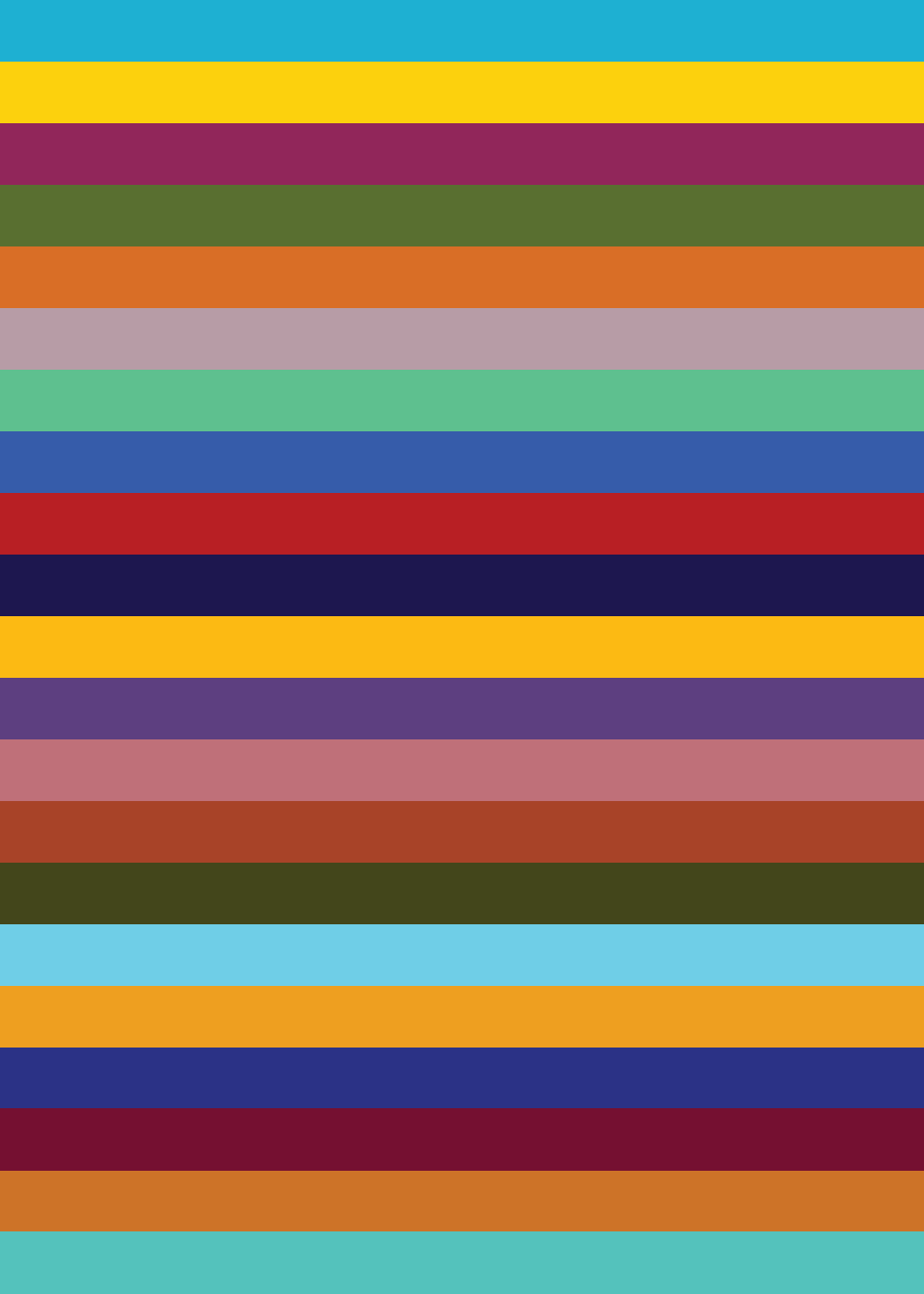


OPEN MY EYES

21-DAY FASTING
DEVOTIONAL

New York Times Best Selling Author

JENTEZEN FRANKLIN



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The background of the entire image is an abstract, textured composition of various colors including blue, red, yellow, purple, and green, arranged in flowing, organic shapes. Overlaid on this is a solid teal rectangular box that contains the text.

