

THE CONSECRATED FAST

When does the Consecration begin?

We will begin Monday August 7, 2023 at 12:00 a.m.

What about medications?

Please continue to take all medications as prescribed. It is vitally important that you do not stop taking your medications.

May I take vitamins and sports drinks (protein drinks)?

Yes, you may take a good multivitamin and a meal substitute drink. We discourage sports drinks due to the high sugar and sodium contents.

What is the key to a successful consecration or fast?

Prayer and study of the Scriptures. Please spend time in private devotion (Prayer and Bible reading). **See the attached scripture readings**. You may also want to share in a time of corporate prayer with your spouse, family members or other believers.

What are the dietary restrictions being observed?

- One meal a day.
- Water, juices, herbal teas can be consumed at any time.
- Fruits, nuts, and raw veggies can be consumed throughout the day.
- Sundays chicken, turkey and fish are acceptable on for one meal a day. Please pay close attention to the chicken now being sold as "authentic". Jewish and Arab meat shops sell organic meats and fish, in line with their beliefs!!!

PLEASE DRINK PLENTY OF WATER (flavored with lemon or lime) – This serves as an excellent cleanser.

What about Unmarried or Pre-Marital Physical Intimacy?

If this question is being considered, stop the activity, and schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

What are the Corporate Prayer Days and Times?

- Morning Prayer: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:00 a.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m., in person and also through the conference line: Dial-in: +1 717-832-8330 or +1 502-509-0282. Access code: 343 9463
- Noon Prayer: Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
- Evening Prayer: Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- In case of emergencies, please call the office any time during office hours.
- Please ask God to give you a Prayer Partner or someone to be accountable to.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS CONTINUALLY ON DISPLAY TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD!!

A relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship, a person can have. A relationship with Jesus results in new life, Ephesians 2:4-5; forgiveness, Colossians 1:14 and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, John 14:16-17. Most importantly, a bodily resurrection and a Home in Heaven are a few Blessings we receive, with this new intimate relationship with God.

What is an intimate relationship with God? It is allowing God to search our hearts, allowing us in turn to look into His heart. It's seeing what He sees, hearing what He hears, and experiencing life through His very breath/voice. In this walk of intimacy with God, we become one with His Spirit, His desires and with He, Himself, the Creator of the entire world, the only Living God, the Lord, Jehovah-Jesus.

In the very beginning, we were made to know God. He made us to fellowship with Him. He died for a relationship with us, and desires us every day. In Genesis 3:8-10, He called and looked for Adam and Eve. Question: Why would an omnipotent God want to meet us, mere fallen creatures, in a fallen world? Why should He care whether we desire to spend time with Him, a Holy, powerful, omniscient God? He has and will continue to run the universe, just fine without us. However, He from the beginning desired to dwell among His People. Does He have that same desire for us, as He did Adam and Eve? Why would He do all of that to be close to us??

Answer: Because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19. He created us for personal relationship with Him and only Him. The real problem is, we have intimate relationships with everyone else (we think), except Him. His undying love for us, led Him to face the cross, to save us from a world of sin, shame and eternal death. He took it upon Himself and decided to die to redeem us. We were and are, in debt to this Amazing Savior. For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Romans 3:23, "The wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is eternal life through, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, only."

When we admit this fact, that there is absolutely nothing we can do to save ourselves, or contribute to this great Salvation, King Jesus has purchased, except receive Him as our own personal Savior, we will then qualify to become Children of God!! Through His Grace and Mercy, He gives us moment by moment, in every breath, immutable opportunities to reciprocate our love and commitment to Him, by receiving this eternal Gift. Jesus says, "If a man loves Me, he will keep My Words and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him. These things have I spoken unto you, being Present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my Name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever, I have said unto you." John 14:23-26.

Is this relationship with God available to us? Yes!!!! Jesus said, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name". John 1:12. These eternal promises are accessible to us, as we abide in God's Word. God walked with Adam and Eve, however, with us, He chose to dwell in us, which constitutes, being with us perpetually. Acts 2:38-41. This eternal Holy Spirit will abide in us, continuing to transform us, into the image of Christ. 2 Cor 3: 18; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Cor 11:7. As we become more acquainted with God, we must acknowledge Him in every area of our lives.

