

JULY 1973



THE WORD OF FAITH

observations...

— by Kenneth Hagin

ON FASTING

9 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sack cloth, and ashes:

—Daniel 9:3

The lament of Isaiah 64:7 is, "And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee...."

But here we see that Daniel stirred up himself to take hold of God. How did he do it? By prayer and fasting.

2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. —Daniel 10:2-3

Even though in one chapter he calls it fasting, in the next he says, "I ate no pleasant bread." We need to realize that there is more than one way to fast. Fasting doesn't always mean total abstinence from food--although sometimes it does.

Any Bible subject can be pushed out of context and do more harm than good. Some writers leave the impression that everyone should go on a forty day fast. They use the illustration that Moses fasted forty days. But, wait a minute, Moses was up there in the Presence of God. If you were up on a mountain in the very Presence of God, talking to Him, you could go forty days too. They also say that Elijah did. But, wait a minute, he didn't. Jezebel said she was going to take off his head so he ran. Wearily, he climbed up

under a juniper tree and cried, "Just let me die. I would as soon be dead." But he didn't want to die any more than you did when you might have said that. If he had really wanted to die he could just have stayed where he was--Jezebel would have accommodated him! But the Lord came and ministered to him and the angels fed him. He went in the strength of that angel food for forty days. They use Jesus' fasting forty days. Yes, but the Word of God also says that angels then ministered to Him.

To tell you the truth, I have never been one for long fasts. The longest I ever fasted was three days. Someone may ask, "Why didn't you fast longer?" Because I had the answer--the thing I was fasting about. You should have some purpose in fasting. Don't fast just to be fasting.

The Lord will lead you to fast at times. Many times He has spoken to me and told me to fast one day. However, He has never told me to fast over two days. Once He told me to fast two days. A certain thing was going to happen and He was preparing me for it. I was going to attend a convention and He said to me, plainly, "Fast the next two days because they are going to ask you to pray for the sick there." I thought to myself, "If they do it will be something they never did before. They didn't even ask me to testify, much less to pray for the sick." I almost missed it.

But then I thought, "I know that wasn't just me. I wouldn't have thought that. And I know it couldn't have been the devil. He's not going to get you to pray and fast. So I'll just go ahead and do it." I arrived at the convention a little late and the instant I walked in, the speaker said from the platform, "Well, I see Brother Hagin coming in back there. The Lord spoke to me two days ago (that was when He had spoken to me) and told me to have Brother Hagin pray for the sick tonight."

Now if the Lord lays a fast on your heart--you do it!

And then, there are those times when things are pressing upon you. This is a good time to fast and wait on God. Daniel didn't say the Lord told him to fast. He said, "I set my face to seek God." I did it!

Several times I have fasted about certain things in this manner. However, three days is the longest I have fasted. The third day I always got my answer.

Here too is another benefit of fasting. Fasting doesn't change God. He will be the same when you start fasting, while you are fasting, and when you get finished fasting. Because He does not change. But fasting changes you! It gives you more time to pray. And it helps you to keep the body under! It will enable you to be more susceptible to the Holy Spirit.

When I was holding strictly revival meetings in churches

during the fifties, I followed a policy of regular fasting two days a week. I made greater strides with God in that way than in any other way I ever did. I would fast 24 hours two days a week--Tuesday and Thursday--eating nothing at all for the 24 hours. I would drink water. But then the Lord said to me, "I am more pleased with your living a fasted life than I am at having set days of fasting and then your going back to eating all you want."

A fasted life! And so I did this then when I was in meetings. I would eat one meal a day--the noon meal. Now, however, we have two services a day and in praying for the sick and for folks to receive the Holy Spirit after you have preached, you become weak physically. And so, if I needed to, I would move up and eat a little more. But, I would never eat all I wanted. I would keep my body under. That is what He wants you to do--to keep the body under. And, fasting will help you do that.

I wanted you to notice that Daniel wasn't on what we would call a total fast, yet he does call it fasting. Everyone is not physically constituted to go on a total fast for any great length of time. Don't just take somebody else's word for it. Let the Lord deal with you. And then too, as Daniel did, it is all right to set your face to seek God.

* * *

ON THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S POWER

4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz:

6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision:

but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

God's Presence was there, just by the angel's being there. Daniel's companions didn't see anything, but they began to quake, or shake. And then they fled to hide themselves. And as Daniel describes it, there was simply no strength left in him, so he fell. He fell on his face.

All through the Bible you will find that people fell in the Presence of the power of God.

You will find that when the anointing of God's Spirit moves upon you, often this will happen.

If you will go back through church history, you will see the record of this occurring.

John Wesley said that he remembered when the first person fell in his services. While he was preaching, a lady fell off the front seat. He thought she had fainted. Three physicians responded to his call for doctors and examined her. After determining that her pulse and respiration were normal, even though she was as cold as ice, they decided she must be in some kind of "spell."

John Wesley said that there was some stir and questioning throughout the crowd. "What is this? Is it the devil, or is it God?" He said that he answered, "Well, I don't know. But whoever it is, when she comes out of it, they will get the glory."

Wesley stated that she lay there around an hour while they all waited. Then she began to stir and the first thing she said was, "Praise the Lord!"

