

THE CONNECTING PLACE AT GREATER SALEM

21 DAY CONSECRATION GUIDE

2023 THE WORK



CONTINUES

RECOMMIT

RESET
RE-ENVISION
REINNOVATE
REINTEGRATE



Dear Connector,

This devotional is designed to aid in your journey over the next several weeks and even afterwards. The intent is to a.) provide systemic biblical reading; b.) to foster spiritual growth and maturity; c.) and to unify our TCP family.

The goal of this consecration is to help you prepare to fulfill the mission of the Christian believer. That mission is to love and win people to our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that you will experience God in an extraordinary way as you commit yourself to Him over the next twenty-one days. May God continue to bless you and enlarge you as you move forward!

Soli Deo Gloria,

+Alan G. Porter,
Senior Pastor

EDITORIAL TEAM

Jacqueline Jones Bridget Potts Kimberly Raybon

WRITERS GUILD

Jamiyo Aaron

Alonzia Downing

Anthony Downing

Kimberly Raybon

Reagan Staton

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Fasting Guide/Instructions

As you prepare for the next twenty–one days, it can be tempting to start thinking about a laundry list of prayers that you'd like to see answered. But we really want to encourage you to keep this simple. Think about the top three or four things that are most pressing on your heart. Then, focus on those areas as you spend time with God during the course of the next 21 days. List these items in the spaces provided below and be open to what God wants to show you concerning those areas. Your answers will be the by-product of drawing close to the Lord Jesus.

When praying, make your primary goal to know Jesus more and to experience Him in a meaningful way. Pray prayers of total surrender. Aim to honor Him with your life. Focus on what's right about Him (His goodness, His inability to fail, etc.) and see everything else through that filter.

And most simply make time for prayer daily. Don't overcomplicate this! Simply have a conversation with God. Choose a specific time and place to have fellowship with Him everyday. Ask God to give you an appetite for prayer. If you find it a challenge to disconnect from the busyness of your day, using worship music is a great way to prepare your heart for prayer.

BENEFITS OF FASTING

- Centers us back on God
- Reminder of God's abilities
- Glorifies God
- Brings about clarity
- Produce better decision making
- Reveals issues and root causes
- Strengthens us to make different choices with the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God
- Able to hear God more clearly
- Provides greater level of discipline and resistance to things that hindered you before
- Purifies our bodies and thoughts
- Assists in breaking habits

STEPS TO FASTING

1. Commit the 21-day fast into the hands of God
 - a. (this includes your time, money, will, emotions, motives and results)
 - b. Pray for the will of the Lord to be done
2. Prepare for a shift
 - a. Confess any sin (known/unknown)
 - b. Surrender yourself to God and anything that is blocking you from drawing closer to God
 - c. Seek forgiveness and forgive
3. Determine a clear, specific goal of why you are fasting and pray for wisdom and guidance
4. Choose your time frame
 - a. Partial Fast - (example: 6a-3p) – daily

- b. Full Fast - (example: 24hrs daily – disabling devices, getting off of social media for days)
- 5. Choose your fast
 - a. Liquids only
 - b. Elimination of foods
 - c. Elimination of other functions (social media, eating out, online shopping, etc.)
- 6. Make it personal
 - a. “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.”
Matthew 6:17-18
- 7. Select an accountability partner for the times you may struggle with fasting
 - a. One who will pray for you
 - b. One who will encourage you to keep going
- 8. Create a plan:
 - a. If you are working outside of your home, **find quiet places** (even if it’s your car) to go to during the lunch hour. Holidays often bring with them gifts, food typically not on your list and people who will offer you any and everything contrary to your fast. This doesn’t just pertain to food, but words of advice and discouragement.
 - b. Working from home, retired etc.:
 - i. **Let water be your go to** – even if it’s flavored
 - ii. **Set aside snacks** (fruits, raw veggies, nuts) that have been portioned out – if this is apart of your fast
 - iii. Place **words of encouragement, reminders, scriptures on the fridge** when you are tempted to go to the fridge, even just to open and see what’s in it
 - c. If you’ve eliminated specific foods, ease back into eating over the next week, when the 21-day fast is over. Cramps, diarrhea, vomiting may occur if you spring back into your regular diet too quick.
 - i. Nothing fried
 - ii. Nothing sweet
 - iii. Nothing heavy
 - d. If you experienced positive changes in your finances, health etc., decide what you may need to eliminate for good or have on a limited basis that will help you become a more disciplined steward over your body, money etc.
 - i. Determine how you will invest in yourself (i.e. eliminating or limiting foods to cut out medications or to stop from reaching borderline health issues that may be generational)
 - ii. Determine how you will invest in your future (i.e. money saved from not eating out could be invested into kingdom efforts, others, retirement, vacations you’ve never taken to refresh)

TYPES OF FASTS

Daniel Fast - (10 day fast – vegetables & water specifically for insight and wisdom; 21 day fast abstaining from food and wine)

Daniel 1:8-21, 10:1-3; 12-13; 19-21

Purpose: physical healing and health, insight, wisdom from God, spiritual breakthrough, direction, purpose and vision.

