

Kingdom Faith Ministries

International Newsletter



Teaching God's People To Hear The Voice Of The Lord

For Such A Time As This: How Fasting Increases Spiritual Authority

*Pastor Paul Norcross
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Dear Beloved,

May the Spirit of the Lord arise in each and every voter this year in the name of our King, Jesus Christ! May the Lord direct the steps of all those who are entrusted with national leadership presently, and in the days to come. Our joy in the Lord is our strength, and as we consider the many issues, concerns, and political maneuverings that characterize these days in the current election cycle of the United States, we do well to consider that, as Benjamin Franklin once declared at the Continental Congress, "God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

The Power of Fasting In United States History

When Benjamin Franklin declared these words in the sultry Philadelphian summer of 1787, he saw the need to kick-start the Constitutional Convention. All summer long the Congress had been hard at work crafting what we now revere as the Constitution of the United States. Yet, partisan bickering had caused such breakdown among the delegates that some, including Alexander Hamilton, quit and headed home in disgust. At the end of a long day, Franklin arose and spoke the following words which forever enshrine the value of faith in God for one's country, and which established the true basis for the government that the United States enjoys even today:

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"At the beginning of our War for Independence, we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection. Our prayers were heard, and they were graciously answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Do we think we no longer need His assistance?"

"I have lived a long time. And the longer I live, the more I am convinced that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? Without the Lord, we shall fare no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our little, local interest. We shall become a reproach to future ages."

Franklin went on to formally motion that each session to craft the United States constitution begin with prayer. The convention's delegates immediately declared three days of prayer and fasting to break the deadlocked wrangling that had characterized the several months of effort invested thus far. When they reconvened, the Constitution came together, birthed out of the spiritual authority and unity from God's hand of blessing. This constitution became the standard for all free nations ever since.

Sometimes a history lesson causes our eyes to glaze over. But consider the hand of God, and what He did to intervene in the affairs of believing men and women at crucial times for the United States. I believe that we are again at such a crossroad with the upcoming election for the next president of this country. From a Christian perspective, the choice is starkly apparent in the moral integrity of the two candidates. One has many corrupt, immoral associations (such as with a confessed anarchist bomber, clergy who teach hate-filled sermons, and colleagues who seek to legislate abortion infanticide, etc.) The other candidate is nationally known for particularly high moral integrity, honest dealings with others, traditional family values, and a Biblical worldview.

But high moral ground is not the criteria by which elections are won. Satan has a stake in its outcome, and serious Christians know very well that demonic forces are at work to bias this election. Consider that the Acorn organization is under FBI investigation for registering perhaps thousands of non-existent persons to vote in eleven states! Consider the heavily biased news media reports which present one candidate in remarkably favorable light, while being highly critical of the other. These are not merely manifestations of the right to hold and express opinions. Instead they can be characteristic of satanic deceptions.

My point, however, is not to belabor the highly visible corruptions of the election cycle. What is seen in the flesh is merely symptomatic of what is happening in the spirit realm where the real battles are taking place. Nor is my point to suggest the obvious – that we need to pray for God's will for this nation's leadership per 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 2 Timothy 2:1-4. My point is to give hope and triumphant joy into this process as God's people take their rightful spiritual authority for the work of the Kingdom. God does govern in the affairs of men, and He really does have a great deal to say about what Christians can do to bless their nation. This includes blessing even those who do not hold Christian views. How can we best do this? Is there more we can do than hope in God's will being done? The answer is both exciting and powerful.

How Supernatural Spiritual Authority Works

We must understand that in the spirit realm, in order to exercise power and influence, there must be spiritual authority. Said another way, in order to work in the supernatural realm of the Kingdom, spiritual authority is required.

We must also recognize that Satan has no spiritual authority of his own. He was cast out of heaven, and Jesus Christ openly triumphed over him. Satan was stripped of the spiritual authority he once had with God. But since spiritual authority is needed in order to do supernatural works, Satan has to get spiritual authority from somewhere in order to carry out his mission noted in John 10:10 as stealing, killing, and destroying.

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There is no doubt he wants to steal, kill, and destroy every nation in which the Word of God is believed. The United States is high on his list of nations to destroy.

So how does satan gain spiritual authority with which to work unnoticed, behind the scenes, in the spirit realm?

The answer is simple. He often gets it from those who have it – Christian believers. God has spiritual authority, and so does Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, and angels. None of these are going to give satan the authority he needs. So who is left to give it to him? Christians, especially ones who are ignorant of satan’s devices. Even though we may all fall into his manipulations from time to time by falling into diverse lusts, pride, etc., we continue to get up and keep walking for Christ. After all, the devil wages war with the saints, and our job is to resist him, make him flee, lead every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and become sheep who hear and obey the Master’s voice. Eve failed to do this. Adam willfully joined her. The devil hasn’t changed tactics. He is still trying to trick you and I out of our God-given spiritual authority. But the weapons we must use are not carnal, but mighty in the spirit, to the pulling down of demonic strongholds which deeply affect life on earth.

