



HUNGRY FOR GOD

IS THAT WORTH PRAYING AND FASTING ABOUT?

The Crossings Church - #4 of 6

• **SOME PRAYERS ARE _____.**

You do not have because you have chosen not to ask. ³ And when you do ask, you still do not get what you want because your motives are all wrong—because you continually focus on self.... **James 4:3b, 4a** (VOICE)

• **SOME FASTS ARE _____.**

*What kind of a fast do I choose? Is a true fast simply some religious exercise for making a person feel miserable and woeful? Is it about how you bow your head (like a bent reed), how you dress (in sackcloth), and where you sit (in a bed of ashes)? Is this what you call a fast, a day the Eternal One finds good and proper? **Isaiah 58:5** (VOICE)*

▪ **Prayer and Fasting that is worthless happens because...**

I want the _____ (s).

I want the right things for a _____.

I have a _____.

Simon noticed that the Spirit was given only when the apostles placed their hands on the people. So he brought money ¹⁹ and said to Peter and John, "Let me have this power too..." ²⁰ Peter said to him, "You and your money will both end up in hell if you think you can buy God's gift!" ²¹ You don't have any part in this, and God sees that your heart isn't right. **Acts 8:18-21** (CEV)

4 THINGS THAT ARE WORTH PRAYING AND FASTING FOR:

1. IT'S WORTH FASTING FOR _____.

• **Godly leaders for _____.**

...Antioch was blessed with a number of prophet-preachers and teachers...² One day as they were worshiping God--they were also fasting as they waited for guidance--the Holy Spirit spoke: "Take Barnabas and Saul and commission them for the work I have called them to do."³ So they commissioned them. In that circle of intensity and obedience, of fasting and praying, they laid hands on their heads and sent them off. **Acts 13:1-3** (MP)

• **Godly leaders for leaders for _____.**

They told the Good News in the city of Derbe, and many people became followers of Jesus. Then Paul and Barnabas returned to the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. ²² In those cities they helped the followers grow stronger in their faith and encouraged them to continue trusting God. They told them, "We must suffer many things on our way into God's kingdom."²³ They also chose elders for each church and stopped eating for a period of time to pray for them. These elders were men who had put their trust in the Lord Jesus, so Paul and Barnabas put them in his care. **Acts 14:21-23** (ERV)

2. IT'S WORTH FASTING TO _____.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bonds of wickedness...

Isaiah 58:6 (RSV)

He told them, "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting."

Mark 9:29 (ISV)

3. IT'S WORTH FASTING FOR THE _____.

▪ **The _____ welfare of those I love.**

When Mordecai received Esther's message, ¹³ he sent her this warning: "Don't imagine that you are safer than any other Jew just because you are in the royal palace. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, ... you will die and your father's family will come to an end. Yet who knows---maybe it was for a time like this that you were made queen!" ¹⁵ Esther sent Mordecai this reply: ¹⁶ "Go and get all the Jews in Susa together; hold a fast and pray for me. Don't eat or drink anything for three days and nights. My servant women and I will be doing the same. After that, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die." **Esther 4:12-16** (GNB)

▪ **The _____ welfare of those I love.**

Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about ... how things were going in Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace..." ⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. **Nehemiah 1:1-4** (NLT)

4. FOR THE _____.

Jonah started through the city, and after walking a whole day, he proclaimed, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" ⁵ The people of Nineveh believed God's message. So they decided that everyone should fast, and all the people, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth to show that they had repented.¹⁰ God saw what they did; he saw that they had given up their wicked behavior. So he changed his mind and did not punish them as he had said he would. **Jonah 3:4, 5, 10** (GNB)