

WHEN — Not IF — in 2017

Steve Berger January 8, 2017

7 “One Things” for the new year...

from Psalm 27:4, Luke 10:42, Philippians 3:13-15

1. Seek the Lord
2. Dwell in His house
3. Behold His beauty
4. Inquire in His temple
5. Sit at Jesus’ feet
6. Forget the past
7. Reach for the future

7 blessings we are going to pray over you for the new year...

an INCREASED...

1. Hunger for God
2. Seeking of God
3. Love of God
4. Power of God
5. Favor of God
6. Ways of God
7. Mission with God

***Application** — opportunities abound at Grace Chapel for all ages for those who are hungry, seeking, worshiping, learning, reaching in 2017! Take advantage of them!*

TODAY — Fasting...

...a way to unlock more of God’s supernatural power in your life!

Jesus is our example

- **Matthew 4:1-2**
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
- if Jesus needed to fast, how much more do I?

Heart motive is everything...

...most highlighted in scripture!

- **Matthew 6:16-18**
Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For

they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Application — *don't be a hypocrite, fasting to be seen by men, sad, disfigured — that's the reward.*

- **Luke 18:11-12**

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

Application — *his arrogance fueled his fasting, his fasting fueled his arrogance — his prayers were UNHEARD!*

- **Isaiah 58:1-5**

Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast. Shout aloud! Don't be timid. Tell my people Israel of their sins! Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and seem delighted to learn all about Me. They act like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God. They ask Me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near Me. 'We have fasted before You!' they say. 'Why aren't You impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and You don't even notice it!' "I will tell you why!" I respond. "It's because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with Me. You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?"

Application — *playing, pretending, going through the motions — NO HEART-CHANGE, NO LIFE-CHANGE, NO HEART-HUNGER, that's NOT fasting! True fasting is "God I need You... I'm drawing near to you, I'm desiring transformation, God Your church needs You, God this nation needs You, God this world needs You. I'm drawing near to pray, fast, repent, stand in the gap, intercede, etc."*

**Heart motive makes or breaks our fast,
heart motive causes us to be heard or unheard in heaven!**

- **Jesus is our example, Heart motive is everything and...**

Our reward is guaranteed

- **Matthew 6:18** — your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly
- **Matthew 4** — Victory over temptation — living a fasted lifestyle brings victory! Fasting **before and during** temptation is much better than fasting after sinning! **Be proactive!**
- **Matthew 17:14-21** — Power over the enemy — story of the father, son, seizures, demon, disciples can't, unbelief — **"this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting"** — fasted lifestyle produces power over enemy so that when you come in contact, you're prepared, enemy is toast!

- **Acts 10:30-33** Supernatural Increase — Cornelius the Roman Centurion, praying constantly and fasting, angel gives direction and instruction to him — gospel goes to the gentiles!
 - **Daniel 1:12-17** — Received knowledge, skill, wisdom, understanding in dreams and visions — **Daniel 10** — prayer and fasting 21 days, vision, angel, encouragement, "you're heard in heaven, I've come because of your words."
- **Acts 13:2** Holy Spirit reveals God's will — prayer, fasting, speaking, revealing, more fasting and laying hands on them.
- **Ezra 8:21-23** — Receives strategic guidance and protection — prayer, fasting, humbling themselves before God, safe passage, trusting God alone, God answered!

Question— *Who WOULDN'T want these rewards in their life — who has enough of these already?*

1. Victory over temptation
2. Power over the enemy
3. Supernatural increase
4. Revelation of God's will
5. Receiving strategic guidance and protection

Maybe — *during the 21 days of fasting; concentrate four days on each topic; then on the final day, thank God for the coming rewards!*

OH WHAT MIGHT GOD DO IF WE GIVE OURSELVES TO PRAYER AND FASTING?

- **Type of fast** — is optional, sacrifice and focus isn't!
- **Next 21 days** — whatever and however you feel compelled, go for it with sacrifice and focus
- **James 4:8**
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think even Jesus needed to fast? What does that mean for you?
 2. What would be your personal "heart motive/heart hunger" in fasting this month?
 3. Which reward do you look forward to the most?
 4. What type(s) of fasting are you going to engage?
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Before the Throne: Worship Night

Wednesday, January 11th 6:30 p.m.