

Prayer and Fasting – Kingdom Principle

Mark 9: 25-29 [Amplified]

“But when Jesus noticed that a crowd [of people] came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, You dumb and deaf spirit, I charge you to come out of him and never go into him again.

26 And after giving a [hoarse, clamoring, fear-stricken] shriek of anguish and convulsing him terribly, it came out; and the boy lay [pale and motionless] like a corpse, so that many of them said, He is dead.

27 But Jesus took [a strong grip of] his hand and began lifting him up, and he stood.

28 And when He had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, Why could not we drive it out?

29 And He replied to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting”

The word in the New Testament for "fast" is "not to eat"

In the Old Testament it means "to close your mouth"

It's a fact my friends that if your mouth is closed, you can't eat, and that's what the Hebrew writers were saying

Fasting: touches upon a matter very personal to us: FOOD!

- * Many people are very dependent upon food
- * Not just for survival
- * But for dealing with anxiety, depression, boredom, etc.

Rather than eating to live - they live to eat

Now preaching on the subject of Prayer and Fasting is like preaching on the subject of Gossiping or Gluttony it often touches on raw nerves

- * Fasting is a **UNTRADITIONAL** subject - You rarely heard sermons on this subject in the past but it seems that in the past few years Fasting is become more and more a subject taught and practiced in the church – praise the Lord!

2 *The HD of God [Higher Definition]*

Those who where Lead with Gods authority and power Prayed and Fasted

- 1) Moses the leader of the Exodus – Leader of the Wilderness - Lawgiver
- 2) David the Shepherd – The King – The Giant Killer - Temple Presence - Praiser
- 3) Elijah the prophet – The Hands On – Power Walker – Miracle /Wonders Worker
- 4) Esther the queen – The For Such A Time As This Anointing
- 5) Daniel the seer – Fire Faith – Lion Den Faith - Worshiper
- 6) Anna the prophetess – Widow Faith – Holy Ghost Led – Identifier of His Presence
- 7) Jesus the Son Of God – Savior, Redeemer, Councilor – Wilderness Devil Defeater
- 8) Paul the apostle – Holy Ghost Empowered Preacher – Mentor – Church Planter
- 9) Church – A Living Organism – The DNA of God – Unity – Holy Ghost Authority

A Question came forth from the Disciples of Christ – WHY?

Mark 9: 28-29

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Why could not we drive it out?

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Spiritual immaturity can be conquered - spiritual power is available

- * Immaturity can be conquered by seeking the Presence of the Lord
- * The disciples sought to know why they failed
- * They wanted to know the cause
- * Remember: Jesus had already given them power over evil spirits, and they had already exercised such power.

They could not understand why they had failed when they had been successful before

Luke 9:1-2 (KJV)

“Then he *called* his twelve disciples *together*, and *gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.*

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick”

* By the way the instructions given by Jesus to the early disciples are needed by every generation of believers

* It is the only sure way the world can ever be reached and grounded in the Lord

Jesus called his twelve disciples together

The disciples' call was to come together for ministry

* Jesus had to call His disciples back together

* Note the word *"together"* (sugkalesamenos)

The word reveals a kingdom principle to us:

* **The basic ingredient for ministry is togetherness / Agreement**

* **Note the words, "called...together"**

* **The very thrust of the words points to the importance of coming together**

Mark 9: 28-29

“28 And when He had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, *Why could not we drive it out?*

29 And He replied to them, *This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting”*

* **They could not understand why they had failed when they had been successful before** (Mark 3:14-15 Luke 10:17)

Luke 10:17 (KJV)

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”

* Jesus gives great power to the person who truly labors for Him

* 70 Together they returned to the Lord.

The presence of God's power in the laborer's life is a wonderful thing; however, it is something that can be misunderstood and abused

* When the seventy returned, Jesus used the occasion to teach a much needed lesson on the power of God in a person's life

* The seventy returned. The testimony of their return has several significant lessons for every generation of Christian laborers.

Luke 10:17 (KJV)

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”

They returned with joy (chara)

* The word means joy and rejoicing, a heart full of gladness

* Frankly, their spirit was different from what so many express after an arduous or simply strenuous ministry

They were not sharing and reveling in...

- **how much they had done for Christ**
- **how taxing the work had been**
- **how strong the opposition and enemy had fought**

The very opposite was true

* They were filled with joy and were rejoicing in Christ over the phenomenal power of Christ's name!

