

VERNON PARK CHURCH OF GOD
“THE YEAR OF EMERGENCE”
2018 CONSECRATION PRAYER GUIDE
February 19-MARCH 30

VPCOG 2018 KINGDOM DECLARATION!

“Get up, stay-up, and go-on. It is time to come out of the cave”, (pastor J, 1 Kings, 19:8).

At VPCOG we follow a progressive fast established by our senior pastor, Rev. Jerald January, Sr. Please obtain the separate fasting schedule and use it with this prayer guide.

In addition, the purposes and biblical examples of fasting are included in this prayer guide to help you gain additional insight into the connection between fasting and prayer.

WHAT IS FASTING?

Prayer and fasting is defined as voluntarily going without food in order to focus on prayer and fellowship with God. Prayer and fasting often go hand in hand, but this is not always the case. You can pray without fasting, and fast without prayer. It is when these two activities are combined and dedicated to God's glory that they reach their full effectiveness. Having a dedicated time of prayer and fasting is not a way of manipulating God into doing what you desire. Rather, it is simply forcing yourself to focus and rely on God for the strength, provision, and wisdom you need, (<https://www.allaboutprayer.org/prayer-and-fasting.htm>).

The Purposes of Fasting:

Fasting does not change God. It changes you. God relates to you on the basis of your relationship to Him. When you change, then the way God deals with you is affected. You do not fast to change God because God does not change. Fasting does change how He deals with you. Read the book of Jonah for an example of this in the city of Ninevah.

On one occasion when the Disciples of Jesus failed to bring help to a demon possessed youngster, Jesus explained that "this kind" came out only by fasting and prayer (Mark 9:29). There are certain situations in life which you cannot face apart from prayer and fasting.

There are definite spiritual purposes for fasting. It is important that you understand these purposes. If you fast for the wrong reasons or with no specific purpose, the fast will be ineffective. Study each of the following references. They reveal that people fasted:

- In response to a message from God: Jonah 3:5
- During times of wilderness testing: Luke 4:1
- During the threat of national calamity or war: II Chronicles 20:3
- When revelation was needed from God: Daniel 9:3-4
- When making decisions: Acts 13:2-3
- When making special requests before authorities: Esther 4:16
- To prepare for confrontation with demonic activity: Mark 9:29
- To humble one's self: Psalms 35:13; 69:10

- To repent of sin: Joel 2:12
- To feed the poor, both physically and spiritually: Isaiah 58:7
- To be heard of God: II Samuel 12:16,22; Jonah 3:5,10
- To loose bands of wickedness, lift heavy burdens, set the oppressed free, and break every bondage: Isaiah 58:6

GOD'S CHOSEN FAST:

Isaiah 58 describes God's "chosen" or divinely approved fast. God's chosen fast is one:

- Where you humble yourself before God: Verse 5
- To loose the bonds of wickedness: Verse 6
- Which undoes heavy burdens: Verse 6
- That frees the oppressed: Verse 6
- Done with unselfish motives and manifested charity: Verse 7

THE RESULTS OF FASTING:

When you fast, the first thing that happens is that God begins to reveal Himself to you. The Father says, "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here am I'" (Isaiah 58:9).

(The above information on fasting was taken from Harvestime International Institute, Intercessory Prayer manual at:

<http://harvestime.org/translations/english/Intercessory%20Prayer.pdf>)

Additional benefits of fasting and prayer

- Fasting empowers the believer to obtain deliverance, spiritual breakthroughs, answered prayers and victory. *Isaiah 58:6, 2Chronicles 7:14, 15, 2Chronicles 20:1-30*
- Fasting prepares the believer to receive a fresh outpouring of the Spirit and the blessings of God. Joel 2:12-29
- Fasting has medical benefits. *Isaiah 58:8.*
- Fasting will bring peace to our land. *1 Timothy 2:1-2.*

HOW TO PRAY & FAST MORE EFFECTIVELY

A. Make a Personal Commitment to Prayer and Fasting. The first step to successful prayer and fasting is to make a commitment to do it. That commitment is finalized by making a proclamation, by making it known of your intentions. If you are not committed to fasting, any excuse will do to avoid it. Read *James 1:6-8*.

B. Prepare Yourself for Prayer and Fasting. *1 Corinthians 9:27* – You have to prepare mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually for a fast. Tell your body what to expect. Say this confession: I will bring my spirit, my body, my emotions and my mind all under subjection to the Word of God by giving myself to prayer and fasting.

