

The Word Of
VICTORY



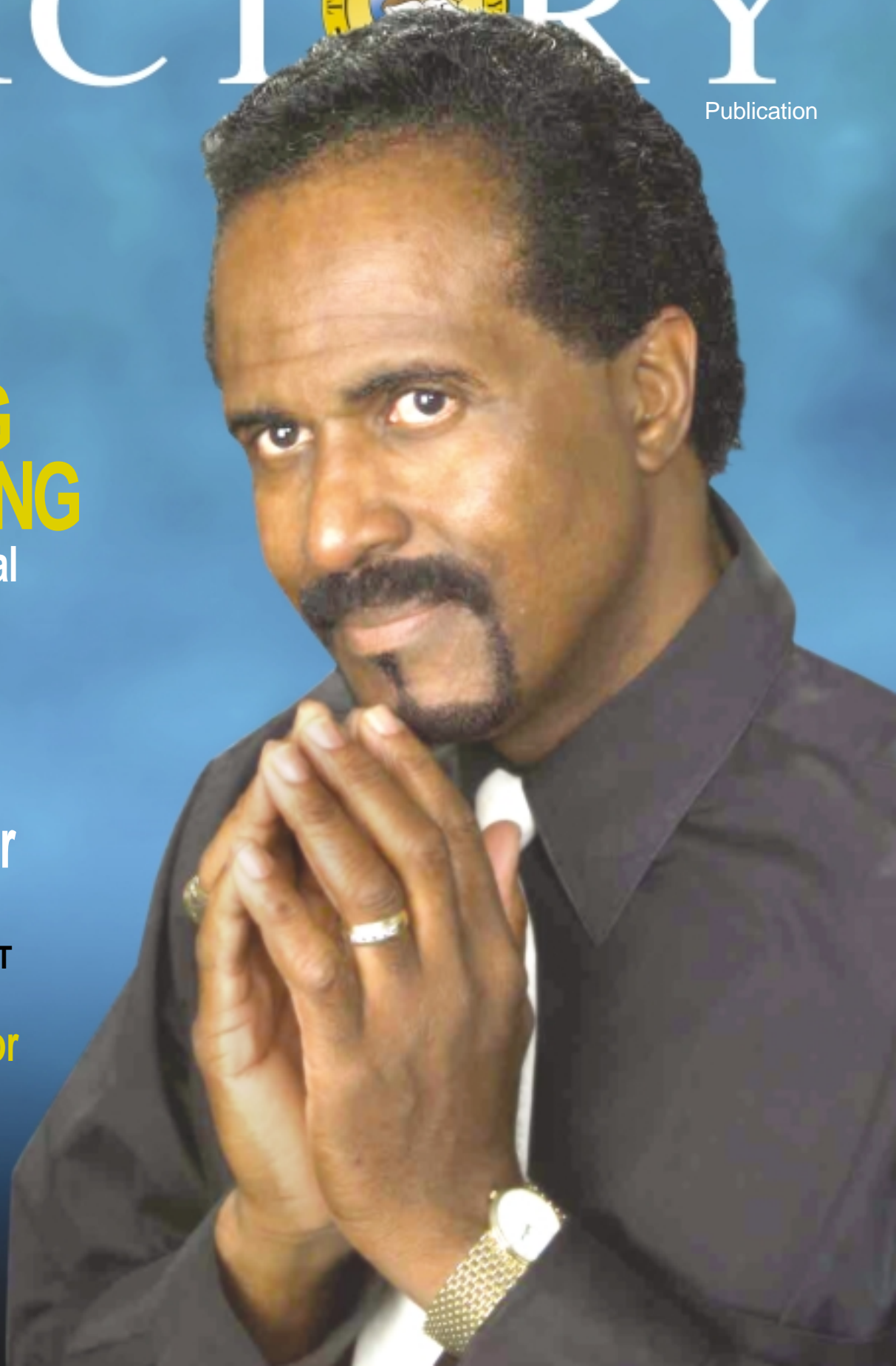
Publication

**FASTING
& PRAYING**

Tools to Spiritual
Warfare

DONNA'S D-LITES
Giving Honor

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT
Marriage Fellowship:
**A Foundation for
Your Marriage**





THE WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOMMY & MONIQUE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not selfseeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

I thee Tommy Frederick Pickens III, son of Tom and Donna Pickens, plan to join in holy matrimony Monique Anette Anderson, daughter of Mark and Anette Anderson, on the sixteenth day of July in the year of 2005 in the beautiful city of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Monique and I are so excited about our Godly decision to share the rest of our lives establishing God's Kingdom together. We are joining in God's love and in the love that we possess for one another. This life-long decision that we look forward to making on July 16, 2005, will spark the beginning of a new season for us, and we are so excited about sharing it with you.

