

Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.
“The City of Faith”
Beginning of the Year – 21 Days Fast
January 3 – 24, 2021

CORPORATE TIME OF FASTING:

From January 3RD through January 24th, the members and friends of CMBC (The City of Faith) will honor the Lord in our annual 21 days fast. During this time, we will consecrate ourselves by uniting in a special time of Fasting and Praying. **If you have medical conditions or concerns, please consult your doctor before altering your diet.**

Our fast is designed so that everyone can participate. Jesus said in Matthew 17:21, ***“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”***

There are certain miracles that will not be produced without prayer and fasting. For these 21 days, I’m asking members and friends to select one of the **“Four Kinds of Fast”** that work for you. I’m also asking 21 people to volunteer too fast for a 24-hour period. Each person will select one whole day to fast (days will be assigned to make sure we cover all 21 days). This will represent a continuous 21 days **absolute fast** for the church. I’m asking all to set aside a special time during the day to read your Bible and pray. I have included recommended scriptures to read during our fast. During our 21 days of fasting and praying, some of you have already eliminated certain foods from your diet. If certain foods have already been eliminated from your diet, please choose a food that you feel you just cannot do without. Remember, liquids are not considered solid food, but it is permissible to do without these liquids (coffee, drinks, sodas, etc.) during your fast if you choose.

Isaiah 58:6-8, ***“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy re-reward.”***

What is Fasting?

Fasting is the practice of abstaining from food either completely or partially, for a specified period. Normal fasting is not abstaining from fluids, but only solid food. There is a basic parallel between fasting and praying. You can pray individually or corporately. You can pray at a set time each day or special times when led by the Holy Spirit.

Four Kinds of Fasting

- **Normal Fast** – Going without food for a definite period. The duration can be 12 hours, 24 hours, 3 days, 7 days, one month, or 40 days. You can drink water (liquid) during this fast.
- **Absolute Fast** – Going without food and water (liquid). This should be for a short time. Be sure the Holy Spirit leads you if you try to go longer.
- **Partial Fast** – This is omitting one meal a day or omitting certain foods for a certain period.
- **Rotational Fast** – This involves avoiding certain foods periodically. Various foods are rotated, so that some food is available each day.

Recommended scriptures to read during the fast:

Day 1 through 7 –

Psalms 2:7-8 says, “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession.”

Day 8 through 14 –

Isaiah 40:8-9, “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!”

Joel 2:11, “And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”

Day 15 through 21 –

Job 42:10-12, “And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.”

Fasting is more than diet adjustment; it involves spiritual persistence and intercession. For a meaningful fast, you must not only do without food, but you must also persist in prayer. You can set a time each day to pray or be led by the Holy Spirit as to your time to pray. **YOU MUST PRAY EACH DAY.** I recommend keeping a journal of your 21 days fast. Each day, write down what God speaks into your heart.

WHAT WE ARE FASTING FOR:

- To see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living
- To see a divine reset and turnaround
- To see those who hunger after God being filled
- To see systemic racism eradicated
- To see justice for all
- To see an end to the corona virus

This past year of 2020 (Jewish year 5780) has not been what we expected. It's hard not to confess the circumstances that we see. But as believers we are to **declare God's goodness in the land of the living!**

On September 18, 2020 we entered the new Hebraic year of 5781. I believe that this will be a year of fullness and new beginnings. Eight (8) represents new beginnings and 1 represents the unity of the Godhead, the eternal One.

The year 5781 will mark the beginning of many firsts. The things that God formed in eternity will be brought forth into the earth for such a time as this. We will see and experience a divine reset and turnaround.

Now watch this, the Jewish year started on September 18th. September is the 9th month and 18 is double 9's. The 9 represents fullness of time and birthing. We have experienced many birth pains this past year and still experiencing them. But, God has heard our groaning. We have seen things turned upside down in many areas of our lives, but I believe God is going to turn things around. We shall receive our inheritance!