FROM THE MESSAGE:

The First Fruit of Fasting

**The greatest time of the year
to fast is at the beginning
of the year. God will add
blessings to your life over the
coming months all year long.
What you do right now affects
the rest of the year.**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 21-day fast. Whether this is your first time or your tenth, no two fasts are the same. It will be just as new, fresh and real the tenth time as it is the first – so we are all on equal footing here. The theme of our fast this year is Open My Eyes. What we would see if we could learn to see what God sees would astound us. During these twenty-one days, we will be asking the Lord to open our eyes to see things we have never seen, to give us faith like we have never had, and to show us compassion beyond anything we have ever experienced.

What an incredible journey these twenty-one days will be as we fast, pray, and grow together. I believe that God is about to do an amazing work in your life. Fasting has a way of bringing every part of your life into focus in ways nothing else can do. If you will allow your moments of hunger and cravings to serve as reminders to stop and pray, you will find a closeness with your Heavenly Father like you have never known. I can say that, not just because I have experienced this personally, but because of the thousands upon thousands of testimonies that have poured in every January from people from every part of the world. If you have any medical concerns about fasting, please check with a physician before you start, but once you take this first step – and go without that first meal, you have stepped out of the comfort zone and into the faith zone – into the supernatural.

I want to make you aware of a few resources we have to assist you with your journey.

1. We have specifically designed an Open My Eyes Fasting Journal to help you memorialize your experience. At the end of each session you will be encouraged to journal what the Lord has shown you.
2. You will find quotes throughout the twenty-one day experience that are taken directly from the Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible. While it is not required that you have a Legacy Bible for this twenty-one day process, it is my hope and my sincerest desire that you obtain one for your personal study after this twenty-one day fast ends.
3. Each day is designed to be interactive with questions to consider. Each day will have a section called “evaluation” designed to look back and take inventory, a section called “insight” where I take a moment to teach on the topic of the day and a section called “next steps” where you shift your focus forward.
4. Lastly, there will also be a recommended Scripture reading plan and a daily prayer time that I have designed for you each day.
5. If you have questions about how to fast, what to fast, the different types of fasts or anything else, go to **jentezenfranklin.org** and you will find numerous resources to help you navigate this life-changing season of time.

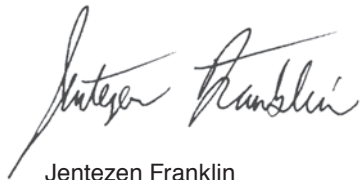
Our fast starts the first Sunday of the year and will continue for twenty-one days. It is not uncommon that over one million people will be fasting with us at our campuses and in our television and online church families from all over the world. I believe that these twenty-one days are the most important days of our year – and of your life because they will

chart the course and set the tone for the rest of the year. I also believe that when we fast together as a family, there is always an extraordinary move of the Holy Spirit that is felt by everyone. By participating with us in this fast, you become a part of this extraordinary move of God in ways you can't even imagine.

It's time. Take a moment and get alone with the Lord and share your heart and your desire to spend the next twenty-one days set apart from your normal schedule. If you need to step away from social media or television, even your friends – make the plan and take your first step. Don't be discouraged if you give in and break your fast prematurely or temporarily. No condemnation here – just jump back in and do the best you can.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to do your best to connect with others who are also fasting. You will have days where their words of encouragement and their common experience will be a great help to you. Get in a small group if that's possible or follow the daily blog at **jentezenfranklin.org** where you will be connected with others going through the same fast you are going through.

As soon as you are ready, turn the page and begin the process. The journey of one thousand miles begins with a first step. It's time to take yours. I will be here with you to lead and guide on each page and the Holy Spirit will be there with you through the process of each day. You are never alone – and every day is a sacrifice of love and devotion. What a great legacy you are about to walk in.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jentezen Franklin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jentezen Franklin



FROM THE MESSAGE:

The First Fruit of Fasting

One person fasting is powerful. It will affect that individual. But when a group of people begin to fast, it is multiplied strength. It is multiplied power and angels are released.

