

Rough Notes From Our Trips To Cali, Columbia #4

The Importance Of Prayer And Fasting In Cali, Columbia

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We see in Scripture, Jesus spent time in the desert in prayer and preparation for his ministry. One of the problems of the way we often prepare for ministry is that we train and teach, but do not practice the school of prayer.

Jesus went to the desert to be trained by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God and Prayer and fasting is key. We need to be disciplined in the church and in our personal lives to pray and fast. We must start as leaders in our own personal lives. Jesus would not have been able to accomplish his ministry if he hadn't equipped himself for the ministry through the time he spent in the desert. The same is true for us in order for us to have the fire of the Holy Spirit.

It is a constant battle to save the time to be with God in prayer and fasting. The story of Jesus gives us the model we need to follow. Jesus' ministry was conducted through and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We can have good plans and strategies but without the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the evil one will defeat us. We cannot defeat the enemy in our own strength and power. We have little prayer and fasting in the typical Church of the Nazarene today. We also have become comfortable with our small groups, congregations. And the prayer service is the smallest service if it exists at all. We must fast and pray. It is not an option. It is a commandment. It starts with the pastors and leader and the people will follow.

The Holy Spirit gives us what we need to minister to the people and to give them what God wants them to have and what they need. In Cali, we are Nazarenes, but our purposes is to follow God's very simple divine principles. Fasting, Prayer, Scriptures (study), and then transmit it to the church. Day by day as we seek to do it God's way we believe He backs us up. Our passion is to develop a movement in the Church of the Nazarene that goes throughout the whole world.

Daniel purposed himself to spend time each day with God. Daniel 10:10-12. This is a clear example of what God wants from every one of us. We must humble ourselves before God so that He will give us His Word. "A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees." . . . "Do not be afraid, . . ."

--Daniel prayed on his knees for 21 days, Jesus 40 days and nights.

1 Peter . . . "humble yourselves. . ."

The key to Cali church is that we have learned to fast and pray. That is the key.

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Go into your closet and pray in secret, and he who hears in secret will reward you. . .

History of Cali church when it was small and an embarrassment in the community. They began to pray, five people on Wednesday morning. Then two moved away. Pastor and wife and one lady. That one lady is still in the church. But through prayer and fasting God began to work supernaturally. They began to reach people and then they finished the building so that it became an attraction in the community. They began to step out more and more on faith and believe God would work in their behalf. They laid hands on the wall where they envisioned a large beautiful door. They got on the floor (concrete) and thanked God for the beautiful floor that they would have covering the entire church. Now, everything that they prayed for through the eyes of faith have been accomplished. --Pray the promises of God. They teach this kind of praying and fasting (faith) to their people. They now have between 800 and 1000 praying at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning and the Wednesday prayer and fasting services (3). They started the first one about two years ago, then they added the second and then they added the evening service (standing room only). Over 2000 people attend the Wednesday prayer and fasting services.

Job 8:5-7, But if you will look to God and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your rightful place. Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be. (NIV)
--Through this teaching the people are given hope and become very obedient to the teachings of God's Word. God hears and answers their prayers. God is blessing and making the people prosperous. But you have to be willing to start small and persevere. Before you start any program you need to first pray. Prov. 3:5-6. We have to come to seek God and trust him with our whole heart and seek Him. He will direct. Zech. 4:6, Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit. . ."

(It is imperative that I begin meeting regularly with the MP pastors and teach them to pray and model prayer and fasting. Our current error is the error implementing a strategy in the mistaken belief that the strategy brings the fruit or results. In God's kingdom, spiritual fruit only comes by the working of the Holy Spirit in response to prayer and fasting of His people.)

Cali, now has intercession groups start praying at the church as early as 4:00 a.m. each morning to pray. And they have cell groups meeting and praying at the church all day.

They use prayer lists that go to the intercession groups. They pray not only for current needs of people and the church but for the dreams and desires of the people. There is prayer going on all day at the church and one of the prayer priorities is to pray for the pastors and leaders and for the salvation of souls. That each group will accomplish their goals.

Three things that pray against: Division, sin and accidents. For protection. They pray over the land, the other properties of the church and for God to bless it and to help them build the buildings that they need in other locations (district).

Much of what is happening is being driven by the vision that God is Adalberto. He refuses to be “conformed.” The vision for 50-60 thousand people on their new property is now something that everyone can see. Their children know the vision and can see it.

It’s not about them, the doctrine. It is about trusting God and doing what He says. He will bless it.

The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. Make the Word of God central and prayer.
--2 Chronicles 7:14 (develop a district prayer campaign) Go to God every morning and seek His blessing. . . Changes have to take place. I can’t remain “conformed” to what I am and to what is. Something has to change, pray and fast and God will do the impossible. Don’t start tomorrow. Start today. It has to be a commitment in the “now.”
-- 4 Significant “D” words:
desire, decision and discipline to do it regularly and persevere. “Humble” or “discipline” the flesh.
--Do the first three “Ds” and the fourth will come. . . “delight.”