Living in God's Love,

Tommy Pickens and Monique Anderson



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Fasting & Praying: Tools to Spiritual Warfare

"We must look beyond the things of this world in order to deal with spiritual warfare, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds." - 2 Cor 10:4 -



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ABOUT THE COVER:

"But thou, when thou prayest enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

- Psalm 75:6-7 -

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FASTING & PRAYING: Tools To Spiritual Warfare

by: Pastor Tom Pickens

There are many misunderstandings about fasting as it relates to the believer within the secular sense of the world. We all know of individuals such as Dick Gregory and Mahatma Gandhi who performed what are now famous fasts. People fast for varying and different causes and purposes; however, the believer's fast is not and should not be the same as those who fast within the secular arena. As believers, we shouldn't fast to gain the attention of mankind; rather we are to fast unto God. When we fast our appearance should not be one of misery as if to draw the attention of others. The Bible says that we are to anoint our face. So, put on your cologne or perfume and begin your day with a cheerful countenance.

Fasting is a tool God has given us to use in spiritual warfare. We do not fast to get God to move on our behalf, any more than we get baptized to be saved. Baptism is an outward identification with an inward grace. If you don't have the grace on the inside, then there is nothing for you to identify with on the outside.

Jesus is your example. He didn't fast and pray for His own edification. Jesus fasted and prayed to show us how to perform spiritual warfare.

Baptism is a work. If baptism alone could save us, then we might as well call the fire department, have them plug up the water hoses, and let's just cover everyone with water. Baptism alone will not get anyone into heaven, just as fasting alone will not get God to move on our behalf.

Prayer and fasting go hand in hand like wet and water—like faith and love. God tells us in His Word that we should pray for what we need. Ephesians 6 offers key scripture to help us understand the significance of prayer and fasting. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:10, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Paul used the word “wrestle” to connote a struggle. Therefore, if our contention, or our struggle, is not against flesh and blood, then it must be against spiritual entities.

We must look beyond the things of this world in order to deal with spiritual warfare, “for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds,” (2 Cor 10:4). Our

struggle is not with the things of this world. Paul says that we are to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to withstand against the enemy. He tells us to dress or prepare ourselves with the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteousness. We are to gird our loins with truth and to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. And finally, Paul directs us to take the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. All of these weapons Paul speaks of are

Prayer and fasting go hand in hand like wet and water—like faith and love.

spiritual weapons to be used against the enemy. But there are yet two more powerful spiritual weapons which Paul mentions in different passages of scripture. They are prayer and fasting.

When we go into battle, we should desire to use everything in our arsenal. Well, my friend, God has already supplied our every need. I don't know if you ever thought about this, but Jesus began His ministry when He was approximately 30 years old. He ministered for three years upon the earth before He ultimately offered His life for all mankind; and yet, before

Jesus ever ventured into His ministry, He saw the necessity to fast and pray.

Jesus did not enter into His ministry before He was anointed and even then, not before He had spent much time in prayer and fasting. Before Jesus performed the first miracle, He disciplined Himself and by doing so He gained authority and control over the flesh. This is significant for us to understand because before we embark upon any momentous task which will render Satan's kingdom weak, we must first fast and pray. Why? Because Jesus did! Jesus is our example of how to perform spiritual warfare. What do you think He did up on that mountain for 40 days and nights? Jesus was submitted before His heavenly Father. He fellowshiped with the Father through fasting and prayer, and as a result, He gained authority, control and discipline over the flesh.