FASTING THEME SCRIPTURE:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in his holy people.

EPHESIANS 1:18

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Fasting is an Act of Worship pg. 1147

Fasting is not for the strong. Fasting is for the weak. Fasting is for the ordinary people who realize that they desperately need God in their life; that's who fasting is for. I encourage you to begin this journey. If you've never fasted before, or if you are a veteran faster, and you've fasted many times, I'm excited about what God will do on this journey if you step up and say, "God, I want You, and I'm coming after You in prayer and fasting."

Perspective is Everything

Your Future Sits on Your Shoulders

The Neck

The **neck** supports the weight of the head and protects the nerves that carry sensory and motor information from the brain down to the rest of the body. In addition, the **neck** is highly flexible and **allows the head to turn and flex in all directions.**

WHAT you see depends entirely on the DIRECTION you are LOOKING.

day 1

God's Eyes

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Dig It

God's dream for this ministry is that it goes from generation to generation, that it goes from glory to glory, that it goes from faith to faith. And every time we love truth and live it, we're securing a well for the next generation. Every time we worship and we fast and we pray we are securing a well of pure living water for the next generation.

What we're doing on these 21 days of fasting and prayer is securing a well or revival and refreshing and restoration that only God can bring to people's lives who are thirsty. And we've got to make sure that our children have the same drink of pure water that we had. We've got to keep securing that well.

Fasting Day 1:

Hello and welcome to Day One of the 21-day fast. If you haven't read the Introduction, please take a moment right now to go back and do that. The Introduction explains the way each day lays out and gives an overview of the process for each day.

I want to welcome you to the most amazing part of your new year! When you fast to start off the year, you are telling God that your relationship with Him is your top priority for the year. Today is day one and as you walk through your 21-day journey this devotion is designed to walk every step of the way with you. Whether you are doing water only right now or the Daniel Fast, **the first day is the most important day** and I am honored to walk it with you.

At some point today, you will probably experience hunger pangs. Your body has a clock and when your normal meal times come around, your body signals that it's time to eat. Allow those pangs to be reminders that it's time to PRAY. So settle in, allow the Lord to do a work like you have never known, and let's get started...together.

Synopsis: Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes

Seeing your life only through your own eyes can present a very narrow, critical, and limiting view of yourself. Where you see failure – God sees a ministry. Where you see all you don't have, God reminds you of all you DO have. ***When you can't see a way out or a path forward, God sees through to the other side.*** Where you see defeat, God sees a victory in the making. You must learn to see yourself and your situation through God's eyes if you intend to see what's true, what's possible, and what God has planned. That's what this fast is all about.

Over this next 21 days, allow the Lord to open your eyes into every part of your life to see all He has FOR you and all He is doing IN you.

Key Scripture: Theme Scripture for the 21-Day Fast

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in his holy people.

Ephesians 1:18

Bringing It Into Focus:

And so, as you're joining us on the first day of the fast, I really want to encourage you to begin to expect God to fill you with vision. Vision for your life, vision for your family, vision for your business. And Father, today, I just ask You to open our eyes. Open our eyes to see Your will, Your way, in 2020. In Jesus' name. Keep fasting.

Day One will be the most important day because half the battle is simply getting out of the boat and starting to walk. ***Our theme for the twenty-one days is "Open My Eyes."*** Each day contains an interactive experience designed to take you deeper into all God has

for you in this new year and new season. Take the time to walk through each activity and allow the Lord to reveal anything He wants to reveal and lead anywhere He wants to lead.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Release, Restoration, and Reward of Fasting pg. 993

Why do we fast? God said humble yourself before me and I will exalt you. You cannot humble yourself in fasting and God not exalt you. There are places you're supposed to go to that in the flesh you're not able to make happen on your own. It's going to take God. Humble yourself before the mighty hand of God, and in due season He will exalt you.

