

Fasting & Prayer Guide

January 2012



Freedom Gate Church

Freedom Gate Church

4625 S. Ash Avenue, J7

Tempe, AZ 85282

2012 – A New Year “With God”

If we believe, we will see the glory of God! During this fast, we want to take the time to seek the Lord, and consecrate our lives unto Him – advancing His kingdom in our life.

Matthew 19:26 - *“with people this is impossible, but **with God** all things are possible”*

Luke 18:27 – *“the things that are impossible with people - are possible **with God**”*

As we enter 2012, let’s rethink “impossible” – and consider areas and or situations in our lives that we have attached that word. It is time to set faith goals and “breakout” of the old and into the new! Again – in His kingdom & glory – ALL things are possible!

Jesus told His disciples in the midst of the storm, “Take courage, it is I, do not fear” – Consider that He has promised all who believe in Him, that He is with us always, even unto the end of the age. During this fast “take courage” and know that He is with you – you’re never alone. Don’t allow a spirit of fear to impact your beliefs and decisions that you make in 2012. Also consider that ALL of His promises are YES to you! Through faith and patience (endurance) we inherit the promises of God! Be determined to give your Amen – which is your agreement with what His Word says... “Be it unto me!”

I challenge you to read the daily Scripture passages out loud – because faith “comes” to you by hearing the Word of God! Pray out loud, with fervency and sincerity of heart. Every time we hear the Word, faith comes to us, but faith must also be activated – set in motion - by believing from the heart, speaking what you believe with your mouth, and taking action accordingly. *According to what is written, I believe, therefore I speak!*

Every one of us can “reboot” our faith! Jesus reminded Martha of His previous promise to her – *“Did I not say to you, if you believe you will see the glory of God?”* Hallelujah! He gave her another chance to believe His Word! You can regain hope & believe again!

Don’t allow your time of fasting to be merely dietary changes. Take “quality time” every day to get alone with God and seek Him in prayer, worship and in the Word. Write down what He speaks to you, write down your faith goals, and revisit these goals often.

If you were not in the service on Sunday January 8th, please get an audio CD and listen to my message – it will inspire you to begin this fast with the faith to believe that truly all things are possible WITH GOD! Let’s be determined to do 2012 – WITH GOD!

Joshua told the people before crossing over, *“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you!”* Our consecration today, will determine the signs and wonders of our tomorrow! **For truly - “with God” – nothing is impossible!**

Blessings,
Pastor Rick

Day One – Monday the 9th

Read: Matthew 6:16-33; Mark 6:33-52; and Romans 4:13-22

Allow the truth of God's Word to challenge you especially throughout this fast. In every situation that presents itself to you - consider and do these things:

1. Take an honest assessment of where you stand in relation to the promises of God. Abraham contemplated his situation, and as dire as things were in the natural, he chose to respect the promises of God, and thereby he grew strong in faith and received what was promised!
2. Be determined to not fall short of the glory of God, by committing to begin to live life "with God." Seek God's glory in each and every situation that presents itself. What does the Word say about this? And always remember that the things that are impossible with people, are possible with God!
3. Bless what you do have, and do not curse. Be careful to not curse or try to hang on to your fishes and loaves! When Jesus "blessed" and "gave thanks" for what was offered – what was surely not enough in the natural, became more than enough in the supernatural kingdom.
4. Seek first the kingdom and His righteousness. Because Abraham believed God – it was credited to him as righteousness. We must seek first His kingdom in everything, and understand that His kingdom is sought after by faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what the promise fulfilled looks like – with the eyes of faith.

Humble yourself before the Lord in prayer today. Commit to living life in 2012 with God! Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you from any and all unrighteousness – which is not merely sinful behaviors, but also unbelief. Receive His love, forgiveness and restoration. Now let's REBOOT our faith!

Day Two – Tuesday the 10th

Read: John 17:1-3; John 7:37-39; Revelation 22:16-17; and Psalm 36:7-9

Keep in mind, it was Jesus who said, "Now this is eternal life, that they may *know* You" The word *know* in the original language is speaking of an intimate knowing. It's the same "knowing" in which Adam knew his wife Eve and husbands and wives have known each other ever since.

Father God, who loves the human heart in way we will never fully understand, is always seeking to draw us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Himself.