First, intimacy with God is the experience of really knowing and being known by Him. To obtain this relationship with God, first and foremost, we must follow the Great and First Commandment in the Law, Love the Lord with all thy Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength. Only a person, who has been filled with the Spirit of the Living God, and separated from the world, can enjoy this closeness with God!!! For us to enter this Divine relationship, God demands, we surrender ourselves to Him, totally and completely. Only then will intimacy with God come. This relationship with God is not talk or ceremonies, it's the giving of ourselves to Him and His Work, sacrificially and willingly, in appreciation for the tender Love and Kindness, He has so graciously bestowed upon us. He has given us a true love that not one of us rightfully deserved. John 3:16.

Secondly, to be in right standing with God, we must love (in Greek Philadelphia means brotherly love) our neighbors as ourselves. Romans 12:10; Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:7; Revelations 1:11; 3:7. God loves His people. We can never walk with God without unfeigned love for His people. That includes our Family, Spouses, Peers, etc. We must continually give ourselves to this principle. This, Saints, is an unavoidable, vital, and required prerequisite to please the Father!!! We preach better Sermons by our love lives than by our lips. "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, your love one to another." John 13:35. "The one who loves his brother, abides in the light and there is no cause to stumbling in him." 1 John 2:10.

We must seek to know and apply God's principle (His Word), continually, in every area of our lives. There is no intimate relationship with someone we do not know. Intimacy takes time. A Divine relationship with our Precious Lord takes faith, time, effort, dedication, determination, commitment, and a total detachment from the world.

We must "...... by the Mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye prove, what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God. "Romans 12:1-2

The obtaining of this blessed, invaluable and delightful walk with the Father, we must have a made-up mind, regardless of what comes our way, to stay on course. Thirdly, we must surrender all to God, withholding nothing. This means everything, heart, soul, mind, time, finances, family, etc... Remember, Satan wants your place. He knows it's over for him, but he will try to get you off course, until his last day!! "... Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking who he may devour". 1 Peter 5:8. Peter says in, 1 Cor 15:58, "We must be "steadfast unmovable, always abounding, in the Work of the Lord."

Saints, this relationship, must be desired, more than anything on this earth. Heb 3:6; 3:14; 6:11. Seek ye the LORD, while He may be found, call ye upon Him, while He is near. Is 55:6. How do we do that? By reading His Word, listening to His Word, practicing what we hear from His Word, by not forsaking attendance of Services and Prayer.

Prayer and listening to the Voice of the Holy Spirit is a huge and necessary practice that must be a daily practice. We must refrain from indulging ourselves in worldly things. Such as the lust of the flesh, drunkenness, gluttony, and greed for material wealth, listening to worldly music, ungodly movies, depart from the evil of lying, making a lie, adultery, robbery, pride, greed, wrath, sloth, gluttony, lust, envy etc... Instead, we must nurture our lives with Spiritual things, such as love, faithfulness, kindness, compassion, patience, and self-control, etc..... A continual growth, in these areas, will strengthen our relationship with God! Obedience to the Word of God is inevitable to grow in God, we must obey His Commandments. Jesus says, "If we continue in my Word, then are ye my disciple, indeed; and ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed". John 8:31-32,36

Trust is at the heart of this intimacy. The more we trust God, the closer we will allow Him access to our lives. The degree to which trust is compromised in a relationship is the degree to which intimacy evaporates. This is as true in our relationship with God, as it is in our relationships with other human beings. Our experience of God's nearness or distance is not a description of his actual proximity to us, but in our experiences of intimacy, as we come to know him. A felt distance from God is often due to a disruption in trust, such as a sin or disappointment.

James says, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you". (James 4:8). How do we draw near to God? First, through Jesus Christ and our repentance of sin, who alone gives us access to the Throne. (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; Philippians 3:9). Secondly, trusting in His precious and very great promises in His Word. Whoever has my Commandments and keeps them, He is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him (John 14:21). Thirdly, daily prayer without ceasing, morning prayer. 1 Thes 5:17. Fourth, Not forsaking of the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some...... Heb 10:25. Fifth, study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth. 2Tim 2:15. Six, Jude says, "Beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." Jude 20

It is not by chance or place, that we can (it's our choice) come nearer to Him, who is in every place, but by the cultivation of pure desires and virtuous habits. (Daily Prayer and WORD). The lifestyle of a continually, committed, devoted and sinless lifestyle, before God and to Him, will keep us, in His bosom. As His Word and His Presence supernaturally changes us into His Image, we become intimate with the Almighty God and our Heavenly Father, which allows us to go before Him boldly. Hebrew says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need." Heb 4:16

*Bible Reading: Book of Proverbs (Chapters 4-6)