Evaluation:

There are many parts of your life demanding your focus, but the urgent is seldom the most necessary, and in fact – ***the most necessary is seldom urgent***. What if you were more intentional about what gets your attention and what you focus on? What if all that is needed for a new perspective is a turn of the head?

Consider these different parts of your life and see if you can identify any areas where you have been focused too heavily or too little.

Circle the areas where you have been focusing heavily and draw a line under those that definitely need greater focus:

Work	Extended Family	Personal Fitness
Church	Small Group/Friends	Social Media
Family	Bible Time	Entertainment/Fun
Marriage	Prayer	Doctor/Health
Closest Friends	News Cycle	Rest
Financial Planning	Volunteering	Home Needs
Time with Friends	Serving Others	Alone Time

Thoughts and Observations:

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Next Steps:

Just like focus changes perspectives, the same can be true about ***your thought life***. This exercise may prove even more revealing than the last because I am going to challenge you to take inventory on ***where you have been focusing your thoughts*** as well as the places you see you need to turn your mental neck.

Draw a line under those that need greater focus, and *asterisk* those thoughts that you have often that are harmful. Circle those thoughts that are defeating you today:

Work	The Future	God's Word
Gratitude	Defeating Thoughts	Finances
God's Promises	Children/Family	Comparison
An Enemy(s)	Worship	Doubt
Guilt	Sexual Fantasy	Mental Adultery
Fear/Anxiety	Thoughts and Observations:	

What Needs to Change...Today?

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Insight:

So many times, we think that those areas that are defeating us need some kind of radical, cold turkey response. Many a plan has started and failed because of a rash or unplanned approach. The ultimate goal is for those things which Christ died for to die in us, immediately. But I have found that ***the best way to defeat an obsession is to replace it with a greater affection***. Let your neck do the heavy lifting and ***Turn Your Head***. Shift your focus onto what's possible for a life fully surrendered to the Lord and take your eyes off of the unhealthy things that are competing for your attention.

Take one last look at the two lists above and you will find so many Godly, pure, and powerful areas of life to focus on. Think on those things and journal about the items that would have the greatest impact if they became your dominant focus.

Next Steps: What will you do with what you have learned today?

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Final Thoughts:

As you fast and pray today, read over each of your responses and ask the Lord to turn your head to focus on the areas where He is desiring greater focus from you. Before you move on, take a moment to stop and pray. As I pray over you, please take time to add your own words and your own prayer as well. After you have prayed, pull out your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal and write down anything you have learned about yourself from the Day One exercises. ***If you have questions for the Lord, ask them.*** If you have confessions to make, make them. His grace is an ocean and His mercies renew every day.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Ephesians 1
- Philippians 4
- Psalm 119:29-40
- Ephesians 2:10
- Hebrews 4:12-13

Prayer:

We're beginning 2020 saying, "God, open our eyes." Open our eyes to wonderful things. Open our eyes to revelation. Open our eyes to Your plan and Your direction, Your purpose. Show us who You are. Show us Your glory. Open our eyes. Give us the eyes that Ephesians 1 talks about, the eyes of understanding. Lord, I ask that You give me eyes to see. I know that many things in my life will have distraction but I ask You to give me Your vision in whichever direction I look. Give me the perspective of Your sight, Your thoughts, and Your desires. For the things I should not be focusing on, turn my head and shift my eyes back to You.

Your Prayer:

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day 2

God's Ways

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

Jesus understood that fasting produced a dimension of power that He could not have in His ministry any other way. If it was not necessary, then Jesus, our example, would have not modeled what we are to do to prepare us for ministry. And Jesus was modeling that it was necessary.

Fasting Day 2:

Day Two of the fast is here and you have made it through one of the toughest days – the first one. By now, you are feeling the initial phase of any fast. For many people, today is the hardest, especially if your body is used to receiving a daily dose of caffeine from soda or coffee and ***the cry of the flesh for its greatest enemy – SUGAR!*** And one of the greatest debates among those who fast is the issue of coffee. While coffee comes from a coffee BEAN you would think this wouldn't be as big an issue.

