

“The Weapon of Fasting and Prayer” Esther 4:15-16

Fasting is going _____ for a period to time in order to seek GOD.

- I. If you were the Prince of Darkness**, what would you do to thwart GOD’s Plan to Reach and Bless the Peoples of the Earth? Would you,
- discredit the _____? - take over the schools, the government, the media?
 - _____ the role of the Holy Spirit? - destroy _____? - divide people?
 - _____ a whole generation of Americans? - lull the Church into _____?
 - tell GOD’s People that _____ does not work? - _____ every Jew on the planet?

II. The Crisis in Persia

1. Persian King, _____ (Hebrew) ... Xerxes (Greek name) ruled 486 to 465 B.C (Xerxes succeeded _____ the Great) This account of Esther is over a _____, 483-473 B.C.
2. Ahasuerus removed his wife, Queen Vashti, from her position because of a _____ disagreement. **Ch.1** His advisors recommended a _____ to find the most beautiful woman in the Persian Empire.
3. Amazingly, an orphaned, _____, Esther, was selected to be the new Queen of Persia. **Ch.2** It was clearly the _____ of GOD that put her there.
4. Her adopted father, _____, intervened in an _____ plot to take out the King, thereby saving his life. (Hand of GOD) **Ch.2**
5. Mordecai angered the Prime Minister, Haman, because he refused to _____ in the presence of this powerful man. **Ch. 3** Haman was an _____, (Agagite) – a people group that hated the Jews for over _____. Ex.17:8-16, Deut. 25:17-10, 1 Sam. 15
6. To get revenge on the Jews, and to _____ their great wealth, the wicked Haman concocted a plot to kill all the Jews, throughout the _____ of the Persian Empire, on one deadly day. He tricked the King into signing the edict. **Ch. 3** The expensive and futile wars against the _____ (481-479 B.C.) made this action more appealing to Xerxes. The names of the intended victims were _____ by Hamann.
7. Mordecai got word to Esther in the palace about the plot. He told her that because of the _____ that GOD placed her in, she was the _____ that could save her people. **Ch.4**
8. If Esther _____ Xerxes without him calling her, she could be killed on the spot. If she _____ approach the King, all her people would die, and she would die, too. **4:13-17** Esther asked Mordecai to call the Jews of Susa to _____ for 3 days before she acted. Only GOD could deliver them all.

III. What Fasting and Prayer Does:

1. Fasting and Prayer are the very _____ to take in the midst of a crisis.

Esther 4:15-16 Are you in a crisis right now? Do you have somewhere else to _____? Fasting is a heart-felt _____ to the ONE that possesses all power.

2. Fasting makes one more _____ to the Voice of GOD. A _____ of Prayer and Fasting will accelerate this. Luke 2:36-38
3. Fasting requires _____, which draws the Presence of GOD. Heb. 11:6 There are times when fasting is _____. But sometimes it is _____.
4. Fasting with _____ pushes the pause button, which makes everything _____. This produces _____, and fuels _____ for GOD. Acts 13:1-5
* _____ make an important decision without Fasting and Prayer.
5. Fasting will bring a _____. Are you stuck? Lost hope? **Important:** You cannot determine the _____ of your breakthrough, or _____ it will come, or _____ GOD uses. When you get the answer is _____ of your business. Your business is _____, with Solitude. The breakthrough is GOD's _____.
6. Fasting _____ GOD because HE sees that you finally are ready to repent, _____ and obey HIM. 1 Kings 21:25-29 Going without food shows GOD that you are _____.
7. Fasting produces _____. Luke 4:1,14, Matthew 9:14, 11:11 Do you have addictions? Is your _____ out of control? 1 Cor. 9:27
8. Fasting is about _____. IF the Holy Spirit is calling you to Fast and Pray because the issues are critical, and if you then _____ HIM, the Window of Opportunity _____ forever.

IV. The Miraculous Outcome: Chapters 5-10

V. For 7 weeks, Church of the Savior is fasting on Fridays to seek GOD's Presence.

1. You can fast _____ that you are led. You can switch days. You can miss one meal, or two, or three meals per day. You can fast for one 24-hour period, or go _____. But try to stay on a _____ for 7 weeks.
2. Use the _____ that you would normally eat for extra time in the Word and for prayer. Keep a _____ for what HE seems to be saying to you.
3. Find a _____ to pray with. (very helpful) Watch for GOD to work.

Recommended Books:

"Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough" – Elmer Townes

"The Transforming Power of Fasting and Prayer" – Bill Bright

"The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting" - Mahesh Chavda

