

**GRACE
BIBLE
CHURCH**

— *Lorton* —

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own...

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

President Abraham Lincoln, Proclamation 97, 3-30-1863

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Matthew 6:16-18

“Whenever you fast, don’t be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting isn’t obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. ⁴ A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another—except when you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

“Christian fasting is a religious abstaining from food or any other legitimate provision of God for a set period of time. What is the purpose of this practice? Fasting humbles the body and soul before God as an aid to draw near to Him in prayer.”

Daniel Hyde in *Why Should I Fast?* (2015)

1 Corinthians 6:12

“Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything.

If our great concern is to please God and to glorify His name, we shall be in no difficulty about these other things. If a man is living entirely to the glory of God, you need not prescribe for him when he has to fast, you need not prescribe the sort of clothes he has to put on or anything else. If he has forgotten himself and given himself to God, the New Testament says that man will know how to eat and drink and dress because he will be doing it all to the glory of God.

Martyn Lloyd Jones

Acts 14:23

When they had appointed elders for them in every church and prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

The first thing I shall mention is *fasting and prayer*. It seems to me, that the circumstances of the present work loudly call upon God's people to abound in this... to pray for the continuance, increase, and greater extent of such blessings.

It is God's will, through his wonderful grace, that the prayers of his saints should be one great and principal means of carrying on the designs of Christ's kingdom in the world...

I should think the people of God in this land, at such a time as this is, would be in the way of their duty while doing three times as much at fasting and prayer as they do; not only, nor principally, for the pouring out of the Spirit on those places to which they belong; but that God would appear for his church, and, in mercy to miserable men, carry on his work in the land, and in the world, and fulfil the things he has spoken of in his word, that his church has been so long wishing, and hoping, and waiting for. Jonathan Edwards