Press through today by drinking lots of water and clinging to Jesus. He is nearer than you ever imagined. ***Press in and ask your questions – spend time in worship*** and gratitude and allow Him to begin to unpack and heal the broken places and go before you in the stressful situations.

Today, we're emphasizing that God's ways are not our ways. When you think about the situations that you're facing, it's so important to know God's will in every situation. He enlightens us and He opens our eyes to His wisdom, to His knowledge, to His direction for our life. One

thing God promises when you fast is that He'll open your eyes to divine direction.

Synopsis: His Ways Are Higher Than Our Ways

To know what God thinks about any situation you first have to understand that ***His ways and His thoughts are very different than our own***. To know God's will in every situation means you have to know Him personally and that can only happen through growing in His Word, through prayer, and by coming under Godly preaching and wise teachers. God will grow you up into maturity if you will make these a priority.

You can settle for seeing what YOU can see in each of your children or you can see them through God's eyes. You can try to work your way out of a sticky situation or you can inquire of the Lord and allow Him to show you a better way. His ways are knowable but you have to commit to the process of growing up in the Lord.

Key Scriptures:

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15

Bringing It Into Focus:

I want to encourage you today. You can try to work things out your way, and do it yourself, or you can say, "Lord, Your ways are better than my ways, and I'm going to commit the process to You. I give it to You

on this fast.” Do not be conformed to this world, the Bible said: But be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable will of God.

When you fast, you’re presenting your body as a living sacrifice. Fasting will help you find the perfect will of God in 2020 for your life.

One of the most powerful truths of the Christian faith is that you don’t have to have all the answers. ***Your heavenly Father IS the answer for every question and dilemma*** you will ever face. We waste so much time and energy worrying or trying to plan for every eventuality when the answer is so simple. Seek Him. Seek Him FIRST. Matthew chapter six holds so many truths for how to live and how to approach every situation. It even contains the Lord’s prayer to teach us how to pray the model prayer, The Lord’s Prayer. But if you read on to the end of the chapter you eventually come to this:

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these

things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:25-34

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Sharpening the Ax pg. 369

I know of no other spiritual discipline that sharpens the heart and soul of a believer more than fasting. Fasting is sharpening the ax! If you're not careful, you'll be trying to cut down trees with an ax handle that doesn't have an edge on the ax. Fasting is making the edge sharp so it can do a greater work.

Evaluation:

Question 1: "Seeking" encompasses everything from reading and studying God's Word to prayer, private worship, gratitude, church attendance, and focus. Rate yourself on a scale from 1-10 for the following statement:

Are you seeking God during the course of each week?

A 1 would mean that you don't seek Him at all whereas a 10 would mean that you seek Him endlessly every day all day. Circle your answer:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Question 2: What would it take to move that score closer to a 10?

Question 3: List the top three things that keep you from moving your score closer to a 10.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Thoughts and Observations:

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Insight:

If we are completely honest, far too often we leave Jesus at the church doors waiting for us to return the next week. But His plan from the day He returned to heaven was for us to have ***His Holy Spirit living in us ready to teach us, comfort us, guide us***, and even show us things to come, and THAT'S just the short list. He wants our questions and the cares that weigh us down. He wants to give us His thoughts and ideas and solutions – and all we have to do is stop trying to figure everything out, and start asking for answers.

Question 4: Re-write Isaiah 55:8-9 in your own words and explain why this matters so much.

Next Steps:

So simple. The fact is, the goal is not to show God all you can do and your ability to figure everything out on your own. ***The ultimate place of maturity is fully dependent upon Him.*** We don't strive to be smarter; we seek to see the world and all its many highs and lows through the eyes of Jesus and understand what He sees, hears, thinks, and feels. It's not all up to you and your ability. Why see what you see when He promises to help you see what He sees? Think of it in terms of this passage of scripture:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways,

And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

That's why we fast and pray. That's why we turn the other cheek when everything in us is crying out for justice and revenge. That's why we go to church on Sunday mornings rather than sleep in. That's why we tithe and lift our hands and worship a God we cannot see; that's why we don't live like everyone else. We have surrendered our lives to Jesus and with that comes a devotion that is not of this world.