Every time we fail to forgive, get offended, and get an attitude against another person, satan gains authority to use in the spirit realm. When our offense is against another believer, satan gets double the spiritual ammunition to use against the body of Christ. When Ephesians 4:27 exhorts us not to give place to the devil, it is stating that in the context of anger (i.e. unforgiveness), one gives place (*topos* = topography, i.e. a piece of the real-estate of our heart) over to satan. By gaining title deed to a piece of your heart because of your unforgiveness, satan gains legal authority over that portion of your heart. Piece by piece, he gains legal ground. Until forgiveness and repentance is accomplished, satan uses the legal authority which he acquires to split families, friendships, churches, races and tribes, and even nations. He is a master at influencing a believer in Christ to take up an offense, and escalating it into a war. He continues until someone with spiritual authority in the offence repents, and forgives.

So how does this work on a national level, and what can we do about it, and furthermore, how does this relate to the upcoming election in the United States?

What I am trying to get to in this article is an understanding of how satan gains spiritual authority, and how we as believers can break it on a national level. The Bible contains many illustrations of ungodly national leadership situations, and how God’s people arose out of the spiritual and physical bondage caused by them. Character counts. Godly character helps to prevent satan from gaining spiritual authority to war against the saints. So what is “Joe the Plumber” (oops, excuse me – “Joe the Believer”) to do?

I want to share some lessons learned from the first mention of fasting in the Bible. In this Biblical account, there are amazing insights into the power of fasting, and how fasting increases one’s spiritual authority. I have already related how fasting enabled the US Constitution to become written, and none can argue the astonishing impact this document has had on the world ever since. What lessons can we learn about the impact of fasting on the upcoming election? It is not an exaggeration to say that this election may well determine the survival of that same document.

Learning From Judges

In the chapter 19 of the book of Judges, we learn of a Levite whose unfaithful concubine whored around for four months at her father’s house. Yet this Levite loved her, and traveled to her family home to retrieve her. On the trip home to Ephraim, he passed through the town of Gibeah where men of Belial (these were lawless men, also called “children of the devil” in the Scriptures) whose ungodly homosexual lusts were aroused

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toward the travelers. Consistent with Hebrew culture, and by the provision of God, the Levite and his party were taken in to a house for lodging by a kindly citizen. But the godless mob at the door demanded to have the guests so that they could abuse them. The concubine was given to the crowd instead. After being abused all night long, she crawled to the doorstep and died at the threshold.

The Levite cut her body parts up and FedEx'd (DHL maybe?) them the other eleven tribes of Israel. Outraged, all of Israel immediately joined forces to deal with those lawless (in other words, people who had no respect for the rule of law, and were totally immoral in their speech and actions) men of Belial.

Unexpectedly, not only did the entire town of Gibeah agree with the atrocity, but so also did their parent tribe of Benjamin. So much for the reasonableness of the majority of people. When a city, tribe, or nation sinks so low as to legitimize homosexuality, is it any wonder that their thought processes are impaired (Romans 1:21-32), and they blunder ahead, pridefully immune to wisdom and reason? What insight does this give on the reliability of political candidates who agree with homosexual agendas, and what implications does this have for nations who elect them as their leaders? How can a nation get to a place in which its elected leaders are bribed by financial institutions whose corrupt practices are then encouraged to continue until major portions of our entire nation's banking system collapses? These are men and women who have become lawless like the people of Gibeah, and their minds have become reprobate. Demonic spirits operated behind the scenes in Old Testament Israel. But they have not gone away from continuing to operate in the earth today.

Justifiably outraged, all the remaining tribes of Israel came against Benjamin. Judges chapter 20 records that with 400,000 capable men of war, they asked God how to fight. The Lord told them to choose the tribe of Judah. Judah would have the honor of executing justice against Benjamin's 26,000 troops. The day turned into a slaughter, but totally the opposite of what Israel expected.

Twenty two thousand of God's people, men from Judah who were in right-standing with God, died that first day. How could this be that Judah lost the battle?

Israel cried before the Lord, and asked if it was right to even fight against their brothers (20:23). The Lord assured them they were right to fight, and told them to go up again and fight the next day. Eighteen thousand died in day two -- eighteen thousand more of the good guys. Huh? You would think that those with the high moral ground would automatically win, especially when they had revelation from God authorizing them to fight in the first place! Two days of devastating defeat despite God's authorization and far superior firepower? What's going on here?

