



Moving God thru Prayer and Fasting Pt.2

Sunday Sermon – 1/21/2024

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

2 Chronicles 7:12-16 (NLT) "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. 13 At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. 14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 15 My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. 16 For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

Biblical Fasting is defined as voluntarily going without food and other desires to focus on prayer and fellowship with God.

God rewards fasting. **Matthew 6:17 ...your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you openly.**

2 Chronicles 7:12-16 "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices.

The Temple of God has two primary purposes.

- 1. To House God's manifested presence.**
- 2. A place where sacrifices are made by priest of God.**

In the New Testament we, (*God's chosen born-again people*), are the temple He chooses to dwell in.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, (He is in our spirit, soul and body of all of us) whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; ...therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus paid a high price to make us adequate, so that we would be suitable to house the presence of God.

All born again believers are called to be kings and priests.

Revelation 1:5-6 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...

It was the priest's job in the Old Testament to make sacrifices.

Jesus brought this right for us to be priest with His own blood, so we shouldn't take being a priest likely, but see it as a privilege.



Because we are priests, we are required to make sacrifices in the temple, or we can say with our bodies.

Making New Testament sacrifices positions us to receive from the opened Door.

4 Sacrifices New Testament priest are required to make.

1. Offering ourselves unto God as a living sacrifice

Romans 12:1 "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

We should see our daily living, as sacrificial worship to God.

2. Offer God Your Praise and thanksgiving!

Heb. 13:15 "Through Christ then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that give thanks to his name."

The sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise should be made often, no matter how we feel or what our current circumstances are.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Be thankful in all circumstances,

3. Offer God Your Material Resources

Hebrews 13:16 "And let us not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

We are to share, give generously of our material resources to God's work (the local church) and His people.

The motive and attitude we should have in our monetary giving is:

- A. Giving is a privilege:
- B. Something that we should do generously:
- C. As an expression of our commitment to God and His work:

The giving of our money represents a giving of ourselves since money represents the time and effort and creativity that we have invested in order to gain it. Such giving is also an expression of our trust in God's faithfulness to His promises Luke 6:38.

4. Offer God Your Service to Others

Heb. 13:16 "And let us not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."



The other sacrifice mentioned in **Heb. 13:16** is "doing good", "serving the most deserving".

God blesses those who does good for others.

Galatians 6:9-10 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

God is well pleased by a lifestyle of us "Doing Good" for others.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to ALL, (all that you have an opportunity to give to you should take the opportunity, when in doubt, Give) **especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

2 Chronicles 7:13-16, At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you.

The reason God would allow this to happen is because of the sins of mankind!

How this would be interpreted today is that sometimes humanity will have to reap for the bad they have sown.

Sometimes we'll even find ourselves in conditions that's not too pleasing, not because of the bad seeds that we have sown, but because of the culture that we live in or the bad seeds that those around us have sown through evil deeds and rebellion.

Their actions have affected our environment negatively.

So, it was in Israel under the rule of king Ahab. King Ahab had done wicked in the sight of the Lord; therefore, God instructed the prophet Elijah to speak a word that there would not be any rain until God said so by the voice of Elijah.

This affected all in the land of Israel and would have affected Elijah if he didn't follow the instruction given to him by God.

1 Kings 17:2, Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

When disaster struck, God had a hiding place for Elijah.

Not only did God provide for Elijah, but He would provide for others who belong to Him as well, if they obeyed His word, like the widow and her son.

1 Kings 17:15-16 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her son continued to eat for many days. 16 There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.



But even if we sow a bad seed, God says he has a remedy for that.

14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves,

The word “humble” (kana‘) means to subdue one’s pride and submit in self-denying loyalty to God and his will.

David said in **Psalms 35:13 I humbled myself with fasting;**

Some things are not going to turn around in our lives until we FAST AND PRAY!

Matthew 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Here Jesus is talking about the Disciples unbelief, their lack of faith to cast out the demon.

As we draw closer to God through fasting, our faith will increase because fasting properly is a willful sacrifice!

...and pray, simple definition of prayer is coming to God with our gratefulness and concerns, having faith that He will except and answer.

Prayer is a way we use our faith and authority here on the earth to get the resources that we need or desire from heaven.

1 John 5:14-15 (NLT) And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

and seek my face, desiring to have His Truth, Goodness, and Presence manifest where we are.

We seek His hand for what we know He can do.

We seek His face for who He is, to have an intimate encounter with Him.

...and turn from their wicked ways, Notice God says turn from the wicked ways, ways of the world.

Matthew 24:23-25 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!'"(the anointed one and/or the anointing) or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

25 See, I have told you beforehand.

The word in the Greek for Christ is “Christos” which means the anointed one and or the anointing.

Jesus said there would be False men and women who claim to be sent by God but preaching a false gospel and getting results from a false anointing.



God says for us to turn away from the wicked ways of this world.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."*

Notice, this is a scripture reference from the Old Testament that Paul is quoting to New Testament Believers.

There are certain things of the world that we cannot bring into God's temple and fellowship with God as His sons and daughters!

Turning is a sign of a repentant heart. Turning is a sign to God that we are serious about holiness!

I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

There are times that we will have to meet certain conditions for God to move. **Romans 8:28, Luke 6:38.**

15 My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. God is saying if we make some corrections, then not only will He hear our prayers, but he will give attention to what we're praying about. That means that He will answer our prayers in a favorable way.

16 For I have chosen this Temple...

Notice He said chosen, out of the 8 billion people here on the earth you are one of His chosen. Please don't take this lightly.

Notice, we said prior that the temple refers to our physical body. But it can also represent a congregation, a gathering place of believers for the presence of God to manifest in a corporate way.

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

...and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

The place where the name of Jesus is honored, and holiness is strived for, God will watch over it.

be given to him.