

SATURATE NYC

7-Day Fasting and Prayer Devotional





GOD'S HUNGRY HEART

One way of framing the story of the Church is: “A Tale of God’s Hungry Heart.” The Tabernacle, the Temple and the Temple God has made in us all reflect his dream that everyone would enter into his rest and embrace. All three tell the tale of his longing for his children to come home. In the Scriptures, each time God’s house was “finished,” God rejoiced and glory fell with power. This year during Pray NY, thousands of living stones will be walking and praying in oneness of spirit, building up God’s house in our city.

If you have experienced his embrace, you are also experiencing a hunger for his heart to be satisfied. Very few said it better than the Moravians as they launched one of the greatest missionary movements of the second millennium: “May the Lamb of God for sinners slain receive the reward of his suffering.”

BUILDING GOD’S HOUSE IN OUR CITY


We don’t often use literal building terms when we are talking about the New Testament Church, but it is “constructive” for us to think like architects and contractors sometimes. When someone is building a house or a school, or a shopping mall, there is a great deal of activity. There are many laborers, sub-contractors and material needs. If there is not an overall plan and someone directing the entire project, it is doomed. Our Lord was a carpenter by trade, but his passion was building the “temple” of his church.

The Scriptures tell us he also spoke of the “temple” of his body (John 2:21). With the death and resurrection of that body, he became the cornerstone of the church. On the day of Pentecost, we might say, he launched the greatest building campaign ever. His desire was that all his disciples or “living stones” would be ONE, “himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” Ephesians 2:20-21.

Just as Moses, Solomon and Jesus were commissioned to build the glorious House of the Lord, our New Covenant construction project is our greatest commission: to build a House of worship, love, justice, salvation and peace; to build a House that will cover the earth “with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). Acts 1:8 lays out a strategic plan to saturate our entire region with prayer and the Gospel:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In the book of Acts we see the apostles and the New Testament believers filling the known world with the Gospel. First they saturate Jerusalem. Then these Spirit-empowered believers impacted the entire region of Judea. Persecution hit hard and many were forced into the undesirable region of Samaria, where revival also broke out. Finally we see, by the end of the book of Acts, the Gospel engulfing the entire Roman Empire.



Throughout the history of missions, the Gospel has spread in a similar fashion. To this day missionaries and evangelists often embrace a similar “four quadrant” metaphor and mission strategy:

This simple plan enables Gospel saturation, region by region. The first three quadrants account for every nook and cranny of an area and the fourth quadrant begs for replication in nation after nation. The following is a prayer/fasting devotional guide for participating congregations to prepare their hearts for Pray NY day.

*But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD,
(Numbers 14:21)*

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the
waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)*



DAY 1

Below is a copy of the Lord's Prayer. In the space provided, personalize, ponder and expound on the different aspects of this prayer. Think about some ways you could be part of making your world more like heaven. This is the most prayed prayer ever. God is serious about heaven invading earth. It starts when you hallow his Name and heaven invades your heart, then it floods out like a mighty river of living water. What do you sense God is putting on your heart to pray about?

Our Father who art in Heaven Hallowed be Your Name

(The more we hallow God's name, the more his glory will flow through us.

Write down some ways that God is calling you to more fully honor Him.)

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

(Think about your neighborhood and every block in your zip code; the patch of earth that God has placed you in. Welcome the reign of God to flood your community.)

Give us this day our daily bread

(Cast your cares on him, for he cares for you. Anxiety and worry can hinder our openness to God's work in our lives. Pray more, stress less.)



Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

(It is impossible to powerfully minister the grace of God and yet not live in it. Write down the names of three people that you struggle most to forgive. Surrender this battle to God. Tell him, "Because I love you more than I hate them, I forgive them just as you have forgiven me.")

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

(Our enemy still prowls around like a roaring lion. Resist him in Jesus' name. Write down and renounce any inroads you have allowed the evil one to take lately.)

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

(Worship your eternal King of Power and Love. Declare his kingdom in your community and city.)