Jesus was without sin, but this does not mean that He couldn't sin. In order for sin to have been a valid temptation, Jesus had to be capable of sin. The Bible says He was tested, tempted, and tried in every way—just as you and I are—yet He sinned not. In Luke 4:1-2 we learn that prior to Jesus entering into His earthly ministry He saw the need to spend time in prayer and fasting. “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the

When you learn to properly and effectively **discipline your flesh** through fasting and prayer, then your battles will have already been won.

wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.” Jesus’ hunger had no influence on His discipline of the flesh because He had consecrated Himself through prayer and fasting. Jesus dedicated Himself to the cause for which He was before the Father. Therefore, when the enemy came to tempt Him, Jesus was full of the Word and the power of God.

After the forty days, the devil came to tempt Jesus with food, fame and authority. Satan knew that Jesus’ flesh was weak at that point and that was when the enemy tried his best to undo everything that Jesus had already done. But Jesus was already victorious simply because He had prepared Himself through prayer and fasting and He had within Him the Word of God. My friend, you can have that same victory in Christ! Jesus is your example. He didn’t fast and pray for His own edification. Jesus fasted and prayed to show us how to perform spiritual warfare. I am convinced that for everything Jesus was to experience throughout His earthly ministry, He had already dealt with those things through prayer and fasting.

In Matthew 17:14 a man brought his devil possessed son to the Disciples for healing; however, the Disciples were unable to help him. Then the man approached Jesus who rebuked the devil which then departed the child. The Disciples asked Jesus, “Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said

unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” When Jesus said “this kind” He was referring to a particular type of spiritual warfare that can only be resolved through prayer and fasting.

We must understand that there are varying classifications of spiritual warfare. The Word says, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Therefore, we must use varying levels of spiritual weapons to be victorious in our spiritual battles.

Going before the Lord in prayer and fasting enables us to deal with adversity before adversity deals with us. It is very important that we live a fasting lifestyle in order to gain control over the flesh. You must be willing to do what is needed so that you may receive the greater anointing. You must give more of yourself to the Lord. There will be times when you must deny yourself the comfort and pleasure of food so that you may discipline your emotions, mind and soul to move into a greater sense of responsibility in the things of God. When you learn to properly and effectively discipline your flesh through fasting and prayer, then your battles will have already been won. ✝

Donna's D-Lites

by: Minister Donna Pickens

Friends, did you know that when you honor someone, whether it be a spouse, your pastor or the Lord, you make a decision that this person is special and important? We learn from the Word of God that honor is not something that is earned, but was given as an act of grace to someone who didn't deserve it. In other words, as Romans 5:8 says,

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

How blessed we are that God loves us so much that He saw us *worth* honoring. What a privilege! What an honor! Should we then honor “Him” any less with our lives? My answer to this question is “absolutely not!!”



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ON Prayer & Fasting



“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this; and He answered our prayer.”
- Ezra 8:23 -

Q. What should be my appearance when fasting?

A. As unto the Lord. Therefore, do not go around with a gaunt or distressed physical appearance drawing attention to the fact that you are fasting. Through prayer and fasting you find strength in God. So the next time you fast, allow the light of Christ within you to shine. (Reference Mat 6:16-18)

Q. How long should I fast?

A. Set a time with God and then honor it, for He will certainly honor you for being faithful to that which you have committed to do.

Q. If I don't fast, will it prevent me from growing spiritually, hearing from God, or receiving answers to my prayers?

A. Absolutely not, but we may find our sensitivity to what God is doing in our lives heightened as a result of fasting. Therefore, we may also be more ready for spiritual challenges we may encounter.

Q. How do I prepare myself to fast?

A. Pray. You must mentally and spiritually prepare yourself to be cleansed and awoken to God's power. This is why fasting and prayer are often linked in the Bible. Pray that you don't become angry or testy because you cannot eat certain things during your time of fasting. Remember that this act isn't about what you cannot have, but rather about what God says you CAN have through fasting and prayer: every yoke broken. (Isaiah 58:6)

Q. Should I tell people when I am fasting?

A. The goal of fasting is not to broadcast your actions, but rather to spiritually arm yourself against the attacks of Satan in your life. Therefore, it is not necessary to announce your fast to people. However, if someone inquires about your eating habits, it is okay to reveal that you are fasting. You can use this opportunity to witness and share God's Word.