How can you take what you have learned today and apply it to your life tomorrow?

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From the message: *What Happens When We Fast and Pray*

Physical obedience releases spiritual power.

Favor. Help. Protection. Healing. Miracles. Blessing.

Final Thoughts:

Take a moment or two to look back over all that you have studied and written today. After you have looked over your time with the Lord today, spend a moment in prayer and then journal any overall thoughts or even direct words from the Lord you experienced today.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Isaiah 55
- Psalm 19:7-10
- Romans 12:1-2
- Ephesians 4:14-16

Prayer:

*Lord, I thank You for everything You've done for me. I ask You to remind me that Your thoughts and Your ways are higher. Your purpose for my life is so much better than anything I could ever imagine or ask for. Help me remember when I don't believe it sometimes. **I know that You are greater than anything I could ever need** and even when it is hard, I still need You, Lord. Help me as I fast and pray during this season. In the name of Jesus, today, I pray that our eyes will be opened, not to our way, but to Your way. Not to our will, but to Your will. And so, as we fast, and as we pray, open our eyes, give us solutions, give us answers, give us direction, God, for this new year. We seek You early, we seek You earnestly and with our whole heart.*

Your Prayer:

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prom·ise

noun

a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

day 3

God's Power

FROM THE MESSAGE:

The First Fruit of Fasting

After about two days of fasting, you will be weeping over things that you giggled and laughed at and were entertained by (previously). When you fast you become sensitive.

Fasting Day 3:

Welcome to Day Three of the 21-day fast. By now you have fully entered something called “ketosis” which is your body’s way of saying that something is happening that is out of the ordinary. You will begin to notice a thick brown coat on your tongue and most will begin to lose weight, mostly water weight.

Your body has also begun to adjust and some of the headaches and deep hunger pangs will begin to subside. But something else will begin to happen as well. As you work your way through the day noticing every restaurant and pizza commercial known to mankind – there will be moments of clarity. Don’t make it all about fighting through and just surviving each day. ***Even in the weak moments – ESPECIALLY in the weak moments – press in.*** I have learned that when I am at my weakest, if I will listen, He is the loudest.

If you will see past your physical desires you will see a whole new dimension of your Savior and you will hear His voice speak into your life and your future.

Synopsis: Seeing God's Power

Today's topic is the POWER of GOD. You need to know that the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive in YOU right this minute! So many times we say, "All things are possible with God!" quoting the famous passage from Luke 1:37. But do we really believe that? Is ANYTHING possible? What about for you personally?

When Jesus gave the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, He gave us power to do what most would consider impossible.

Key Scripture:

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:11

for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit

and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved

to be among you for your sake.

I Thessalonians 1:5

Bringing It Into Focus:

Today, we're emphasizing and fasting that God would release His power upon our lives. Acts 1:8 said: "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is upon you." And as I stood in the city of Jerusalem recently, I was reminded of the Upper Room where God sent the Holy Spirit. On that day we were all given power – power over the enemy, power to move mountains, power that heals, power that produces the anointing which breaks the yoke.

I want to challenge you to look at a few places in your own life that perhaps you have given up on such as dreams, salvation for friends or relatives that seem unreachable, and even for miracles you need right now – a bad medical report, finances, a wayward child, a broken marriage. **God is still in the miracle-working business** and through the Holy Spirit we have the power living in us to change lives and circumstances in a moment.

What does “the power of God” mean to you?

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Restate the scripture given above (II Corinthians 13:4-5) in your own words:

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Evaluation:

Question 1: Look back over your life. When was the last time God surprised you by doing what you could not have done yourself? List below even if it's just one thing. If the answer is NEVER...then think again and ask the Lord to remind you. He will.

Question 2: Can He do it again? Why or why not?