The Disciples Fast –

Isaiah 58:6, Hebrews 12:1, Matthew 17:21 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 7:19

Purpose: breaking free from addictions to sin (habitual behaviors and attitudes) that you haven't been able to break on your own previously. *Note: this may require more than 21 days of fasting.

The Esther Fast - (3 day fast abstaining from food and drinks)

Esther 4:16; 5:2

Purpose: protection and deliverance from the evil one by the glory of God

The Ezra Fast –

Ezra 8:21-23; 31-32, Leviticus 23:32 (corporate issue requiring a corporate fast), Isaiah 58:6, Isaiah 10:27

Purpose: to release you from heavy burdens, help you overcome barriers, receive direction and protection from enemies.

Elijah Fast – (40 day fast abstaining from food)

1 Kings 18:21-36; 19:3-8

Purpose: to break free from every mental and emotional issue that is controlling your life, including negative attitudes (self-image, low self-esteem, fear and self-rejection).

Jesus Fast (40 day fast)

Matthew 4:1-2; 11

Purpose: to receive strength and victory over the devil, your flesh and temptations that come your way.

John the Baptist Fast -

Luke 1:15, Ephesians 5:16

Purpose: to impact and have influence while sharing the Good News

St. Paul's Fast - (3 day fast with liquids only)

Acts 9:8-9

Purpose: to receive perspective and direction concerning God's will for our lives.

Samuel Fast – (24 hr. fast abstaining from food)

1 Samuel 7:6

Purpose: freedom from spiritual and physical oppression, revival as idols are cast off

The Widow's Fast - (sacrificing your own needs to meet the needs of others)

1 Kings 17:10-16

Purpose: to care for the poor and meet the needs of others through food, clothing and housing, while giving thanks for your own blessings

PRECAUTIONS FOR FASTING

1. Call your doctor, especially if you are on medication to get advice.
2. Take all medications as prescribed and fast in between those times.
3. Learn the impacts of fasting on your health if you've been diagnosed by a physician with any disease or chronic ailment. Then adjust accordingly, while seeking wisdom on the type of fast you should engage.
4. Adjust your workout schedule and cut back on the intensity.
5. Our bodies can become dehydrated more easily when fasting. Increase your water intake.

OBSTACLES TO FASTING

When fasting, be certain that obstacles to doing so, will come your way, especially when you are making progress in the spiritual realm. During your fast, be on guard, as there will be spiritual opposition. Pray that your discernment be heightened. If you are not already praying at night to set the tone for the next day, it will be helpful to do so. For more on prayer watches and what to pray for in the early morning hours, see (<https://sites.google.com/site/soundsintheearth/the-8-prayer-watches>).

Note, your prayer times, may shift from night to the wee hours of the morning and vice versa. Don't allow aggravation or irritation to the awakening be your downfall. Be alert as it will not be time to watch tv, scroll through the internet or just read a book to fall back to sleep. Resist the urge to try and go back to sleep.

Expect resistance and interference. The goal you have from the onset will be challenged. Do not be surprised at the direction either comes from while fasting. Children, spouses and other family members not on the same plan, can function as interferences inadvertently. Don't blame them. Simply set boundaries for yourself (prayer, meditation etc.). Take your own time-outs. If possible, set a 21-day plan for your entire household.

Pray that God and His angels will cover your blind spots, so you're not caught off guard by demonic resistance an interference. Note, your fast may determine your opposition. So, for example, if you are fasting concerning family matters, expect the enemy to arise in simple conversations or miscommunications.

Do not be surprised if these things are exposed while fasting:

Pride, bitterness, jealousy, anger, strife and fear.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Week 1 : Re-Envision

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 NIV

Re-envisioning is to revisit, view or visualize something in a different way with the aim of improving or transforming. This Scripture reminds us that we should not give up or become fatigued from doing good, but rather continue, return, revisit, or in other words, re-envision a time when you were doing what was good. And in doing so there will be a great reward. We must disconnect from limitations, devote ourselves to what is good, and discover new possibilities. We must re-envision our mission of moving ourselves upward to God, inward to self, outward to the community, and forward to our destinies. We must re-envision what our core values of caring, comforting, constructing, and communicating looked like pre-pandemic and reinstate those values in an even better and more excellent way post-pandemic. We must revisit when God told us that this is the “The decade of the open mouth, under an open heaven, as God opens His hand.” Do not get weary, but instead become refreshed and move beyond good to great. In due season, we will reap a harvest!! Reclaim it: “I see myself in the future and I like what I see. I do see myself in the future and things are looking a whole lot better!!

Tuesday

Reflection: Read/Familiarize yourself with TCP’s core values of Caring, Comforting, Constructing, and Communicating.

Wednesday

Action: Dedicate time to carrying out one of the core values with someone who is experiencing distress, grief, lack, or loss.

Thursday

Reflection: Read/Familiarize yourself with TCP’s mission of connecting yourself upward to God, Inward to self, Outward to others, and Forward to your destiny.

Friday

Action: Focus on one specific mission and do something intentional and practical to accomplish it.

Saturday

Prayer: Lord, help me to latch onto your vision for the Church and my life. Amen.