Q. I know fasting has spiritual benefits, but what are some of the health benefits of fasting?

A. Fasting regularly gives your body organs a rest, helping to reverse the aging process and live a longer and healthier life. Fasting can help you heal with greater speed; cleanse the liver, kidneys, and colon; purify your blood; help you lose excess weight and water; flush out toxins; clear the eyes and tongue; and cleanse bad breath. It is recommended that you fast at least three days a month, and follow a ten-day fast at least twice a year. Consult your doctor first.

Q. Can the type and length of fast make a difference?

A. A three-day juice, water and tea fast helps the body rid itself of toxins and cleanses the blood. A five-day juice, water and tea fast begins the process of healing and rebuilding the immune system. A ten-day juice, water and tea fast can take care of many problems before they arise and help fight off illness, including degenerative diseases that have become so common in our chemically polluted environment. Any fast over three days should be under the care of a qualified health care professional.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

AVCC Marriage Fellowship:

A Foundation For Your Marriage
by: Courtney Bessent

On a sunny Saturday morning in February, while most are sleeping in or lounging around the house, the ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Palmdale, CA, is alive with love and sounds of laughter.

It is the year's first AVCC Marriage Fellowship entitled "Calling All Lovebirds." Every quarter, the wedded couples (and those officially engaged) assemble to enjoy each others' company and learn more about Christian marriage. Much like previous Marriage Fellowships, this event promises to be wonderfully informative and lots of fun.

One of the first couples to arrive, Willie and Alice Gaines, are festively dressed in matching red and white outfits. As new members of AVCC, they are excited about the Marriage Fellowship. "It was my husband's idea and after all these years, he still has romance," says Alice. Married for 41 years, Alice and Willie believe that couples have to be proactive in the success of their relationships and families. They are thrilled that this ministry focuses on marriage and celebrating God's love for them as well as their love for each other.

Newlyweds Walter and Delia Thornton are also in attendance and are happy to share the aspects of the seminars they enjoy. Delia tells us how much she liked previous seminars, like the one in which blended

families are taught how to communicate, and how much she and Walter are looking forward to today's seminar. "It does help our relationship to actually learn how to communicate with one another and how to have a closer walk, not just with the Lord, but within ourselves," Delia says.

The AVCC Marriage Fellowship exists to give couples an opportunity to learn and grow in their marriages in accordance with the Word of God. The environment created by the Marriage Fellowship does more than teach the Godly concepts of marriage; it also provides encouragement and friendship to couples by giving them Godly support through other married couples.

As the event continues to unfold, it is clear that the couples in attendance at today's event are ready to be further edified where their marriages are concerned. Having completed a delicious, plentiful breakfast, everyone settles in and opens their Bibles in anticipation of the Word being brought forth. Pastor Juan Juarez of Valley Faith Fellowship in Delano, CA, has been asked to deliver the message today. The topic of each Marriage Fellowship varies, but on this day, curiously close to Valentine's Day, Pastor Juarez chooses to speak on 'The Foundation of Your Marriage.'

The AVCC Marriage Fellowship exists to give couples an opportunity to **learn** and **grow** in their marriages in accordance with the Word of God.

“I want to share some things this morning that I believe will be helpful to you, things that will help your marriage. How many need help in their marriage? How many want their marriage to be better? How many want to understand your mate?” he asks. The room rumbles with ‘Amen.’ “Let me tell you something,” he continues. “You have to understand certain things from the Word of God; learn how to understand each other and learn how to live with each other.” Pastor Juarez presents some very valuable, very Godly ideas to help establish a strong marriage foundation. Take a look at the ideas listed below and allow them to comfort and guide you.

The most important thing that you can do is have a strong foundation.

Those couples concerned with having a strong foundation for their marital relationship must recognize God’s place in the center of it. There has to be a place where people come together in their lives, do God’s Word, and stay in the Word. If two people come together under the umbrella of the name of Jesus and the Word of God, He can work anything out.

In the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 24:3-6 says that a man of knowledge increases strength and there is safety in the multitude of counselors. We must seek the counsel of God to build a strong foundation. When you’re under stress and experiencing heavy burdens in your marriage, God may say something to you through someone else that has the Word to help

you, but that Word can’t help if you are unwilling to receive it.”