DAY 2

Maybe yesterday as you prayed for the glory of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, you realized that you have not experienced his glory filling your own life. There could be a number of reasons why this is so. During this week, as you seek the Lord, he will quickly reveal things that are hindering or entangling you. Surrender these things to the Lord. All his ways are perfect and full of loving kindness.

Here listed are two common hindrances.

1. Faith struggles:

Faith is not an emotion. It is a trust, conviction and celebration of things not seen but eternally true. Read through the following verses and meditate on them, and then declare out loud: “I believe, I ask You Lord to fill me with your Holy Spirit.”

I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9-13)

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” (John 11:40)

Making faith filled declarations is a powerful exercise. As you read over and pray through the above passages, circle what ministers to you and underline what challenges you. Write down your thoughts as a sort of faith journal.



2. Idolatry:

Idolatry is anything that dominates our hearts more than God. Read through the following passages and ask God to reveal your idols. Renounce them out loud in the name of Jesus. Declare to God that your whole heart belongs to Him.

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:30-32)

Write down the idols, or dominating forces in your mind and heart. Ask the Lord for wisdom to replace what you have renounced with something holy. (For instance, replacing bitterness with mercy and kindness.)



DAY 3


Pray for the glory of the Lord to fill your family.

Whether your family is very close or struggling greatly, pray: “Let it be in my family as it is in heaven.” Write down three ways your family is a reflection of heaven and three ways it isn’t. Praise God and thank any member of your family for the ways in which your home reflects heaven and then think of ways in which you can make a difference and help your family reflect heaven better in 2016.

There may be no other passage in all of literature that better assists us to live together as a family than 1 Corinthians 13. Every step towards honoring these words will be accompanied by an increased experience of the sweetness of heaven. In context, it is clear that this passage was meant to be a litmus test, not a checklist. Some people in the church at Corinth thought they were more spiritual than others. Paul responded by painting this word-picture of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. The point is, as you see yourself lacking, don’t try harder to be better. Do surrender to God and cry out for a deeper move of the Holy Spirit in every part of your life.

As you read the “love chapter,” circle what ministers to you and underline what challenges you to change. Welcome the Holy Spirit to reign in each area that is exposed, to the end that we might say with Paul:

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”
(Galatians 2:20-21)



If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-13)



DAY 4

Pray for God's glory to cover your Jerusalem as the waters cover the seas.

Our "Jerusalem" is best represented by our home and our home church. It is the place where you are most centered. Reaching your own neighborhood and the community surrounding your church is a crucial component to seeing our city reached for Christ. The book of Acts (17:26) suggests that God chooses the places of our habitation. You live where you live and worship where you worship for a reason. God has uniquely appointed and gifted you to minister his Gospel there.

Pray for your neighborhood, as many neighbors as you can name.


Write down three ways your neighbors reflect heaven and three ways they do not. Praise God and make sure to thank any neighbor that makes the earth a bit more like heaven, and then pray for those ways in which they may fall short. Ask God to use you in specific ways so that it would be more like heaven in your neighborhood this year than last.

Pray for the community surrounding your church.

Write down three ways in which your community reflects heaven and three ways it does not. Be sure to express your gratitude to all those who bear the reflection of heaven in your community, for their contribution to the peace and blessing of the neighborhood (e.g., the sanitation men, the police, fire department, teachers, neighborhood patrol, good neighbors . . . etc). As we highlight the image of God that people display, and encourage these positive actions, doors will open for a deeper work of God's Spirit in them. Then pray about the three ways in which your neighborhood falls short of the mark, and ask God for wisdom to make a difference in those things.

See your community as it is now, and then imagine what it could be. Write down your thoughts on this. What steps need to be taken to bridge the gap?

Write down some principles we can learn from the early Church in regard to reaching our Jerusalem.



Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
(Acts 2:37-47)



DAY 5

Pray for God's glory to cover your Judea, your region, town or borough.

Pray specifically for your many circles of relationships through school, work and social media. Write down three ways they reflect heaven and three ways they do not. Thank all those people that make your life more like heaven. Pray for the glory of God to fall and to transform everything that is dark and broken into something beautiful and heavenly. Write down three ways you could help bring the hope and beauty of heaven to your circles of influence. (On our resource page at the end of this document, we have listed several excellent websites to assist you in your regional ministry.)


