

# **Slaying the Dragon Week 10**

## **The Practice of fasting**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Message notes.

### **Introduction**

Don't freak out!

Be realistic

### **When and how do you fast?**

- Fasting and prayer together
- Stick with it
- Don't bite off more than you can chew!
- God reads your heart
- This is war!
- Beware false fasting
- Different types of fasting
- Don't do it for show
- Fasting linked to repentance
- Never settle for second best
- Hungry for God

### **Notes**

## **Digging deeper week beginning 18 November. Fasting : Practical Tips and Helpful Guidelines**

1. **Seek advice and permission before the fast.** Seek medical advice before the fast, especially if you have any existing medical concerns or conditions. If you are under 18 years of age, discuss your desire to fast with your parents. Remember, fasting is an attitude of the heart!
2. **Fast and pray in order to humble yourself and purify your worship.** In fasting we are not trying to get something from God, but rather we are seeking to realign our hearts' affections with His. In fasting we can more readily say, "We love you Lord, more than anything in the world." Lust of any kind is perverted worship, but fasting enables us to cleanse the sanctuary of our hearts from every other rival.
3. **Don't boast about your fast.** Let people know you won't be eating only if you need to (Matthew 6:16-18).
4. **Do the fast with someone else.** Two are better than one! We encourage roommates and friends to fast together. We encourage parents and kids to consider fasting together. People fasting and praying together has a powerful impact!
5. **Have a clear target as your prayer focus.** Without a vision (a clear, prophetic prayer goal) the people perish. Write down your vision, so you can run with it (Habakkuk 2:2).
6. **Make your commitment and determine the length.** You can fast in many different ways. Pray and ask God what he will give you faith for as far as the length of time.

\* A Daniel fast, with vegetables and water, is good for those carrying a heavy workload.

\* A fruit or vegetable juice fast allows you to enter into fasting but still gives enough energy to function. Out of consideration for their health and metabolism, we encourage young people to use juice and protein drinks to sustain them. If you have sugar sensitivities or problems, consult your doctor before attempting this fast.

\* A water-only fast. We would not encourage this without strong medical supervision, particularly for young people.

\* A total fast is without water. Do not go beyond three days without water.

7. **Prepare physically.** Two days before you fast, limit your intake of food to fruit and vegetables. Fruit is a natural cleanser and easy to digest. Stop drinking coffee before the fast. Drink lots of water to help your body detoxify. Prepare yourself for mental discomforts such as impatience, crankiness, and anxiety. Expect physical discomforts. You may experience dizziness, headaches and different kinds of pains. The headaches are not a sign to stop fasting. Your body is working to cleanse itself of impurities.

8. **Take time to pray and read the Word.** This may seem obvious, but busyness and distractions can keep you from devotions. Reading books with testimonies of victories gained through fasting will encourage you too. *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting* by Derek Prince, *God's Chosen Fast* by Author Wallis, *Hunger for God* by John Piper, and *The Rewards of Fasting* by Mike Bickle are just some of the helpful books about fasting that are available.

9. **Expect to hear God's voice** in the Word. Daniel prepared himself to receive revelation through fasting (Daniel 10:1-2).

10. **Prepare for opposition.** On the day of your fast you can bet donuts will be at the office or in class. Your roommate (or your mum) will suddenly be inspired to cook your favourite meals. Press through. Many times you may feel more tension build at home. Satan tempted Jesus on the fast, and we must expect the same. Discouragement may come in like a flood, but recognize the source and take your stand on the victory of Christ.

11. **If you fail, don't give in to condemnation.** The "to fast or not to fast" dilemma can be a major tool of the enemy. Even though you may fail several times, God always extends grace. Just hit the "delete" button and continue on your fast!

12. Feel free to **rest a lot** and continue to exercise with supervision.

13. **Breakthroughs often come after a fast, not during it.** Do not listen to the lie that nothing is happening. It is our conviction that every fast done in faith will be rewarded.

14. **Break the fast slowly** over several days with fruit juice or light soups. On a light juice fast or a water fast, your digestive system shuts down. This can be dangerous if you eat too much too soon. Break the fast with several days of diluted, non-acidic juice, then regular juice, followed by fruit and vegetables.