It’s vitally important to follow God’s Word if we’re going to enjoy all that He has for us.

Today we live in a world where people don’t know how to define family or marriage. Today we live in a world where anything goes and society tells us that homosexuality is okay, lesbianism is okay, and if two people live together it’s okay, just as long as they love each other. That’s not what God said. God defined marriage and a family as a man and a woman married together. You must learn to deal to with that in accordance with the Word of God and realize that love is more than just what most people call lust. Lust is not love.

Five things that you need to know to keep your marriage going in the direction God wants it to go.

1. Value Your Relationship.

With God all things are possible and when two people are willing to value each other, to value the marriage institution, God can bless it. God can bring a fulfillment in your life that is stronger than anything else.

2. Remove Selfish Ambitions.

Marriage is only going to work if two people together give themselves wholly to each other. The only surety is the Word of God; the only surety is Jesus Christ. If you’ve entered into your marriage with the wrong motive, search yourself and ask that God change it now. Ask for the success and

growth of your marriage for the right reasons—the reasons God intended.

3. Control Unforgiveness, Resentment & Bitterness.

Past hurts, abuses, and pain can cause people to close up and destroy many homes and marriages. You’re going to face challenges in your Christian walk; but take the Word of God and renew your mind. Don’t let bitterness, unforgiveness and resentment prevent you from receiving counsel. The blood of Jesus Christ and the word of your testimony will strengthen you to overcome the trials of your marriage.

4. Beware of Ungodly Relationships and Associations.

If you want to talk to someone about your marriage, find a Godly person who knows how to pray and intercede and knows the Word of God. Don’t ask people who are not in the Word of God for advice on your marriage. Someone who has the same problems as you in the world may not help you to strive for excellence and goodness in your marriage. The Bible asks, “What fellowship has light with darkness?” Your marriage should be the same way.

5. Avoid Strife and Contention.

Seek things that you can change in yourself, not what you can change in your spouse. We must also remember that a soft answer turns away wrath. Deal with your mate gently and understand that how you say something is just as important as what you say. ✝



HOW TO PRAY: COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

by: Deborah D. Sullivan Ford and Courtney Bessent

There are some who view prayer as stiff and regimented—and they would be wrong. Prayer is a special time of communing with the Lord. There are no specific words or incantations to recite when we pray; however, the Bible clearly defines *how* we are to pray. Matthew 6:5-8 assures us that we don't need to be in the presence of others to pray. We are, in fact, to pray in secret; not openly broadcasting our actions.

Prayer is simply communicating with God; and when you speak to God it should be from your heart. It is this connection we make with God that builds our spiritual strength. Jesus knew this better than anyone. In Luke 11:1-4, when the Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus responded by telling them what we more commonly refer to as the Lord's Prayer. If you have not already memorized the Lord's Prayer, then I invite you to read it at this time before you continue reading this article. This will help to enhance your understanding of how to pray.

The Lord's Prayer is perhaps one of the most memorized scriptures in the Bible; yet there are some people who may not fully comprehend or appreciate what Jesus offered the Disciples then, and what He offers us today through this prayer.

The Disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and that's exactly what Jesus did. First Jesus showed that we should begin prayer by honoring God with praises and humbling ourselves before Him. Next, He taught us to understand that even by faith if we ask things of the Lord that are not in accordance with His will, that it is His will which reigns supreme.

Next, we are to seek nourishment from the Lord to help us live fruitful lives pleasing unto Him. Our daily bread is the feeding ourselves of His Word, the roof over our heads, the clothing on our backs, the comfort and protection we feel at home with our families, and it is the nourishment on our tables. It encompasses those things which allow us to want for nothing and be free to worship the Lord God.

Then, Jesus teaches us that we are to release the burdens placed upon us by others. By releasing the burdens, we allow ourselves to be more available for God to move on our behalf. Next, we are to seek God's protection from the weaknesses of our flesh and the snares of the enemy. When we seek Him through prayer, the temptations and stresses of the world have no hold on us.

Finally, the Lord's Prayer says, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Here in the closing of this passage of scripture, we are taught to acknowledge God's sovereignty and omnipotence. Often times, when we experience challenges in our daily lives, we will turn to God in prayer, yet allow worry and fear to settle in. But, God already knows what we have need of before we ask Him. (Matthew 6:8) Therefore, when you seek the Father in prayer, trust Him, release your burdens to Him, and have mustard seed faith that you have already received what you are believing and praying for.