Question 3: Is there a situation, a need, or a dream you are experiencing right now that would be an amazing surprise if He surprised you with a solution or a way? List and define:

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

God Can Cross Up the Devil's Set-up pg. 63

You are not limited to circumstances. You are not limited to your past. You are not limited to how people label you. When God crosses His hands, He is giving you a new position. He will say, "You have a chance because I raised you up, and I'm going to give you ability above your own ability." God picks unlikely people.

Insight:

Have you ever been so excited because you had a surprise for a family member or a close friend? Can you remember how excited you were to tell them? Do you remember how good it felt to see their expression and to see how happy it made them? Why would you think it would be any different for your Heavenly Father? ***He loves to surprise you – to come through for you*** – to show up with a surprise that brings you great joy and excitement.

With God it's even greater because He knows your truest desires – the ones you don't dare tell others and the ones you have a hard time believing for. ***He takes great delight in your joy!*** In fact, in Nehemiah 8:10 it says that "the joy of the Lord is your ***STRENGTH!***"

Do you dare say out loud your greatest desire? Do you dare ask the Lord for something that has been welling up inside you for years?

Next Steps:

I want to challenge you to look at a few places in your own life that perhaps you've given up on. Maybe dreams, maybe the salvation of a loved one. I want you to know that as you pray and as you fast for these 21 days, you can see God's miracle-working power released, through the Holy Spirit, into every circumstance that you face.

Question 1: What would you attempt if you were guaranteed you would not fail?

Question 2: If you were given 5 million dollars to give to any three charities you wish, where would you give it and why?

Question 3: When you look at all of the world or even right in your own city, what breaks your heart when you see it and why? (Okay to list more than one thing)

Take a moment to look at your answers to the questions above. What do your answers say about the heart God gave YOU? Any patterns?

Final Thoughts:

So many times, God will take this time of fasting and reveal to you the purpose He has placed in you. ***Sometimes He will reveal an assignment for the next season.*** In your prayer time and in your journal, take some time to talk to the Lord about your answers above, especially in the “Next Steps” section and be sure to journal anything you hear the Lord speak into you.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Isaiah 40:25-31

Prayer:

Father, I ask You for supernatural power and anointing and resurrection power in dead dreams, dead marriages, dead situations that feel like they are over. Lord, I know Your anointing can come. Send that power to our nation. Send that power to America and to the world. Send Your power, Holy Spirit, in 2020, and open our eyes. Give us the vision that You have for such a time as this. In Jesus' name.

Keep on fasting. Keep on praying. You've done it. You're going to keep doing it.

Your Prayer:

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pur·pose

noun

*the reason for which something is done or
created or for which something exists.*

The Retina – Gatekeeper of the Mind

Your Future Sits on Your Shoulders

The Retina – The Eye's Lens

The ***purpose of the retina*** is to receive light that the lens has focused, convert the light into neural signals, and send these signals on to the brain for visual recognition.

WHAT you choose to see is a choice – and what you see will determine what you believe.

In the same way, what you believe about God will determine the way you view the world.

day 4

**When We Only See
What We Look For**

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

And if you want the activity of the Holy Spirit in a new way – the Holy Spirit, which is the new wine active in your life in a new year, then you must give Him new skin. You must say, I'm going to deny the flesh. I'm going to deal with the skin. I'm going to present Him a new sacrifice of my body, which is my skin, so that He can pour new wine in for a new year.

Fasting Day 4:

Welcome to Day Four of the twenty-one day fast. By now, you have endured the headaches of those first couple of days as your body began to shed itself of the toxins and poisons we have learned to live with the last twelve months. By today, your stomach has begun to shrink, and for many of you, your hunger has subsided provided you have been drinking enough water – your best friend. But what will begin to sneak up on you at this stage are those pesky cravings. Remember, for most people, your body runs on an internal clock and when you wake up the stomach says to the brain, “It’s breakfast time. Time to eat!” The same thing happens at lunch and dinner time.

We’re believing God to open your eyes in every situation. You can choose to see the negative or ***you can choose to see the positive***, and that’s what happens when you begin to fast. God opens your eyes to wonderful things that are happening all around you. Both of us have more to praise God for than to gripe about.

