

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 14th

Daily Devotional #14

We Are in the Season of Cleansing

We are in day four of the Season of Cleansing. My mind and heart race in a thousand different directions as I search for meaningful, challenging, and inspiring Daily Devotionals. I want to convey so many things... our need to honestly search ourselves for areas of our life/lives that need to be more in tune with our Great GOD, our need to willingly and purposefully submit ourselves to His gentle, but very real “pruning” of our lives, our need for His healing, His love, His perspective and His presence to be our consuming passion and pursuit. Then I remembered something very important from Jehoshaphat’s story in 2 Chronicles 20. A great part of Jehoshaphat’s wisdom was calling on and listening to those that came and fasted with him and “all of Judah.” Once I remembered that incredible little nugget, I remembered three other “nuggets” – Armando, Jim, and Lawrence and some things they shared with me as we’ve journeyed together.

So, as we continue our Season of Cleansing, I shall borrow Jehoshaphat’s brilliant idea of listening to, and employing what the people (of GOD at Western Hills) share - some very insightful writings full of wisdom that will definitely bless the WH Family over the next few days. Today’s devotional features some thoughts from Armando Hernandez. He is writing in response to a couple of Daily Devotionals (#9 & #10) on Jesus as the Ultimate Value for/in Life. His thoughts really go well in the Season of Cleansing... as well as the Season of Dedication!

Thoughts from Jim and Lawrence shall follow tomorrow and Thursday...

May we all be greatly blessed by the Great King! *df*

(from an email, dated October 10th)

I have been meditating on this (Jesus Is the Ultimate Value) since yesterday's first part, and today. As I meditate on it, I come to the important conclusion that looking at my imperfect self, and at the fact that I will make many mistakes in my pursuit of God; trying to become like Jesus, and making Him My Ultimate Value, I may get discouraged when I struggle in my pursuit.

The important thing is that, in spite of our imperfect efforts and disappointments, that we continue our journey. We need to come to the realization that the ultimate result, on a personal level, and/or on a congregational level, does not depend on our efforts alone, but on the power of God, His love and grace, and He is

the one that deserves the honor and glory, instead of seeking recognition for our achievements. We need to pursue Him with humility and submission.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,
and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)