The Lord's Prayer isn't about the exact wording so much as the instruction of what to be mindful of when we pray. The devil knows the power of prayer and is delighted when we become too busy or too anxious to go humbly before God in prayer. The Bible says, "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24) This means we have a direct and private line to God at all times. So if the question remains, "How do I pray?" The answer is pray with an open heart, a willing mind, free of anger and resentment toward others, seeking protection from the troubles of this world, expecting favor through God's grace, remembering to uplift His holy name. ✝

WORDforce KIDS



DI-ST-RAC-T-I-O-N



Steps to Fasting

1. Decide what is keeping you from God.
2. Decide how long you will fast from it.
3. Pray and ask God to help you succeed.

F.A.S.T.

- Follow the directions. Then write the remaining words on the line to help you remember what fasting helps you do:
- Cross out words that rhyme with jump**
- Cross out all color words**
- Cross out all animals**
- Cross out all words starting with the "k" sound**

flee	thump	rat	cat
orange	all	blue	bump
dump	carpet	Satan's	green
yellow	bird	cut	tricks

Answer: Flee all Satan's tricks



Distraction means paying attention to one thing when you are supposed to be doing something else. You know when you are supposed to be doing homework but Cartoon Network is playing your favorite program, so you sneak a quick peek...for 3 hours. Well God does not want you to be distracted from Him or His Word (the BIBLE), so He wants us to fast. No, we are not talking about running. We are talking about not doing something you really like to do so that you can do something that God really wants you to do. Whew!! We can fast from food, T.V., video games, or candy. Whatever is keeping you from growing stronger in Jesus is worth fasting. Daniel and his three friends ate only vegetables and water for ten days. No meat, no candy, and no ice cream. After ten days, it was discovered that they were stronger, smarter and had more energy than everybody else. They also pleased God and He gave them the best jobs in the kingdom. (Read Daniel 1:1-21)

Fast and Pray

D	F	D	G	F	K	S	C	N	B
N	L	A	H	A	U	N	Y	P	C
E	B	D	S	S	K	V	R	I	R
I	X	I	E	T	G	A	M	E	S
R	L	J	B	H	Y	U	X	O	X
F	O	Z	L	L	D	O	O	F	F
R	Q	T	Q	W	E	F	Z	O	N

FRIEND BIBLE PRAY GAMES
FAST JESUS FOOD

funny bone Zone

Issues, issues, issues, issues, issues, issues, issues, issues, issues, issues:

- Q.** What do you need next?
A. If you have ten issues, then you need socks.
- Q.** How can you tell when Ronald McDonald is in the shoe store?
A. Because he has golden arches.

Knock, knock.
 Who's there?
 Kiwi.
 Kiwi who?
 Kiwi come in, it's cold outside?!

- Q.** What does a 30 pound rat say?
A. Here kitty, kitty!

Hey kids! We need your cool jokes and riddles.

Send your jokes and riddles to:
 Word Force Kids
 c/o AVCC
 304 W. Lancaster Blvd.
 Lancaster, CA 93534

Please include your name and age!



Were you at Winter Camp? If you were, you know we had a slammin' time up in Big Bear!

The fun filled weekend started out with riding the bus through a winding road all the way up the mountain. Looking over steep cliffs and seeing the great view was a bit too scary for some but many of us enjoyed the adventure. Thanks to the awesome bus driver, we arrived safely.

Once we got there, we quickly settled into our cabins so we could go to the mess hall and stuff our faces with all the pizza we could eat! (By the way, the food was very good.) There was always more than enough, especially for the guys with big appetites.

Every night we had a devotion and discussion time that helped us to grow spiritually. A lot of us never really had deep conversations about God before and it was really great. Brenton Lee enjoyed devotion because he liked the message that Mr. Z spoke about Joseph and how you can have faith in whatever vision God brings to you. We also had late nights every night full of crazy comical chats. This was a time we all just let go, and we found out how hilarious everyone was. Finally we got some zzz's when the Youth Leader told us to get to sleep or clean the bathrooms. Ugh!

