

Message & Assignments for Ash Wednesday / Starting GCF Corporate Fast (March 5, 2014)

I. Message – Seek the Lord ... the Kingdom is Unfolding in Our Midst

A. The Progressive Nature of the Kingdom & “If You Are the Son of God ... ?”

- 1.) Our Corporate Faith & Identity – “If You Are the Son of God...”
- 2.) Our Individual Faith & Identity – “If You Are the Son of God...”

(2 Peter 1:10-11) ¹⁰Therefore, brethren, **be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you**; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

(2 Corinthians 6:2b) Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

(Isaiah 9: 7a) ⁷There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, ... (See Pts. IA & IB Above)

(Mark 9: 24) Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

(Proverbs 13:12) Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

B. Seek First His Kingdom & His Righteousness - - - Now (Seek His Face, Heart & Hand)

(Matt. 6:33-34) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(Hosea 4:6) Sow with a view to righteousness, Reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow round, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you. (See John 7:37-39)

(Isaiah 55: 1-13) ¹“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk, Without money and without cost. ²“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. ³“Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *According to* the faithful mercies shown to David. ⁴“Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, A leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵“Behold, you will call a nation you do not know, And a nation which knows you not will run to you, Because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you.”

⁶Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. ⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. ¹²“For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands. ¹³“Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the LORD, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.” (Notice: Individual Seeking Leads to Corporate Results)

(1 John 5:21) ²¹Little children, guard yourselves from idols. (Repent Toward God / Seek His Face, Heart & Hand)

(Genesis 4:9) Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Let Us Pray for Reach Other – **The Phalanx Principle**)

II. Assignment: Read the 7 Penitential Psalms (Reflect on Them)

(Psalm 51:10-13) ¹ Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Note: The Seven (7) Penitential Psalms Are: Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 (Protestant Numbering)
(Old Catholic Numbering: Psalms 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129, 142) (Kneeling or Laying Prostrate?)

III. Assignment: Read (Isaiah 58: 1-12) – Study 7 Conditions & 10 Rewards from Fasting 101 Outline

IV. Assignment: Review Regularly GCF Prayer & Fasting Goals from Fasting 101 & Fasting 102

V. Assignment: Read 1 or 2 Good Fasting Books – Should Help Motivation & Practical Application

The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting by Mahesh Chavda (Most Motivating for Me - Results)

Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting by Derek Prince

How To Fast Successfully by Derek Prince (Very Short & Easy to Read)

Fasting: The Key to Releasing God's Power In Your Life by Derek Prince

God's Chosen Fast by Arthur Wallis

Books, CDs or Other Materials on the Relationship of Health to Fasting by Dr. Donald Colbert (Christian)

Juice Fasting: How to Keep Slim, Healthy and Young by Dr. Paava Airola (Note: Not a Christian)

Other Books on Juice Fasting can be found on Amazon (Many may not be by Christians)