

# NHCF 21-Day Fast - Fall 2020

## **1. Repentance**

Matthew 3:8 – “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

- We are called not only to repent of sin, but to produce fruit of repentance. It is an on-going process. Today, ask the Lord what you might need to repent of, and also what you might need to step-up your game in bearing fruit.

## **2. Wisdom**

James 1:5 – “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.”

- One of the things we are fasting for during this time is for a Godly outcome for the election. Ask God for wisdom, for yourself, your family, your church, your nation and especially your government leaders. We God’s wisdom, not the world’s wisdom!

## **3. Fear of God**

Proverbs 1:7 – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

- Yesterday we prayed for wisdom. Today, we find out where it begins... By fearing (honoring, revering, humbling ourselves before) the Lord. It makes sense that we cannot find Godly wisdom when we’re serving ourselves. So, we must seek the Lord and put Him first in all things. He is sovereign over all things, and we must submit to Him, and Him alone.

## **4. Slow to Speak**

James 1:19 – “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...”

- We recently heard the sermon on “Let Your Words Be Few”. This is SO important when it comes to approaching God, because we want to honor Him, and HEAR from Him. We also need to practice this when interacting with others, so we can prefer them above ourselves. Part of what we’re missing in our nation is the ability to listen and make others feel important.

## **5. Discernment**

1 Corinthians 12:10 – “to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, **to another distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

- We are in a spiritual battle! We need to know who / what we’re fighting. For some, discernment comes easily, but for others it does not. For those with children, it might be easy to know who you’re talking to on the phone, just by hearing their voice. With God, we can have this kind of discernment into the spiritual things going on around us as well. Ask God for discernment as you pray for our nation and other areas of your life.

## **6. Seeing Victory**

Exodus 14:14 – “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

- It’s likely your flesh is starting to fight back at this point in our 21-day fast! Maybe you’re getting cranky and wanting to give up. DON’T! You can do this, with the Lord’s help. Not only will He help you in this, he will also be with you and fight the battles we are praying and fast for. The victory is HIS, and we must rest in Him.

## 7. Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-17 – “<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- As a church we have practiced putting on our armor many times. We love the simplicity of acting it out and making it ‘fun’. But, it’s not just a kid’s game. God was serious when he literally tailor made the armor and weapons he has provided for us to win spiritual battles. Remember to arm yourself, and DO NOT attempt to fight a spiritual battle in the flesh. You’ll lose every time.

## 8. Spiritual Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:4 – “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

- We must understand that we are not merely in a political or cultural battle. We are in a raging spiritual war. As you fast and pray today, recall the scriptures you know about God’s victory over the enemy, and do some battle with your spiritual weapons against the god of this world and his demonic forces.

## 9. Faith

Luke 17:5 – “The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

- Sometimes we pray, and don’t see anything happen. This can be discouraging but we must remember and believe that even when WE don’t see anything happening, there is much more going on than we realize in the spiritual realm. Put your faith in Jesus and ask Him to increase your faith for a return to biblical values in our nation, even if it seems impossible!

## 10. Compassion

Colossians 3:12 – “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- Something we can all be grateful for is God’s compassion toward us. Even while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! We need to have compassion for people who are hurting and lost. So many are afraid and confused during this time, and we need to be full of compassion for these people. Ask God to increase your love and compassion for those you encounter.

## 11. Those in Authority

1 Timothy 2:1-2 – “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

- Pray for your Government leaders today. Pray that they may know the love and salvation of Jesus. Pray that they will listen to and be led by the voice of God. Even if they don't know why, pray that they will make GODLY decisions and laws.

## 12. Light in the Darkness

Daniel 1:8-9 – “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,…”

- Daniel was an exile in Babylon, under a pagan king. He was in a very dark spiritual climate, and yet he thrived! Why? Because he was 100% sold out to living for and honoring God. He was not rebellious, and he honored the king of Babylon as long as it did not interfere with his obedience to the Lord. Because of this, he was a light in the darkness. Even when he was thrown in the fiery furnace for refusing to worship anything but God, God was gloried. Pray that you and your family will be this kind of light in our dark world.

## 13. Authority is the Lord's

Matthew 28:18 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

- This is a simple reminder that God has all power! We live under and pray for the those in authority (as only God allows), but He is supreme. So, even if you struggle with those in power position in our local and national government, remember God is ultimately in control. Pray that you will honor God by praying for those in authority on earth.

## 14. Unity in the church

John 17:22-23 – “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

- We can all agree that there is disunity in the church. According to Jesus, the world will know we that Jesus was sent by our love for God and for each other. Pray that God will help us to know how to live in unity as the church and that His will in this will be accomplished.

## 15. Bless Israel

Genesis 12:3 – “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

- We have an obligation to bless Israel, especially if we want to receive and live in God's blessing. Today, pray for the peace of Israel, and that God will bless that great nation.

## 16. Culture

Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”

- Our world is upside-down! The culture is increasing in wickedness and not just tolerating it but celebrating it. Pray for strength to stand up under the pressure of the culture. Pray that you will not be deceived by the media, and that our young people will seek out Godly truth. Pray that the educational system will not turn the hearts of our youth away from God. We MUST do a better job of discipleship in the church and in our families. Pray for God's mercy and help in this area.

## 17. Marriage

Matthew 19:4-6 – “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

- God created marriage. His plan is NOT flawed, and marriage is defined by God as one man and one woman. Not homosexual marriage and not unmarried cohabitation as married couples do. Our culture has done it’s best to redefine marriage and family, but it will never be able. We must pray that our Government and culture maintain a biblical view of marriage and family. Pray for our country to vote for the best presidential candidate who support BIBLICAL marriage and family.

## 18. Sanctity of Life

Proverbs 6:16-19 – “There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, **hands that shed innocent blood**, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

- There is no one on earth more vulnerable and innocent than an unborn baby. And yet, our nation celebrates hands that shed the innocent blood of these precious, tiny humans who are made in God’s image. Pray for repentance and pray that our country will elect the candidate who will stand to protect these innocent lives.

## 19. Raise Up the Righteous

Psalms 75:9-10 – “As for me, I will declare this forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob, <sup>10</sup> who says, “I will cut off the horns of all the wicked, but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.”

- The “horns” in this scripture to speak to the power of the wicked or the righteous. We must pray that the power of the wicked is cut off, and that the power of the righteous will be lifted up in our nation.

## 20. Family First

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

- Discipleship is ESSENTIAL to the see faith in God passed for one generation to the next, and it starts in the home, not at church. Pray again today for the biblical family institution to be upheld in our nation and in the church. Pray for our leaders to protect God’s definition of family. Pray that you and your family will excel at discipleship in the home, through reading God’s Word, praying, worshiping and fasting together on a regular and consistent basis.

## 21. Choose LIFE

Read Deuteronomy 30 (Yup, the whole chapter)

- “*Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.*” You, your family and this nation has a choice on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. First, you have a choice whether or not to vote. This is your moment to hold fast to the Lord and let your voice be heard. VOTE! And you have a choice on how to vote. God instructs his people to “choose life”. Pray that our nation will

not make it's choice on personality, but on principle. We MUST hold fast to God and choose His way if we want to remain in His blessing. Pray that America return to the Lord and unashamedly make the most Godly choice on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.