm 23

### DAY 7: A CONSECRATED LIFE COUNTS THE COST

#### Scripture:

Luke 14:28-33 NKJV
"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see ti begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple".

#### Reflection:

When you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, how much did you think it would cost you? If you haven't made the decision yet to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, take some time to reflect on what that truly means. Following Christ is not a decision to be made lightly, and has both current and eternal consequences. When we accept Jesus as Savior but neglect Him being Lord by not "forsaking all we have" we can't consider ourselves true disciples. This may not be the popular opinion of culture today, but it is the truth taught by Christ himself.

#### Prayer:

Lord, we take this time You have given us in prayer to reflect on the cost of following You wholeheartedly. Jesus, You gave of Your life so that we may have life and have it more abundantly, and to be saved from eternal separation from God. May we fully commit to what it means to be Your disciples. Our families, friends, careers, wealth, possessions, and everything we have in this life is on table in exchange for following You. May we see how much life with You Jesus is worth it, despite what it may cost.

Related Scriptures: John 17:1-11



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