

# Aligning With God's Will

## Isaiah 6:-9

Ten-Days of Prayer & Fasting for Spiritual Alignment (*January 1 - 10, 2015*)

Guard your heart above all else,  
for it determines the course of your life.

(Prov 4:23 NLT-SE)

### HOW JESUS FEELS ABOUT FASTING...

<sup>5</sup> "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!...<sup>16</sup> "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. <sup>18</sup> Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." (Matt 6:5-18 NLT-SE)

**When you fast...**He doesn't say, "if you pray," or "if you fast," but **WHEN!** This ***alignment with the will of His Father*** was an important key to Jesus' relationship with His Father. We can learn a great deal from what is revealed in these words of encouragement from Jesus.

There is great wisdom in this pursuit...

<sup>7</sup> Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. <sup>8</sup> If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you. <sup>9</sup> She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown." (Prov 4:7-9 NLT-SE)

There is something going on in Heaven that the Father wants to reveal on earth. He wants to know if there are people who "have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying" and not just what the culture we live in is saying. ***Like the Sons of Issachar (2 Chr. 12:32), we want to be able to understand the times we live in and know how to respond with God's heart.***

**That's where we are today...**We are taking time to listen intently to what the Father is saying to us, His church. So, ***we are hungry to align ourselves with Him*** and allow Him to express His kingdom through our lives. This is no small thing!

Question: **WHO are we aligning ourselves to?**

When we have been raised with Christ, we are now “in Christ,” and Christ is “in us”; we have a new capacity, a new energy, a new power to live the Christian life. It is activated not by squeezing a lever but **by aligning our minds and hearts with the available power of the kingdom of God that is now among us and in us** (*Colossians 1:27*). When we do, we find ourselves pulled along for a very nice ride. We work, but we don't sweat. We act, but a stronger, greater, quieter power is acting within and around us. *Smith, James Bryan (2013-05-01). Hidden in Christ: Living as God's Beloved (Apprentice Resources) (p. 26). InterVarsity Press.*

**When we align ourselves with the Word, we are aligning ourselves with God** and we are able to receive the promises and power of the kingdom. The more we know the Word of God, the more pure and precise our prophetic insight and revelation will become. His Word will give us strength to overcome. When we see a generation fall in love with God's Word, our culture will change. *Byrd, Andy (2012-06-08). Culture of Revival: A Revivalist Field Manual - Volume 1: Perseverance with Joy (Kindle Locations 1843-1846). Fire and Fragrance.*

### **ISAIAH 6:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

<sup>4</sup> Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, “It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies.”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

<sup>9</sup> And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people... (Is 6:1–9 NLT-SE)

We have an **incomprehensibly great God**; a God hates sin and forgives sinners! How big a deal is this? The **Northern tribe, Hezakah's people**, are surrounded by 185,000 Assyrian soldiers and are about to be attacked.

- **Is 36:18-20** The Assyrian King mocks God's ability to save His people...
- **Is 37:23-29** God's response to the King's insolence...
- **Is 37:33-38** Don't mess with the God of the Universe...

**Charles Misner**, a scientific specialist in general relative theory, concerning *Einstein*...

"I do see the design of the universe as essentially a religious question. That is, one should have some kind of respect and awe for the whole business . . . It's very magnificent and shouldn't be taken for granted. In fact, I believe that is why Einstein had so little use for organized religion, although he strikes me as a basically very religious man. He must have looked at what the preachers said about God and felt that they were blaspheming. He had seen much more majesty than they had ever imagined, and they were just not talking about the real thing. My guess is that he simply felt that religions he'd run across did not have proper respect . . . for the author of the universe."

### **FASTING GUIDELINES:**

I am preparing you for what is on the road ahead, just around the bend. Take time to be still in My Presence so that I can strengthen you. The busier you become, the more you need this time apart with Me. So many people think that time spent with Me is a luxury they cannot afford. As a result, they live and work in their own strength— until that becomes depleted. Then they either cry out to Me for help or turn away in bitterness. How much better it is to walk close to Me, depending on My strength and trusting Me in every situation. If you live in this way, you will do less but accomplish far more . Your unhurried pace of living will stand out in this rush-crazed age. Some people may deem you lazy, but many more will be blessed by your peacefulness . Walk in the Light with Me, and you will reflect Me to the watching world.

Sarah Young  
Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence  
December 27

1. **Be Realistic**...Fasting causes weakness. By choosing to fast food, we choose to walk in voluntary weakness; emotional, spiritual and physical weakness. Most of us do not like being weak. It's humbling to find yourself wanting, especially spiritually. When you fast, your weakness reflects a void that God can fill. Think about it. What do you want to fill that void?
2. **Be Strategic**...If you have a void that can be filled, decide ahead of time what you want to fill it with. Here are some things to think about when it comes to prayer and fasting for alignment:
3. **Be Wise**...It does you no good to commit to a fast that ignores wisdom. What do I mean? If you drive a vehicle, operate dangerous equipment, are responsible for the care of other, etc., for a living, your ability to do those things safely is a priority. It doesn't mean that God cannot fill that void, but fasting is not a challenge to your body. Fasting moves non-essentials out of the way so The Lord can move in and occupy that space.
4. **Not an Event, but a Lifestyle**...Don't make this a competition to see who can make the greatest sacrifice. You won't prove anything to yourself or others by "making the ultimate sacrifice." Commit

to fast in a realistic way and stick with it. Our desire is that fasting becomes a lifestyle, not a twice-a-year challenge.

5. **What this Fast is NOT... *This is not really a time to ask for things.*** Many times, a time of prayer and fasting seems to focus on moving the heart of God on our behalf. What tends to happen is that we ask the Lord to align His will with ours by asking Him to respond to our prayer requests. This is not wrong, but not the focus of this particular fast. Spiritual fasting is not a way to earn God's favor by getting him to do something for us. Rather, ***the purpose is to produce a transformation in us – a clearer, more focused attention and dependence upon God. Spiritual alignment.***
6. **The Focus of Our 10-Day Fast...** This fast is designed to be quite the opposite. ***What we want during this ten days together is for our hearts to be moved and aligned with His!*** You can choose any type of fast you like, i.e., Daniel Fast (*fruits and veggies*), Juice Fast, One-Meal-A-Day, or Water-Only Fast. If tweaking with your food intake is out of the question, you can fast things like media, caffeine, etc, but you should forgo something that opens the door for you to be able to spend more time engaging with the Lord.
7. **Preparation for Fasting...** As the fast approaches you may want to begin to prepare your heart and schedule to make room for additional time with Him. dramatically decrease your exercise time while fasting. Also, begin to look at your schedule and see where you can carve out a bit more time with Jesus. ***Remember, fasting without prayer is just starvation.*** (*Either The Pursuit of God or The Knowledge of the Holy, by A.W. Tozer are great resources and Mike Bickle's book, The Rewards of Fasting is very helpful.*)
8. **After the Ten-Days are Up...** We will gather together as a Body on Saturday, January 10, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Let's see what the Lord revealed to us during this amazing time of prayer and fasting. Bring a little snack to share. ***Let's stay away from sugary stuff. Maybe fruit, veggie, or sandwich trays. You'll thank me later!***

**Fast on!**