What's going on is an issue of spiritual authority. Satan held onto legally acquired spiritual authority. How is this possible? Here's what the Lord showed me about this – by mere virtue of being a tribe of God's people, even though entirely wrong in their actions, satan was able to extract authority by their cooperation. When a person has legitimate, God given authority – whether from being a Christian believer, or even also from simply being an authority which is recognized by God (a father of a family, a government office holder, a pastor, etc.) – satan can assume their legitimate spiritual authority and use it in powerful ways when the people with that authority choose (many unknowingly, mixed together with sons and daughters of Belial who do so knowingly) to let satan use that authority through agreement, nursing offenses, and failing to repent and forgive.

By the end of day number two, all of the eleven tribes of Israel wept before the Lord as they had done after day one. But they did something else also. They fasted, and they sacrificed until the evening. They again asked the Lord if they should go up and fight. Again the Lord answered yes, that the victory would be

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gained (20:26-28). Sure enough, on this third day of fighting, they won over Benjamin. A total of 25,100 of Benjamin's 26,000 men of war were killed.

So what was different on the third day? Each day Israel had the Word to fight from the Lord, and each time they had a righteous cause. But only in preparation for the third day did they fast. Fasting gave them the extra horsepower needed to win. Fasting equalized the odds.

You see, fasting levels the playing field. Holiness is what becomes enhanced when God's people fast. How does one fast, and for how long? That is between you and the Lord. But one thing happens when believers fast before the Lord – there is a distinct increase in spiritual authority when they pray, together with a very distinct increase in holiness (purity, sanctification, righteousness).

Israel was not in sin. They were doing what they knew was right to rectify an atrocity. Yet they were losing because Satan had gained a legal authority and used it against God's people. It was when Israel fasted that they gained the upper hand in the spirit realm.

Consider that the greatest warfare is the warfare that is done from a position of rest, on one's knees before the Lord. And then consider the following verse from Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 23:14

For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

When what you are doing no longer works like it should against your enemies, whether these enemies take the form of sickness and disease, or offenses, or lust, cold love, laziness, addictions, poverty, false accusations, or battles of any kind – it's time to get before the Lord, fast and pray, and get ready to go back and fight as He directs. You may have lots of sophisticated Bible reasons for why you are losing the battle, and there may be many curses to break off, witchcraft to contend with, and other things about which you must aggressively utilize your spiritual authority. But sometimes there is simply no substitute for good old fashioned fasting to break up "hopeless" spiritual logjams. And sometimes, waiting becomes fatal.

I submit to you that this day, it is time to fast for this nation. To wait may be fatal to the liberties and freedoms garnered by Jesus Christ and men and women of faith who have preceded us. It is the eleventh hour.

Jesus Christ, when speaking of why His disciples lacked power to cast out the evil spirit that had possessed a father's lunatic son (Matthew 17:21 and Mark 9:20) declared, "this kind cometh not out but by prayer and fasting." I believe fasting and prayer is what it will take to enable devils to be made powerless that are working behind the scenes to throw this election, deceive masses of people, and establish a demonic government in place of the one which God sincerely desires. The stakes are extremely high for both the United States, and for the entire world which is directly affected by the United States.

What do you suppose was prominent among the prayers of the recent Ramadan month but the demise of what they call "the great Satan" -- our traditional American values and those who stand for them? What kind of curses do you suppose are being sponsored by covens and satanic Halloween (originated by Druid culture) practices during this month of October? At whom are these curses being directed, and who is gaining spiritual authority through both active (informed) as well as passive (uninformed) agreement with them?

Beloved, it is time to fast and pray. It only took Israel one day of fasting. Can we afford not to take a day off from work to fast and pray? Is it wise to wait until election night, and while waiting should we listen as the news media hijacks our faith with prognostications?

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Those who will break out and fast will up the ante, increase their spiritual authority, and enable those leaders with Godly wisdom to prevail. Anemic prayers regarding the will of God to be done without going to the throne room for clarity, specifics, and revelation on how to pray are not just ineffective, but can even be counterproductive when they emanate from soulish emotion rather than the spirit of Christ within. It is time for men and women of spiritual valor to arise – ones who know how to fight via the Spirit of the Lord. May our camps be holy, and may the Lord give victory to His choice.

Embedded with you with The Lord of Hosts,

Paul and Rita Norcross

Attached below is another power booster that you may find helpful. It is reprinted from a previous newsletter, and comes from a deliverance ministry seminar which I love to teach, and the notes for which are posted in the “School of Ministry” section of the website at www.kingdomfaith.org . May the Lord be praised as we look to Him in all things, and “seek that better thing” at his feet!