* “Saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”

* They returned with astounding results—results that only came forth through the name of Christ

* The power had come through Christ's name

Acts 4:12

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”

Their shock at such power or results led to a confession of their own weakness and nothingness before Christ

- * They knew and readily confessed that the power to do the work had not come from them
- * Only the name of Christ could give genuine power and results

They returned giving glory to Christ

- * They praised Him for the glorious experience He had granted them *"through His name"*
- * They were not in any sense of the term drawing attention to themselves
- * They were lifting up Christ and praising Him

The devils were subject unto them through Christ's name

- * They returned having ministered to both body and soul
- * Men's bodies were healed (Luke 10:9)
- * People were freed spiritually when the demons and forces of evil were cast out of their lives

Luke 10:17 (KJV)

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”

Luke 10:20 (KJV)

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven”

The Christian laborer is to rejoice in his salvation - not only in his power

Note two points

1. The real basis for joy is not power, but salvation

- * The great privilege of a believer is not his work and ministry, but the fact that he is a child of God's and has been given eternal life

2. The believer's name is written down in heaven

- * Kingdom Presence settles in when Salvation is Celebrated!
- * My Friends HEAVEN is our HOME! JOY< JOY< JOY!!

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29 And He replied to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting”

- * They could not understand why they had failed when they had been successful before (Mark 3:14-15]

Mark 3:13-15 (KJV)

“And he goeth up into a mountain, and calletth unto him [Together] whom he would: and they came unto him.

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils”

- * He calls and appoints men, and He changes them
- * This is what this passage is all about: Jesus' impact upon men

The disciples were appointed to be with Jesus

- * This was the first lesson Jesus wanted to teach men: that God wants man's personal fellowship and devotion before all else
- * God willed men to *"know Him, believe Him and understand Him"* above all else (Isaiah 43:10)

A Key to kingdom presence

The disciples were *to live* in Jesus' presence, ever learning of Him and drawing their spiritual nourishment and strength from Him and His Word

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A Key to kingdom presence

The disciples were appointed to be sent forth

* They were to be His ambassadors, His representatives who moved out into the world

* They were appointed for that very purpose, to represent Him among the people of the world

A Key to kingdom presence

* The disciples were appointed to preach

* They were to be the messengers of Jesus Christ

* Jesus had a message for the world, and they were to proclaim His message to the world

A Key to kingdom presence

* The disciples were appointed to receive power—the power to minister and to heal sicknesses and to cast out devils

A Key to kingdom presence

* Conversion— Transformation

* The disciples were men changed by Jesus

* But it is critical to keep in mind that each man had to be willing to be changed

* One was not willing, Judas Iscariot

* Jesus called them all, but only the ones willing to be changed were changed

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Immaturity can be conquered by prayer and fasting

Jesus pointed to one thing: the disciples were not living close enough to God

They were not praying and fasting enough, not seeking Him enough, not putting Him before food and other things

They were taking time for other things, taking time to eat, but not taking time for God.

God must be depended upon so much that food and everything else are set aside in order to seek Him.

*** A man's heart must sometimes crave God so much that food and all else are set aside to seek Him.**

Conclusion

*** It has been well said that prayer is not preparation for the battle - prayer IS the battle**

*** Of all the things we can do to enhance the power and focus of prayer, fasting is doubtless the most potent.**

*** This is where the power is at, because fasting puts us in harmony with an All Powerful God who demands humility from those who wish to be close to Him.**

*** When it is done for that purpose, it pleases the Spirit of God**

*** You can go a certain distance in God, and experience many things, without fasting much, but the highest, richest and most powerful blessings always go to those who together with other disciplines, fast much unto God**

Fasting is not magic, nor does it twist the arm of God

*** God wants to do many amazing things, but He looks for those willing to urgently make the corrections needed to come into line with him**

*** God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble**

*** Successful fasting is also the fastest way to learn patience**

*** It takes patience and endurance to fast for more than a day**

Fasting gives you God's focus for your life

*** It is a major key to hearing God's voice (the other is true worship - the two are related)**

*** We need focus from God more than anything**

*** The world we live in is working overtime to distract us, to entice us, to win our hearts and minds, our focus, and to determine our vision**

*** Fasting cuts out the world so we can tune into God**

*** If we are obedient to God fasting will make us catalysts for revival and awakening.**