Wesley said, "I shouted, 'It's God! It's God!'"

When she opened her eyes, she related to them that she had had a vision of heaven. And they

were all blessed!

George Whitfield, a minister at the same time and in the same revival as Wesley, came over to Boston, Mass., and there he preached on the courthouse square. Men climbed up in trees to see. When he got up to preach he said, "You men up in those trees--come down. Because when I start preaching, the power of God will fall and you will fall out of those trees. If you fall that far, you might get hurt."

Charles G. Finney said, he was preaching in a Presbyterian Church in Utica, N.Y. and had been speaking about 15 minutes when people started falling off their pews. This is when it first started happening in his services. In a few minutes four hundred people had fallen off the seats onto the floor. "What in the world?" he thought. This had never happened before. But then when these people started coming around they began testifying. Many of them had never been saved, but they had received salvation right then. From that time on this happened in his meetings.

Have you ever read about Peter Cartwright, a Wesleyan Methodist minister? He was preaching in the days America was moving West. He came out of Virginia and preached into Kentucky and Tennessee, and Missouri. In boots he stood 6'6" tall. In those days they had almost no police protection on the frontier and he said that it wouldn't be anything for some "ruffians" to try to disturb the meetings.

"I would just go outside and whip a half-dozen of them," he said. "Just whip them with my fists. Then I'd come back inside and preach and the power of God would fall and people would be slain in the spirit all over the building."

People ask, "How did he get by with it?" Well, bless God, God enabled him to do his own

Peter Cartwright tells of travelling on horseback through the mountains of what is now West Virginia and stopping one night at an inn. As he got put up, he learned there was to be a dance that night. Well, he was old time Wesleyan Methodist and they believed in holiness. But, somehow, he said the Lord led him to go to the dance. When a lady came up to him, curtsied, and asked him to dance, he said he waited a minute and the Lord said, "Go ahead."

"I didn't know how to dance, but I got up to see what the Lord was going to do. I led her out to the middle of the floor and then I saw what the Lord wanted me to do. I held on to both her wrists and boomed out, "I never do anything without praying." At that the music stopped. "So we are going to pray."

Holding on to both her wrists he got down on his knees and lifted his voice in prayer as loudly as he could, "God bless these heathen and save them." The power of God began to fall. He said, "When I finally opened my eyes, everyone was either on their knees or on the floor."

We need to know how to pray. Those men knew how to pray. We need to intercede. We need to travail in prayer until the power of God prevails in our lives and pervades our very beings...Until the very atmosphere of our churches is filled with the power of God...Till when people come into that very Presence, they cannot stand.

26 How is it then, brethren: when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. -I Cor. 14:26

In one church I pastored we had close to what I can see as this New Testament style of worship. They came to church because they had something. In two years I never preached on Sunday morning. We had 'believers meetings.' The evangelistic service was on Sunday night.

I would begin the meetings by saying something like, "Folks, I'm just going to go over here and sit down on the platform and we'll let the Holy Ghost lead this meeting. And whatever you have, a testimony, a song, a revelation; whatever you have just give it." We kept things in order in love.

Sometimes the power of God would come on us and we would all sit there for almost an hour; no one saying a word, no one moving--even little children. The Presence of God was there. We didn't dare move. It was as though you were in the presence of heaven. Then sometimes the Spirit of God would move and we would all cry, or at times we would all laugh, for 45 minutes or more. At times there would be dancing. There would be the tongue; the revelation.

Once in a while an unbeliever

would come in and it was just as Paul said, "...and there come in one that believeth not...he is convinced of all...and so falling down on his face, he will worship God...." (I Cor. 14:24-25).

One fellow, for instance, who never came to church. He was in the habit of leaving his wife at the church and returning later to pick her up. But this particular morning he came back early and came in. It was one of those quiet times. He sat down for about 15 minutes. Nobody said a thing, but the very atmosphere was prevailed with God's power. He began to shake. Then he made his way painstakingly to the altar.

Never did a sinner come into those morning services who didn't come to the altar and receive salvation. The Power was there!



FAITH SEMINAR AND INDOOR CAMP MEETING

SHERIDAN ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CENTER
205 South Sheridan Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Sunday, July 22----through---Sunday, July 29

In January, the Lord spoke to Brother Hagin's heart about having a special meeting this summer. The FAITH SEMINAR AND INDOOR CAMP MEETING grew from this inspiration. Praise The Lord, the time is almost here!

REVEREND KENNETH HAGIN will open the Seminar Sunday, July 22, at 2:30 p.m. with the day's only service. He will speak nightly at 7:30 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, on "Healing" and will close the Seminar Sunday, July 29, at 2:30 p.m.

REVEREND ROY HICKS of Gresham, Oregon, with "Faith" as his subject will be ministering and teaching at 9:30 each morning, Monday thru Saturday.

REVEREND AND MRS. J. R. GOODWIN, of Pasadena, Texas will be teaching and ministering on the "Holy Spirit" each afternoon at 2:30, Monday thru Friday.

VICKI JAMISON's anointed singing and SHARON BELL's anointed ministry at the keyboards will be a highlight of the meeting.

It is necessary that you make your own room reservations and accommodations. Write us for information on motels in the close vicinity.

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