C. Stop Making Excuses. Read *Luke 14:18*: "And they all with one consent began to make excuse." You may say, "I'm too busy!" "I'm too old!" "I'm too young!" Read the example of an elderly woman in *Luke 2:36-38*.

Helpful Fasting/Prayer Tips:

- Explain to your family in advance what you are doing.
- Never complain or brag about your fast, and avoid talking about it, unnecessarily, (*Matthew 6:16-18*)
- Establish an accountability partner for prayer & encouragement.
- Stay away from negative people.

- Spend as much time as possible alone in solitude and prayer.
- **Acknowledge that your flesh cannot be trained, but must be crucified, (Gal. 5-24)**
- Prayers must be specific, therefore, it is wise to keep a journal of your prayers, and how God answers!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Heavenly Father, today I/we consecrate myself/our selves to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. I/we receive fresh oil from your presence to empower me/us to be effective in these days of fasting and prayer. I/we declare that I/we shall not be distracted by any device of the enemy but I/we shall come to a place of deliverance, breakthroughs and victory in every dimension of my /our lives. I/we receive supernatural strength from the Holy Spirit to rise above the cravings of my/our carnal nature. We declare that in the midst of this fast I/we would receive power and divine directions from the presence of God that would positively affect my/our destiny, and the destiny of my/our children, and other loved ones. This is a season of breakthroughs and Double Portion anointing for Vernon Park, Partners for Purpose, myself and my loved ones. I/we shall not be denied of any blessing or miracle that you have ordained for us, in Jesus mighty name, Amen.

(Prayer adapted from <http://kingdomfellowshiplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Official-KFCLC-CorporateFast2017-1-1.pdf>)

VPCOG 2018 CONSECRATION PRAYER GUIDE

CORPORATE PRAYER FOCUS: UNITY, PROTECTION, FAVOR, GENERATIONAL MINISTRY

UNITY:

1. Pray that VPCOG and ALL churches will be built after God's pattern (*Exodus 25:8-9, Mathew 16: 17-19, Ephesians 2:18-22*)
2. Pray that the church would grow in all dimensions.
 - Stronger through Worship
 - Deeper through Discipleship
 - Larger through Evangelism
 - Broader through Ministry
 - Warmer through Fellowship*Ephesians 4: 7-16, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4: 31-35*
3. Destroy every satanic attack and calculation designed to hinder the growth, progress, advancement and establishment of the church. *Acts 12:1-10, 2 Corinthians 2:11*
4. Destroy and arrest the operations of the spirits of strife, contentions, envy, jealousy, backbiting, criticism, undermining, sabotage and every form of carnality that hinders the work of God. *Galatians 5:13-26, James 3:10-17*
5. Release a spirit of unity and team work, in the lives of the people of God. *Nehemiah 4:15-21, Ephesians 4:16*
6. Pray that all members of VPCOG would discover their divine call and ministries would be supernaturally set in the church according to the counsel of God. Pray that leaders would be fruitful in their ministries. *Romans 12:3-8, 1Corinthians 12: 4-31*
7. Pray for the National Church of God leadership team. Pray they hear and obey the voice of God concerning the global strategy for the National Association Church of God Assemblies. Pray for wisdom, direction, clarity, and unity. *Psalms 119:8 Psalm 37:30, James 3:17, Pro. 3:6*
8. Pray for the CAMF, (Chicagoland Area Ministers Fellowship of the Church of God)
9. Pray and release every human, financial and material resource that heaven has ordained for the advancement for VPCOG and the Church universal. *Psalms 118: 25*
10. Pray that VPCOG would become a 100% tithing church. Pray that all churches would become financially sufficient to meet all their financial obligations without struggle. *Malachi 3:10, Philippians, 4:19, 2 Corinthians 9:9-11*
11. Pray that every department of the church would be fruitful, functional, efficient and effective and that all the needs of the people of God would be met.
12. Pray for revival and the activation of every spiritual gift in the lives of the people of God. Pray that this revival would cause a massive in gathering of souls into the kingdom of God. *2 Timothy 1:6*
13. Pray that God would bless His church tremendously in all dimensions and that other churches would be established as a result of it. *Acts 2:47, Acts 5:14.*

(The above prayer points were adapted from <http://kingdomfellowshiplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Official-KFCLC-CorporateFast2017-1-1.pdf>.

Prayer Guide compiled by Minister Cassandra Ward, VPCOG Prayer Coordinator, 2/10/18