



To
WORSHIP

DEPART

To WORK

LIVE

To
WITNESS



The Columbia District

“Getting Our House In Order”

Matthew 25:14-30

*10 Days of
Prayer and Fasting
Virtual Nightly Meditations
9:30 PM*

*Wednesday, January 4, 2023 - Briefing
Thursday-Saturday, January 5-14, 2023
Virtual Nightly Meditations*



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**The Columbia District
Seventh Episcopal District - African Methodist Episcopal Church**

10 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING
“Getting Our House in Order”

2022 is over, but between the pandemic, inflation, congressional hearings, new variants, and old wounds, our houses have been shaken. As we say goodbye to all that was 2022, we are positioning ourselves for the promise of a New Year – 2023, the New Year of our Lord. But what will it bring? What does it have to offer us, God’s people, as we continue to struggle for relevance in ministry, faithfulness in stewardship and love, more love as the impetus for our actions?

The writer of James, when pondering moving into a new thing, advised us this way: *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* (James 1:5 NIV) The “ask” James refers to is positional, not just transactional: it does not just refer to posing a question to the Almighty, but instead, to committing ourselves to seeking after the things, the heart, and the agenda of God, and, further, to align ourselves with those issues we discover, and going after them with our entire being – heart, soul, body and strength.

One of the principal ways we can seek out the will of God for us is to fast – it is a means of grace not observed as much as it once was, but it is still a mighty vehicle for bringing the Christian more acutely in tune with the heart of God. A fast, in its most basic form, refers to the act of intentionally abstaining from something. This sacrifice can take on many forms: people most often think of abstaining from all or some foods, but it can refer to alcohol, sexual activity, or any other “pleasurable” activity. The point of a fast is to deny the flesh some pleasure in order to concentrate more fully on the things of God. When we concentrate more fully on the things of God, we will find what we need to get our House in Order.

We, therefore, call ourselves to a period of prayer and fasting, a time set aside to seek the face of God that we might “see [God] more clearly, love [God] more dearly, follow [God] more nearly . . . day by day.” (Day by Day, from *Godspell*)

Lord, bless us as we undertake this Spiritual Journey.



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Type: The Daniel Fast is a partial fast where meat, carbs, sweets, wine, and other rich foods are avoided in favor of vegetables, salad, fruit, nuts and water in order to seek God. (Matt 6:33)

Length of Time: 10 Days, January 5 – 14, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM, we will eat only vegetables, salads, fruit, nuts and drink water. From **6:01 PM – 5:59 AM**, we may drink only water.

6:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Food

6:01 PM – 5:59 AM: Only Water

GETTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

A Virtual Briefing – Wednesday Night, January 4, 2023 @ 9:30 PM

Music

Invocation Rev. Camille Carpenter
Columbia District Prayer Coordinator

Scripture Matthew 25:14-30 Sis. Ella Richburg
First Lady, Bethel AME Church

The Call to Fast Rev. Dr. Caesar Richburg
Senior Pastor of the Columbia District
Pastor, Bethel AME Church

Instructions Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman

- Nightly Meditations at 9:30 PM
- Preparation for Self Reflection

Music

Prayer Missionary Verna Starks

Benediction

NIGHTLY MEDITATIONS

Invocation

Scripture

Focus

Prayer

Benediction



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Fasting and Your Health - We recommend you always consult your physician prior to beginning any type of fast. If you are in poor health or have concerns about your physical ability to fast, we especially urge you to consult a physician before beginning your fast. Your doctor can provide advice on how you can participate in this Daniel Fast, in a way that is healthy for you.

Day	Invocation	Scripture	Meditation
Day 1 Jan 5 th	Missionary Verna Starks	Sis. Eunice Miller	Rev. Ertha Bowman
Day 2 Jan 6 th	Rev. James Vant	Rev. Florence Butler	Rev. Timothy Cokley
Day 3 Jan 7 th	Evangelist LaMorris Boyles	Lic. Karen Graydon	Rev. Michael Buckson
Day 4 Jan 8 th	Rev. Elaine Eskew	Rev. Shiela Lozano	Rev. Cole Weathers
Day 5 Jan 9 th	Rev. Diane Florence	Rev. Dion Richmond	Dr. Charnice Ray
Day 6 Jan 10 th	Evangelist Betty Hall	Bro. Leroy Pearson	Rev. Chaunte Rogers
Day 7 Jan 11 th	Bro. Timothy Counts	Bro. Walter Carpenter	Rev. Betty Wannamaker
Day 8 Jan 12 th	Sis. Frances Watson	Sis. Albertha Taylor	Rev. Addison Burgess
Day 9 Jan 13 th	Sister Brenda Brown	Bro. Monroe Miller	Rev. Dr. Maxine Sumpter
Day 10 Jan 14 th	Rev. Camille Carpenter	Rev. Nicholas Chambers	Rev. Dr. Debora Scotland

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER TOPICS

Day One: January 5, 2023

James 1:5 - “Challenged by Change”

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Two: January 6, 2023

Matthew 7:24-27 – “A Strong Foundation”

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; ²⁵ and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; ²⁷ and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.”

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Three: January 7, 2023

Philippians 4:8-9 – “Remain focused on the things of God”

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Four: January 8, 2023

Romans 12:2 – “Stay in your right mind: The Mind of Christ”

² Do not be conformed to this world^[a] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.^[b]

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Five: January 9, 2023

Colossians 3:12-14 – “Be People Friendly”

¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³ forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Six: January 10, 2023

Romans 12:17-21 – “The Battle is not yours, it’s the Lords”

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it^[a] to the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ No, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Seven: January 11, 2023

Matthew 25:40-45 – “Outreach Ministry”

⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ 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.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Eight: January 12, 2023

Luke 6:35-38 – “The right motivation: What’s behind what you do”

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return;^[a] and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

Day Nine: January 13, 2023

Matthew 25:14-30 – “What’s in your hand?”

¹⁴“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents,^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

(Continue writing on back of page)

Day Ten: January 14, 2023

John 9:4 – “Let’s Get to Work”

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night comes, when no man can work.

Self-Reflection

What is the Lord saying to me in this scripture?

How can I apply this scripture to my life?

Today, I will pray for...

References

Some articles on fasting

<https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/resources/seven-basic-steps-to-successful-fasting-and-prayer>

draxe.com

Daniel Fast: Benefits for Your Spiritual, Emotional and Physical Health

By [Dr. Josh Axe, DC, DMN, CNS](#)

September 20, 2019



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“Getting Our House in Order

The Columbia District Strategic Planning Session
Saturday, January 14, 2023
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
819 Woodrow Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Maxine Sumpter, Facilitator

Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg, Host Pastor
Senior Pastor, Columbia District

Mrs. Ella Richburg, First Lady
Bethel AME Church

Reverend Rosalyn Grant Coleman, Presiding Elder

Mrs. Jacquelyn Woods, Area Consultant