

A top-down view of a white ceramic plate with a slice of white bread. The plate is set on a green textured tablecloth. To the left of the plate, a green napkin is folded, with two silver forks resting on it. To the right, a silver knife is placed vertically. Below the plate, two silver spoons are visible, also resting on the green napkin. A light blue horizontal banner with white text is overlaid across the center of the image.

Prayer & Fasting

Man does not live on bread alone

Worldly desires can distract us from intimacy with God

Luke 14:16-20 (NIV)

Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready. “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out.

Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’



Worldly desires can distract us from intimacy with God

Mark 4:19 (NIV)

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word, but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful

TV

Facebook

Internet

Friends

Work



A call to fast – 6 September

Fasting from everything that would hinder intimacy with Jesus and seeking intimacy with Him.

TV

Facebook

Internet

Friends

Work-a-holic



Fasting will reveal what competes with God

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (NIV)

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.



Fasting will reveal what competes with God

Matthew 4:2-4 (NIV)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”



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Jesus hungered more for God's purposes than God's wonders!



Throw off all that hinders

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.



Dangers of fasting – Praise of Man

Matthew 6:16-18 (NIV)

“When you fast, do not look somber (miserable) as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”.



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The last word on Fasting – Our Goal

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