Pray as well for the influential forces in your region: the centers of media, education, business, government and law enforcement. Write down three ways they reflect heaven and three ways they do not. Pray for and seek to thank all those in positions of influence that make your life more like heaven. Pray against whatever evil might be at work in these sectors of your community.

Many regional pastors and ministries are gathering on a regular basis to seek direction from God about what we can do better together than we can separately. To fulfill our "Judea" commission, the local body of Christ is seeking to fill in the "Kingdom Gaps" by discerning where the presence of the Church and the influence of the Kingdom of God are weakest. This pertains to geography as well as the various social sectors that serve and operate in our city: education, government, media and commerce. It is our desire to help the body of Christ in our region to work together in each of these areas. Please let us know if you desire to be part of this great work.

In ancient Israel, there were many tribes but one nation. Each tribe had their own "tribal" responsibilities for self-care and fulfilling their unique calling. However all the tribes did come together for worship, celebration and war. Pray for the pastors of your region, that we might fulfill God's mandate and operate in Christ honoring unity.

What can we learn from the following passage about our calling and God's dreams for us? Circle what ministers to you and underline what challenges you to change. Then offer a prayer, based on the phrases you have chosen.

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world,



just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

(John 17:14-26)



DAY 6

Pray for God's glory to cover your "Samarias" like the waters cover the sea.

In ancient Israel, Samaria was a "cross-cultural mission field," a place of multi-generational devastation and the object of racial hatred. Isaiah speaks of our high calling to these regions:


*They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
(Isaiah 61:4)*

What neighborhoods or families in your vicinity are similar in nature to Samaria of old? Ministries of this sort are generally challenging and often disheartening. Nevertheless, Samaria is one-fourth of the Great Commission. To circumvent Samaria as they did in ancient Israel is like abandoning one out of four children left in our care. Every Christ-honoring church and Christian should be engaged in long-term, sacrificial ministry to their Samaria. Too long the Church has abandoned this commission and Satan has been given free reign to establish military operations "across the tracks."

Read the following passages and underline what challenges and convicts you. Ask God to reveal to you, your "Samaria."

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
(James 1:27)*

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and



give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[a] you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)

Pray specifically for the “Samaria” that God is putting on your heart.

Pray about the needs in that community. Connect with other believers in your church who have a similar burden. As God enables and leads, put your hands to good work.



DAY 7

Pray for God's glory to cover the entire earth as the waters cover the sea.

Sometimes we are intimidated when we think about praying for nations. This indicates that we are operating subconsciously under the false assumption that we are the most important factor in the equation.


Meditate on these passages and write down what the Holy Spirit communicates to you:

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7)

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2:8)

Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it. (Isaiah 60:21-22)

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge,



and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. (Isaiah 40:9-15)

As you pray over the earth, if the Lord puts a specific nation on your heart, focus your prayers on that nation. Pray about supporting an existing work there or being involved in a short-term mission project.

In New York City, we are privileged to meet hundreds of people from all over the world. Begin to pray for those that you know from school, work, shopping, gas stations, etc. Pray for the individuals, their families and their nations. There is a link on our resource page that provides a web-based translation of the Bible in nearly every language. As you pray for your friends, consider offering them a copy of the Bible in their native tongue. Invite them to your house for dinner. Hospitality is one of the most prized virtues worldwide. In the United States we have the most beautiful homes in the world, but we are not as hospitable as we could be.

Offering ESL classes is another powerful way to reach our neighbors from distant lands.

All of the immigrant families that you come in contact with have a vast network of relationships in their nation of origin. As they are reached for Christ, the Gospel will be preached literally to the ends of the earth.

One amazing tool to put in the hands of all of our friends from different nations can be found on **FaithComesByHearing.com**

Thank you for joining with the regional body of Christ for this week of fasting and prayer!

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24-25)



Resources and Links:

For those seeking answers:

www.exploregod.com

www.iamsecond.com

www.allaboutgod.com

For reading the Bible (with a rich commentary section):

www.mission119.com

For more information about American Bible Society:

www.americanbible.org

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