

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 6, 2019

The New Testament prayer meeting reveals the master plan of Jesus. The last thing Jesus did on earth was to build that prayer meeting, and it is the only thing He left behind on planet Earth when He ascended to heaven.

Everything by Prayer, Fred Hartley

The Hebrew word "paga" translated intercession in the Old Testament, means "making contact" with God.

If we miss the God of meetings, we missed the God of the Bible.

~He met with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day to commune with them.

~He met with Abraham in order to covenant with him and become his friend.

~He met with Moses on the mountain and in the tabernacle to impart wisdom for leading a nation.

~He met with Mary to make her the mother of God.

~He met with many sick and disease people to heal their bodies.

~He met with the 12 to shape them into Apostles.

~He met with the 120 in the upper room to make them "Little Christians" which is the meaning of the word Christians.

This is the purpose of prayer to create a meeting between heaven and earth.

Prayer is connected to promise.

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

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First, when a nation sins – and all else has failed, there is always a remedy. God's people can cry out to Him.

"If my people, who are called by name, shall humble themselves."

Humility describes the attitude, the disposition of the heart, the posture of deference and dependence.

Second, we are to 'pray.' Here the word used in II Chronicles 7:14 is 'palal,' a courtroom term. The idea is to pray as an intermediary. Having repented, and approaching God with humility, the penitent stands before God in behalf of the nation, between God and impending judgment – and prayerfully pleads for grace and divine intervention.

Third, the focus of prayer is not to be merely on the hand of God, on blessings that need to be restored, but on the 'face' of God. It is a broken relationship that we now realize is in jeopardy if the sin and rebellion continue. The problem is rarely ever sin – mere acts. It is something deeper, something that is misplaced in the relationship. A first love is lost. Passion has cooled. The world and its allure have become dominant.

It is the 'face' of God that is sought – the kind of fatherly kindness and grace seen by the prodigal in the eyes of his father. It is never law that brings the most compelling change, it is love.

Love constrains us.

Love motivates us.

Love is the impetus for lasting change.

II Chronicles 7:16 NKJV

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"For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

Finally, the people of God must also demonstrate righteousness – they must ‘turn’ from their wicked ways.

This is more than sentiment.

Repentance must be modeled. The great need is not for the world to repent of their obvious sin, but for the church to repent of its rationalized sin. In doing so, we show our respect for God’s holiness, we evidence a reverence for God that is largely lost today.

God’s people, gladly and openly called by his name, can by our response to His grace in prayer – set off a chain of events that see both personal and national sins forgiven, both their home and land healed.

It's Time to Pray

1. Determine to demonstrate your humility before God.
2. Pray. Not just for yourself, but for the sake of the nation.
3. Ask God to change you – to show you where a change in your attitudes and actions might reveal Christ to people around you.
4. Pray that we wouldn't miss the God of the Bible.