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*The Blood of the Lamb*¹

1. The Power Is In The Blood

- **Gen 3: 21** – God’s 1st step to help Adam/Eve after they had sinned was to provide clothing.
 - Why? Protection = both spiritual and physical
 - What?
 1. Physical clothing (animal skins)
 2. Spiritual (blood shed from animal skins)

- **Levit 17:11** – the life (soul life = *nephesh*) is in the blood.
 - Blood carries authority in life –
 - Lev 17:11 – life is in the blood
 - Ex 12:7, 12, 13, 23 – the destroyer passes over when he sees the blood
 - Heb 9:18-22 – there is no remission of sins without the blood (remission = *freedom*; (figuratively) *pardon*: - deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission).
 - Rev 19:13 – Jesus is clothed in blood

 - Blood carries authority in death – Gen 4: 10- 12; 9:6; Rom 3:15

2. The Victory Is In The Blood

- Rev 12:11 - *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*
- Not Just Any Blood will do it - Perfect Blood is needed – Heb 9:25; 10:4; I Pet 1:19
- What Jesus’ blood does:
 1. It is the means of purchase/ownership by God – Acts 20:28; Rom 3:25
 2. We are justified by His blood (just as if we had never sinned) – Rom 5:9
 3. We are redeemed by His blood – Eph 1:7; Col 1:14
 4. We are made near by His blood – Eph 2:13
 5. Our peace comes by His blood – Col 1:20
 6. We are reconciled (to bring back together what has been separated) by His blood – Col 1:20
 7. The power of death is destroyed by His blood – Heb 2:14
 8. We are protected by His blood (priest could enter Holy of Holies) – Heb 9:7, 12-14
 9. We have boldness through His blood – Heb 10:19
 10. Our New Covenant is by His blood – Heb 13:12; 12:24 – Jesus is mediator of
 11. We are sanctified (sep apart and made holy) by His blood – Heb 13:12, I Pet 1:2
 12. We are cleansed from sin by His blood – Matt 26:28; I Jn 1:7; Rev 1:5
 13. We are made one by His blood – Acts 17:26

3. How The Blood is Applied

- Rom 3:25; Heb 11:28 – through faith, just like our healing, deliverance from curses, etc.
- Matt 26:28; Luke 22:20; I Cor 11:25-27; I Cor 10:16 – Communion wine is participation in His blood; Communion with Jesus and with saints around the dinner table is fellowship.

¹ This study guide on the blood of Jesus Christ is published on the Kingdom Faith Ministries Int’l website. See the School of Ministry tab when you visit the site, and look for the notes from Pastor Paul’s *Living Free* seminar.

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- John 6:53-56 – drink His blood daily, eat His flesh. These refer to the earlier analogy in this chapter regarding gathering the Bread of Life daily as manna for the day. This means that we are to have conversations with Him daily. This is further illuminated in I John 1: 3-7.

I John 1:3-7

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

*If we say that we have **fellowship** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son** cleanseth us from all sin.*

The benefits of the blood in these Scriptures are in the context of the fellowship which we keep with the Lord and thereby with the Father. In essence, the application of the blood is through the fellowship it affords. It is not in an Old Testament sense of "applying the blood" as on the lintels and doorposts (even though we often make it analogous to the lintels and doorposts of the heart), nor "pleading the blood" as in a declaration of faith and authority in the name of Jesus Christ (which is a lot more New Testament in character). But the blood is more literally enabled by the fellowship we keep with God and with His Son, Jesus Christ. The cleansing of sin through the blood is for a purpose: fellowship. And all the power of our ability to live and move and have our being in Him is wrapped up in the ongoing work of His blood. Thus the essence of faith in His blood, is actively living the relationship which it purchased.

4. Additional Suggested Reading on the Blood of Jesus Christ

1. Mary Baxter's book "The Blood" published by Whitaker House, 2005
2. Billye Brim's book "The Blood and The Glory" by Destiny House,
3. Clement Humbard's book "The Awesome Glory" by Xulon Press, 2005

There are so many wonderful books about the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, and I have mentioned the ones above which I have recently found to be most inspiring. But I must say that nearly every book which I have read so far tends to focus on upgrading Old Testament understanding of the blood in order to make it work by faith in the New Testament. In each such attempt, though full of good learning, there is a missing piece. It is this: the fullest New Testament application of the blood occurs through the personal fellowship that we keep with Jesus Christ and with the Father according to John 6 and I John 1: 5-9. This is new revelation to the church for this generation. Others are hearing it in other places – it is not exclusive to this author - but it is a revelation for this day and hour to increase the utilization of the power of the blood of the Lamb.

4. Conclusion

When the church gets a good grip on their personal fellowship with Jesus Christ, they will also gain both power over the enemy, and divine favor, like they have never seen before. What we have perceived formerly from Old Testament shadows about the blood will become a far more powerful and exquisite reality to the church. To gain an exit visa from the common experience of Christian wilderness wandering, we must learn to hear and obey the voice of the Lord, and gather our conversations with Him as daily manna from heaven. Christ's blood is the ink on our visa, and it provides both the legal authority and the access to our promised land of spiritual blessing. But the benefits of that blood are received not so much through the pleading of our souls, but through daily pillow talks with our First Love.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

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