

# 21 DAY FAST AND PRAY

January 7, 2021

*“Every church should have a prayer meeting, and every home a family altar. The prayer meeting, the meeting with God, by the congregation, is the most important meeting that the congregation conducts.” – Doug Small*

## Heavenly Homework.

1. In the book, “God, Please Help Me Pray!” please read and answer the questions on pages 43 – 46.
2. Fast someway each day as God directs you.

## Faith and Prayer.

E.M. Bounds said, *“Genuine, authentic faith must be definite and free of doubt. Not simply general in character; not a mere belief in the being, goodness, and power of God, but a faith which believes that the things which ‘he saith, shall come to pass.’”* (Mark 11:23) Faith that is wishy-washy is not pleasing to God. *“...ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”* – James 1:6-8

Faith must be unshakably sure, and the prayer (request) must be unmistakably clear. *“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”* – Mark 11:23

Sometimes, doubt creeps into our minds and God understands that. However, faith that is resolute, that holds on and keeps pressing forward even in the face of discouragement pleases God. Consider the faith of the friends who brought the paralytic to Jesus. they could not get to Jesus one way, they found another way *and* it was their faith, not the faith of the crippled man, that laid hold of the miracle! When you pray, persist. Ask and keep asking, believe and keep believing - not only that God will answer but - that the answer is certainly on the way.

## FAITH Asks for the impossible.

1. **Nothing is impossible to the Lord** and all possibilities in God are accessed by faith in prayer. Think of it: After praying all night, Jacob’s name, character, and destiny were changed. *“Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”* Mark 11:24. We can confidently “ask big” and expect God to answer. *“Call to Me,*

*and I will answer you, and show you great and <sup>l</sup>mighty things, which you do not know.' - Jeremiah 33:3*

2. **Praying people make a praying church** therefore, we will commit ourselves to prayer. Prayerless churches usually indicate prayerless homes, and prayerless lives and prayerlessness is the death of any church. The command to pray and the effect of prayer is incredible. *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*  
- 2 Chronicles 7:14

*"We must practice the Great Commitment of prayer, without which we do not have the grace to live out the Great Commandment, and without which, we share good news, but to closed and hard hearts." - Doug Small*

#### **Four things to pray about tonight:**

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring such conviction over Lexington and this region that masses of people will run to God and repent
2. Pray that our community will be transformed as lives are changed by the power of the Spirit.
3. Pray that God will strengthen your witness and cause your own light to shine for the glory of God.
4. Pray for your church that it will be transformed into a praying church - here and in our homes. Amen.

*"Far more than a prayer meeting, let us become a praying church."*