Psalm 2:7-8 says, *"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession."*

There is a certain prophetic significance in this time of wearing face masks. But don't let the devil muzzle your voice. Remember what Joel 2:11 says, *"And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"*

God wants your voice to be amplified, not muffled or silenced in this coming year. Isaiah 40:8-9 (NKJV) says: *"...The word of our God stands forever. O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength. Lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'"*

Determine in the coming season and year to lift up your voice like a trumpet. Lift up your voice with **STRENGTH!**

Hebrews 12:1, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and **the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."*

Please notice that I have highlighted in Hebrews 12:1 the words **"the sin which doth so easily BESET us."** Many Christians are helpless victims of "besetting sins." I must tell you that "besetting sins" are not common sins of neglect or momentary lapse. They are not sins of rebellion, in which God says, Thou shalt not, and the person says, "I will" in His face. Besetting sins are habitual sinful behaviors or attitudes that victimize and enslave people. Besetting sins make you a slave and take away your will. You say, "I can't help myself!" You're forced to play a game you cannot win. You hate the game... you hate playing the game... you end up hating your life. You want to stop, but somehow you cannot.

Any sin that cannot be broken with ordinary "willpower" can be termed a "besetting sin." Some Christians are in bondage to Alcohol, Gossip, Drugs, Tobacco, Works of the Flesh, Lying, Sex, Eating and/or Back-Biting.

Besetting sins beset us because we believe Satan's lies. He lies to us about sin and we believe him instead of God. Satan gets us to believe one of the following:
"I tried before, but could not break it."

"I don't want to do this, but I can't help it."

"I need an answer, but I can't find it."

I want you to understand that your temptation is not unique; Satan is saying the same thing to others as well. God promised in 1 Cor. 10:13, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

Types of Fasting

As we go on our 21 days fast, I want to briefly explain several types of fasting. There are many types of fasting in the Bible. I do not want to suggest that the types I’m listing are the only fasts for particular problems.

The Disciple’s Fast – Matthew 17:21, *“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”* The purpose of the Disciple’s Fast is “to loose the bands of wickedness.” This fast frees others and us from addiction to sin.

The Ezra Fast – Ezra 8:23, *“So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.”* The purpose of the Ezra Fast is “to solve problems.” We invite the Holy Spirit to aid in lifting loads and overcoming barriers that keep us and our loved one from walking joyfully with the Lord.

The Samuel Fast – 1 Samuel 7:6, *“And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.”* The purpose of the Samuel Fast is “to let the oppressed go free (physically and spiritually).” We pray for revival and soul winning.

The Elijah Fast – 1 Kings 19:4-8, *“But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”* The purpose of the Elijah Fast is “to break every yoke.” The fast is to conquer the mental and emotional problems that control our lives.

The Daniel Fast – Daniel 1:8, *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”* The purpose of the Daniel Fast is “so thine health shall spring forth.” You are fasting to gain a healthier life or for healing. **The following are types of foods you should eat if you select the Daniel fast: Whole grains, legumes, fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts, soy protein, water, all natural fruits or vegetable juices (100%).**

John the Baptist Fast – Luke 1:15, *“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.”* The purpose of this fast is “that your testimonies and influence for Jesus will be enhanced before others.”

The Paul’s Fast – Acts 9:9, *“And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.”* The purpose of this fast is “to allow God’s light to break forth like the morning...” bring clearer perspective and insight as we make crucial decisions.

The Esther Fast – Esther 4:16, 5:2, *“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will*

fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.” The purpose of the fast is “so that the glory of the Lord will protect us from the evil one.”

I want to personally thank all of you who have taken the time to participate in these 21 days of fasting. My prayer for you is that God will bless you abundantly in 2021. I pray that God will renew your **HOPE** in Him and lead you in **NEW PATHS** of ministry and service to Him.

Bishop Dr. William Davenport, Senior Pastor