Saturday afternoon was one of the highlights of the weekend! We went to this place that had a big hill of snow and slid down in an inner tube! For hours we screamed and laughed our heads off as we were on

our way to the bottom of the hill. For some of us it was our first time in the snow and facing our fear of heights made the experience even more exciting.

Saturday night we had a powerful service that began with an awesome time of praise and worship. Many of us were very touched by the Spirit of God. The message Minister LeMarcus gave was like no other. We learned about who we are in Christ, and that whatever Jesus was been given by the Father, we have too. We have all the promises, blessings and abilities that Jesus has!

There were also some crazy games we played like the "No Fear Factor." At one point, one person from each team was challenged to pick nine pieces of licorice out of a bowl filled with pickled pigs feet! Disss-gust-ing!! We were allowed to only use our mouth and had to wear a blindfold! Could it have been any more gross?!!



There was also a battle to see who was the tightest dancer at camp. Some danced, some rapped, and others showed off their breakdance moves. The competition was tough but they tore it up! In Kameelah's words "Brenton got em;" Translation: Brenton won the dance contest.

Wait! Hold up! I almost forgot about Take 5! Yeah we took out 5 minutes to have a Bible Study, 5 minutes to pray and 5 minutes to implement what we learned. Strange enough 5 minutes really does make a difference! I never knew that in such a short time I could get closer to God and gain a whole new perspective on the way God looks at things. This was really cool.

Overall, Winter Camp far exceeded our expectations. We all made good friends, and grew closer to the friends we already had. God blessed us with a real understanding of who He is and who we are in Him. I wouldn't trade the experiences that I had at camp and I can't wait until the next time I go! ✝



winter camp!



Hope to see you at Summer Camp!



listen up!

by: Blake Young

Cross Movement Higher Definition

Takin' it to another level this is definitely a capstone in the cross movement legacy. The critically acclaimed group that needs no introduction are at the top of their game. With reliable hits you can groove to like "Hey Yall" and "We," you will play this CD from start to finish. Tracks to make you think like "Cardshark" make you see Christianity not as a game, but real life. Each song is a knife cutting at the fake facades we put up, all while put to an amazing beat. Tracks like "Big Words" and "Epiphany" show life as it is in God's eyes; not the worlds. You gotta grab this CD.

Oneighty Devotional Do the Evolution

Holla at ya girl! Holla at ya boy! Discover what almost 2000 other teens experience every week at author Blaine Bartel's Oneighty® youth program: a joyful, action-packed, enthusiastic relationship with God! The Oneighty® Devotional is motivated by a very simple challenge: give five minutes a day to God for the next eight weeks and watch what happens. How does it work? Simple: study ONE scripture a day—commit to EIGHT weeks—take the ZERO pledge. Experience a radical 180-degree turnaround in every area of your life!

KJ-52 Behind the Music

His best CD yet takes you a little deeper than beats and rhymes. Experience his motivation and reason for ministering the Gospel in his unique way. The title track "Behind the Music" takes you from day one to the present showing you the reason for his testimony. Serious songs like "Life After Death" make you take a hard look at your life and compel you to live for Christ. The song "Thank You" expresses appreciation for his family, and ultimately Jesus Christ. And not to disappoint anyone KJ-52 has plenty of get-up-and-dance songs like "Rock-Wit-Us" and "Fivetweezy," so cop this album!

As For Me And My House

Parental Control

by: Pastor Gerald Shaw

Today's Christian youth are in a serious, knock down, drag out fight against a formidable opponent. The youth are under attack from strong demonic influences in all areas of their lives.

Instead of fighting the good fight of faith, the youth are surrendering to the enemy. Young people are being lost to the world system. The values of television, radio, internet, peer pressure, humanistic ideals are contradictory to God's plan and purpose for Christian youth. Youth are going against BET, MTV, VH1, ABC, CBS, UPN, NBC, FOX, HBO, Cinemax and others.

