

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 17th

Daily Devotional #17

We Are in the Season of Cleansing

Isn't it strange... (I jest, of course). In the sermon last Sunday (October 12th), I mentioned Naaman and his leprosy and the greater-still disease of pride. And then Jerry Elzie, who was some 200-300 miles away at sermon time (remember, he's recently moved to the Dallas area but still wanted to pray and fast with us, his WH Family), reflects on Naaman's story as he prepares for his fast in our behalf! Our Great GOD is incredibly creative and communicative!

Enjoy our brother's reflections as he prepares for and prays over his time of fasting! And, please, continue praying for and on behalf of your WH Family... that GOD molds us, prepares us, and engages us in His Kingdom work, for His great glory!

May you be greatly blessed!
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(The following is an email from Jerry Elzie, dated Wednesday, October 15th, used with permission)

As I meditate before my midnight to midnight fast (I think of) the story of Naaman in II Kings (specifically II Kings 5:8-15a). Naaman has Leprosy. He is a powerful military leader, but a foreigner to Israel. He makes it to Elisha's door due to an Isrealite slave girl and others. Elisha sends a servant with the message to go to river Jordan and wash seven times in said river. Naaman explodes with arrogant indignation, because the river Jordan is a river not very clear. His reasoning is such that he knows of many other rivers that would clean more effectively. Naaman's servants bring him back to reality with a simple, why not try? It is a simple thing and, certainly, worth trying. He does as directed, and is instantly healed. Naaman returns with hearty thanks.

This story, among several others, illustrates that "it only works God's way and on God's direction". We must be totally submissive to God's way and on God's timing. Fasting reminds me that no matter how intelligent I know I am, His way is better: (it is of) no matter that I think I am pure and all that, but that without God and His loving ways, I am Satan's footstool. (I am) so badly stained that even Oxyclean has no effect.

His love gave us Jesus the sacrificial Lamb whose blood cleanses us from – literally – ourselves.

This opens our heart to receive Him in our hearts (in order) to facilitate the pure heart creation that is only available from Him.

The uncomfortable-ness of fasting helps renew our resolve to help those hungry by circumstance and to remain steadfast with His Spirit and through His Spirit using earnest prayer.....ALL DAY! Careful here, because prayer can be habit-forming ..LOL.

It needs to be, huh?

It is a privilege to trek through this (40 Days of Prayer and Fasting) with WHCoC. I feel overwhelmed sometimes by the power of connections through His Kingdom.

'Strength will rise as we WAIT upon the Lord.' (Isaiah 40:28-31)

'Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God, and everything else will added to you.'
(Matthew 6:33)

My prayer (as I approach my fasting hour) is that Your Kingdom be Glorified through this trek, because all else will be added at Your discretion in Your ways and at Your bidding. Give me strength to follow through, because my new job is rather strenuous. Help me, Lord to shine Your light NOT for me, but for You. Help me to keep in fore-front of my entire existence that YOU are I AM. Thank You for Hope. Thank You for placing me with Your people. Thank You for making me clean. Thank You for grace and mercy. Help me every waking moment to show Your gentleness, because I would have NONE without Yours.

Please accept this prayer through Your precious Son, our Messiah, Jesus.

Your Earth-bound son, Jerry.