Jesus unveiled His true feelings and intentions for us when He referred to Himself as a bridegroom. He said to the disciples of John the Baptist, *"How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn (fast) while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast."*

Fasting, more than anything, is to be the genuine cry from our heart for deeper intimacy with Jesus! Jesus used bridal terminology to convey His deepest feelings for us! He understood that there is something about romantic, passionate language that touches the heart like nothing else can. Don't be afraid of this... but press into intimacy with the Lord. Ask Him to make Himself known to you in new ways. Ask Him to let you experience His great love, in a way that goes beyond mere knowledge. Draw near to the Lord during this fast... and He WILL draw near to you! Drink of the fountain of His pleasures!

Day Three – Wednesday the 11th

Read: Isaiah 58:1-14

Meditate on the promises to those who honor a lifestyle of fasting, and taking delight in the Lord. He desires to loosen the bonds of wickedness; To undo the bands of the yoke; To let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke! Our light will break out like the dawn and our recovery will spring forth! His righteousness will go before us and His glory will be our rear guard! He will continually guide us and satisfy our desire! He will give strength to our bones and we will be like a watered garden!

In prayer today, take the time (in light of these promises) to contemplate where you are, and where the Lord intends for you to be. Delight in the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what the promises fulfilled look like in your life. Ask the Lord to help you to no longer "fall short" of His glorious intentions for you.

Day Four – Thursday the 12th

Read: I John 3:7-8; John 8:31-36; and Romans 8:1-4

Jesus destroyed the works of the devil on the cross of Calvary. He has come to set us free! He sets us free by the truth of His Word; and by our obedience to walk after the Holy Spirit and not our flesh. But be not deceived, all who practice sin are enslaved.

Examine your life and ask the Holy Spirit to bring conviction where needed. He will bring conviction – for the purpose of us becoming free - He never condemns us!

Acknowledge (confess) any and all sin in your life. Receive His love and forgiveness; but also receive His grace (power) to break the bands of wickedness and set you free, by repenting – which is changing direction and changing the way you think. Stop speaking over your life that you are a sinner and begin to speak Truth over yourself, “I am a new creation in Christ Jesus... the old things have passed away and new things have come!

Pray and commit your heart to abiding in the Word – as a true disciple in 2012. It is the truth that you know and understand and walk in... that sets you free. No one can consistently walk in freedom, unless they consistently abide in the Word of God.

Day Five – Friday the 13th

Read: Isaiah 53:3-5; Matthew 8:16-17; I Peter 2:24-25; III John 2; Galatians 3:13-14

Jesus bore OUR sins, sicknesses, pains – He became a curse for us! By His stripes we were healed – spirit, soul, and body! There is not an area of our lives, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically, that He hasn’t made a way for us to be healed!

Contemplate your health – spirit, soul, and body – make an honest assessment and then choose to respect to the promises of God! Give thanks to Him for being your Healer, thank Him for good health and strength. Ask the Lord to heal you and begin to thank Him for it! Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you, by faith, a picture of you healthy! Decree, that 2012 is your year of healing and restoration, in Jesus’ name!

Review the fasting promises in Isaiah 58 again and claim them for your healing! And remember – in the natural, this is impossible; but not with God, for all things are possible with God! You are “with God” in 2012, therefore you are healed!

Day Six – Saturday the 14th

Read: John 3:1-5; Hebrews 3:7- 4:2; and Ephesians 1:17-23

Today – we can hear His voice, believe Him, and enter into His rest! Unbelief keeps us from enjoying “the rest” of the Lord! We enter His rest through the promises. We have had good news preached to us and we must respond righteously – by faith!

Ask the Lord to soften your heart & enlighten your spiritual senses. Ask Him to open the eyes of your heart and to give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge (the knowing) of Him! Ask Him to help you SEE the kingdom and enter into His rest!

Day Seven – Sunday the 15th

Read: II Corinthians 4:13; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 27:13-14; Psalm 49:3; Psalm 104:34

Take time today to reflect & meditate on all the things the Lord has been speaking to you this week. Go back over your prayer guide & review the Scriptures. As you do this – begin to write some “faith decrees” and begin to speak them out loud, daily and often. Hold fast the confession of your faith – for He is the High Priest of your confession!

Speak the words of Psalm 103 out loud over your life. Remind your very soul what the benefits are of a life “with God” !!!!

Ps 103:1-5 – *Bless the Lord, O my soul, & all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, & forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*