Many parents are either clueless to, ignoring, or don't care what types of influences their youth are being exposed to. Youth go to church on Sundays or go to weekly youth group meetings to increase their spiritual awareness; but that purpose is defeated when they are sent out to a public school system that indoctrinates them with humanistic principles which diametrically oppose a relationship with Jesus. As a result of the clash of cultures, the youth are being transformed into lukewarm believers. (Rev 3:15)

Today's youth culture is being fed lies about morality. Young ladies today are often times more aggressive than the guys, because they have been sold the lie "lose it or you'll never use it." Young men want to be rappers, "ballers," and pimps because the examples of success they see in the videos are men that have the prettiest females shaking their scantily clad bodies in extravagant settings. Romans 1:25 says, "*Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*"

Many youth think a dual lifestyle is alright and many parents are oblivious to the signs. Some parents



actually believe that if you expose the youth to too much of God it will cause rebellion. They say that the youth need balance. Maybe we should ask ourselves this question, "How much of the world's influence should our youth be exposed to in order to maintain balance?" How much of AIDS is okay? How many STDs are okay? How much alcohol, drugs, sex, violence, gangs, illicit lyrics in the music, illicit material in video games are okay? How much do you need to balance out their lives so that they won't be driven away from Jesus?" This is why parents must help the youth develop a relationship with God, and not just mental ascension.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

Nose Around - Christian parents must become more invasive. Don't be afraid to go through the backpacks, notebooks, pockets, shoes, drawers, and Bibles, anywhere a note can be stashed and find out what your youth are not telling you.

Communicate - Ask direct, critical questions and expect blunt answers. That young adult that you think is so innocent may not be as naive as you imagined. As you show openness, sincerity, and remain calm, your youth will be willing to talk about the real issues that he or she is facing.

Lead By Example - Train up a child in the way that they should go and when they are grown, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6) This word "child" refers to any dependent youth in your household. God requires

the parent to maintain control of the home through training. Training is done through instruction and example: "walking the talk." If you correct them immediately, with fairness and firmness, they will appreciate and respect the correction.

Pray, Fast And Seek God For Clear Direction - 2 Chronicles

20:1-3 *It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them*

besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. 2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against

you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

The first thing that Jehoshaphat did was to seek God, and he proclaimed a fast over the entire nation. The king knew that whatever was going on, the people of Judah had to cleanse themselves of anything that would hinder them from relying one hundred percent on God.

Parents have been assigned the responsibility to protect the ear gates, eye gates and hearts of the youth. Any distractions that hinder our young people from relying 100 % on God need to be cut off. If it is TV...cut it off. If it is music...cut it off. Improper friends...cut. Movies...cut. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal, expose, and remove anyone or anything that is not right in their lives. ✝

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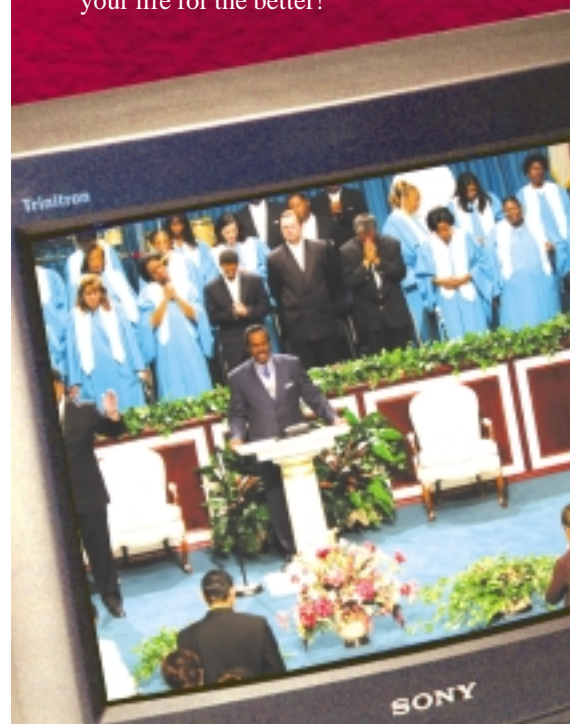
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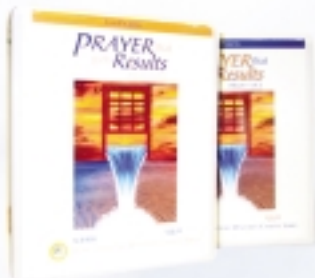


Word Shoppe Highlight

WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER,

believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

- MARK 11:24-25 -



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