

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting
October 19th

Daily Devotional #19
We Are in the Season of Cleansing

Several have commented how much they enjoyed Jerry's pre-fast journaling. Well, you're in for a treat... Today's Daily Devotional is Jerry's post-fast recap. As you read it, you'll be reminded (as Jerry points out) of the blessings that come through trials. In fact, Jerry references James 2 as he processes his fast...

James 1:2-4 (NIV84) - Trials and Temptations

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

If you've been at Western Hills anytime in the past two months, you've heard me emphasize our need for honest introspection and reflection. Well, Jerry certainly gives us that! ☺ Plus, his love for GOD's WH Family comes shining through, reminding us of how truly blessed we are to be His, and through Him, one another's!

Thanks, again, good sir Jerry!

And blessings to all,
Danny

(the following is an email from Jerry which he wrote after fasting on October 16th, used by permission)

Well, that was different.

I have fasted an even dozen times in my entire life now, and no previous two combined has hit me harder than this time, due to the nature of my new job.

I was hard-pressed with hunger and had to stop working 19 times to pray. I sang 'I Need Thee Every Hour' over and over to try to stay focused. I tore up my hands turning wrenches something fierce due to in-and-out blurred vision along with ant bites and a spider bite.

Some of the time I felt oxygen deprived like I was in a forming vacuum. I did make it through the day, but not in one piece really. Emaciated is the best description I believe. Caused me to thank God that Lawrence did not mess with his rotating machinery on his fast day!

I showered and was asleep by 9:30 PM. I woke up 4:00AM with a massive headache, a need for Pepto Bismol, and dizziness. Some of this has to be attributed to the high pollen count and to the stress and physical strain of my new job. The exception being the early wake-up. That is normal for me.

I went to Denny's and had 3 eggs, hash browns, and biscuits with gravy along with milk and coffee. I could not help but to miss the men's breakfast at Dan's. After breakfast I went to the job site to inform my supervisor I could not work today. Could not make it there without stopping on the way. Hated missing work, but I think it will probably will work out since we had not gotten materials ordered that I needed to be able to work that day. Made it to the house where I had leftover hamburger and a ham sandwich then took a long nap with my dogs.

I feel better, but it was quite a trial.

James 2 has quite a bit to say about trials in a cause-and-effect way. I always need reminding to stifle my sometimes-caustic tongue (stop giggling, Michelle Thompson, I can hear you from here!). Transformation occurs after discipline from the Spirit. No rose garden here on Earth is promised, but the promised Crown of Life later is given to those who prove themselves: His first-fruits. I desperately want to be there to be 'picked'.

My original prayer still stands. Please, Lord help me to remember to show Your Love and gentile-ness to all, because I have absolutely NONE without Yours.

Sounds like I asked for it, even now that I have arrived to this point in my thoughts. Gives real credence to the old saying, 'Be careful what you pray for because He just might give it to you.' I now have a reminder that I will not easily forget.

Good, Godly life is all about wanting to do things His way and learning to be His light. The hard part comes now when we have to listen to the Spirit's whisper over Satan's ever-growing roar. Here, I believe we need to be like Samuel, "here am I, Lord. Send me."

I also believe you need not to have any preconceived notions about time and direction, because His thoughts are so different and advanced beyond our puny human gray matter brain cells. Part of Listening is 'seeing' the good things He has planned for us in advance (Ephesians 2:10) and ACTING on them without fear, hesitation, or doubt. He who knows to do good and does it not sins grievously (James 4:17).

This is our existence. Seeking and reaching. Worshiping and Loving. Greatest Commands 1 and 2 all of the time (Matthew 22:34-40) ... Our standing orders.

"Reach for the Light...Our Healing Light. Jesus is the Light of the World" -Twyla Fuertes

I Love ya'll desperately. It is an honor to serve with all of you even from a distance. Just think... soon we can be singing His praise FOREVER together (more Twyla). I get more anxious for that every day....ten-fold after fasting yesterday.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

I look forward to seeing ya'll this Sunday! I have a small job in Austin this weekend.

GOD probably arranged that, too.

Your brother, Jerry