Week 2: Recommitment

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37:5-6 NKJV

This week's focus is on recommitment. In particular, we will focus on three recommitments: our recommitment to God, the ministry, and corporately. To recommit to these things, it is important to understand what it means to "commit." Merriam-Webster defines commitment as the ability to carry into action or to pledge or bind.

Have you ever heard of the saying "You get what you give?" This ultimately means that without reciprocity, no relationship will ever reach its peak. This is also true concerning our relationship with God. Commitment to God unlocks the supernatural. When we recommit ourselves to God, we get to know more about Him and the plans He has for us. Each day that God grants us life, we get another chance to recommit to him. As we grow in Christ, we must seek to surrender our ENTIRE selves to Him. Recommitment will look differently for everyone. A few ways to recommit to your walk with God include increased Bible reading, fasting and praying, social media breaks, and serving on a ministry at your local assembly.

Commitment to God is a sacrifice, and though it is a sacrifice, it ultimately improves the overall quality of our lives. God does not require us to be perfect; he requires us to be committed. God sent His only son to give His life for us, so the least we can do is be intentional with our time and lives him by recommitting to reading His word, fasting, praying, and committing to the work of the ministry.

Tuesday

Reflection: Think of areas in your life where you can increase your commitment to God

Wednesday

Act: Spend focused time with God through, e.g., fasting from certain foods/social media for a specific length of time; read and mediate on your bible for at least 30 minutes.

Thursday

Reflect: Think on the gifts and talents that you possess and figure out how you can contribute these to the church.

Friday

Act: Research ministries offered by the church and commit to serving on at least one.

Saturday

Prayer: Dear Lord, I thank you for another chance to recommit my life to you. Forgive me if I have not been as intentional as I should in devoting time to you. I ask that you give me the discipline to dedicate my time and talents to You and your Kingdom. Amen.

Week 3: Reset, Renovate, and Reintegrate

But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19 KJV

I don't think there is a person in this world today without an electronic device! We all have them, we all use them, and for most of us, our lives are dictated by them. Our familiarity with these devices also makes us familiar with the dreaded device reset or reboot. This reset is the complete restoration of the device to the state it was in when it left the factory. All settings, applications, and data added by the user are removed. The user must do inventory before this reset to ensure things that they want to save are backed up properly, the undesired is discarded, and note what needs to remain to re-introduce once the reboot is complete. This reset or reboot can be done for several different reasons. You may be having issues that have slowed your device down, caused it to not work correctly, or you just desire something fresh and new. It is the same way for us as people of God many times. God wants to do new, fresh things in our lives, but personal clutter, lack of storage, or overall distractions keep us from embracing what is to come. In these instances, we need to have a personal reset, where we look to renovate and think of the next steps of reintegration.

Tuesday

Reflect: Considering what God has spoken to you over the past year, what are some things that may need a reset in your life?

Wednesday

Act: It is simple to focus on regrets, things we meant to complete but did not; unmet ambitions over this past year of our lives. Take time to write a reset plan for you and your family.

Thursday

Reflect: Consider things that may need to be renovated/reintegrated in your life, e.g., relationships, finances, physical/mental health, better time management.

Friday

Act: Dedicate time to take the broken areas of your life to GOD and receive guidance on how to move forward.

Saturday

Prayer: Lord, create a new spirit and a clean heart in us. Lord, we ask that you give us guidance and wisdom on how to move in your freshness. We pray for you to cover our hearts and minds during this time. Amen.



21 DAY CONSECRATION CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
8 Re-envision	9 Read the weekly devotional	10 Reflect: Read/Familiarize yourself with TCP's core values of Caring, Comforting, Constructing, & Communicating	11 Act: Dedicate time to carrying out one of the core values with someone who is experiencing distress, grief, lack, or loss.	12 Reflect: Read/Familiarize yourself with TCP's mission of connecting yourself upward to God, Inward to self, Outward to others, and Forward to your destiny.	13 Act: Focus on one specific mission and do something intentional and practical to accomplish it.	14 Prayer: Lord, help me to latch onto your vision for TCP and my life.
15 Re-commit	16 Read the weekly devotional	17 Reflect: Think of areas in your life where you can increase your commitment to God.	18 Act: Spend focused time with God through, e.g., fasting from certain foods/social media for a specific length of time; read and meditate on your bible for at least 30 minutes.	19 Reflect: Think of gifts and talents you possess and figure out how you can contribute these to the church.	20 Act: Research ministries offered by the church and commit to serving through at least one.	21 Prayer: Lord... give me the discipline to dedicate my time and talents to You and Your Kingdom.
22 Reset Renovate Reintegrate	23 Read the weekly devotional	24 Reflect: Considering what God has spoken to you over the past year, what are some things that may need a reset in your life?	25 Act: Take time to write a reset plan for you and/or your family.	26 Reflect: Consider things that may need a reset in your life, e.g., relationships, finances, physical/mental health, time management.	27 Act: Dedicate time to take the broken areas of your life to GOD and receive guidance on how to move forward.	28 Prayer: Lord... give us guidance and wisdom as how to move daily in your freshness.