There is a unique discipline to the approach that we take when we begin to say, “God, open my eyes to life. Open my eyes to joy. ***Open my eyes on this fast to hope and victory.*** Open my eyes, Lord, so that I can see not with a critical eye, but with an encouraging eye that is filled with vision and expectation, approaching every situation knowing that God is up to something amazing.”

He can even take the bad situations and make them great. He can make a good situation out of what has seemingly been a disaster in your life. That’s why the scripture said: “All things work together for good to those that love God, and that are called according to His purpose.”

Push through these moments of weakness by replacing them with prayer, praise or even a walk sometimes helps. ***Remember, you are not alone!*** We are all in this together and if you should need company, join us on the daily fasting blog at jentezenfranklin.org.

Synopsis: Your Approach is Everything

I have learned that in every situation, people choose what they will focus on. Some are going to find everything that is wrong in every room they enter, while another group sees all the amazing and wonderful things that are happening. We see what we look for. The same applies to the way we see each other. There is a unique discipline to the approach we take to people, places, and situations.

I have learned that your approach can speak life or death into every situation...including your own. When that critical eye is turned on yourself it not only can be discouraging...it can be disastrous. But by the same token – approaching every situation knowing God is up to something amazing can take a bad situation and make it great – and a great situation and make it historic.

Key Scripture:

And we know that all things work together for good to those
who love God,

to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

Bringing It Into Focus:

I have learned that in nearly every situation, especially in tense or difficult seasons or moments, there are two kinds of people. Most are what I call “thermometers” while a much smaller number are “thermostats.” Thermometers can tell you all about the room. They can describe every difficulty and flaw in great detail and can even define the problem – often times when no one else in the room even knew there WAS a problem.

Far too often, these well-meaning folks can carry a spirit of negativity that can stop a move of God in its tracks. They have an eye for detail, which can be a good thing, but if that eye is only looking for what’s wrong in the room, it can miss everything good that is happening. They see what they look for and what they look for are all the flaws – all the imperfections and they miss a move of the Spirit taking place in the very same room.

“Thermostats” on the other hand see the same room, even the same problems and, rather than just announce the issues, they adjust the thermostat – and the temperature in the room changes without anyone even noticing the subtle change. ***They see the value in what is happening and look for ways to call attention to the good*** and minimize the bad. They don’t just explain what they see – they take action.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Five Things the Holy Spirit Wants to Do For You pg. 1238

I did not understand anything about algebra until I went to school. Then I got an instructor and he began to teach me what these strange things meant. That is what the Holy Spirit does. He becomes your schoolmaster. The Holy Spirit begins to teach you about Christ. He throws the floodlight on revelation, things that you would not see without Him. He brings them out for your life. He shows you God's will for your life. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Be as honest as you can. Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? And – thermometer, what can you do about that?

Question 2: Let's take it a little deeper. When you look at what's possible for your life, are you more of a thermometer or a thermostat? Explain.

Question 3: What would it take for you to respond more like a thermostat than a thermometer?

Insight:

Never trust what you see with physical eyes only; instead push in and ask for God's eyes to see what He sees. Jeremiah 29 holds one of the most famous and oft repeated passages in the entire Bible. But too many people don't read the entire passage and instead, only read this:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

But if you were to read just a bit further, you would discover there is even a greater promise that awaits and is totally up to you to claim...or disregard. The rest of that famous passage says this:

*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, **when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you**, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity.*

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Never forget that your Father in heaven is able to work ALL things for good. His Word is filled with promise after promise – and hope is on every page. He's the great thermostat and He's here to change your entire atmosphere. You can choose to interpret everything you see and experience with your own thoughts and plans or you can tap into a much higher perspective and see what's really true because it's in His word – **if you will draw near to Him – He will draw near to you**. If you seek Him with your whole heart – He promises to be found. And if anything holds you captive right now – finances, relationships, trouble – He promises to bring you back from that captivity. Stop telling God about your situation and start telling your situation about your GOD!!

Thoughts:

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Next Steps:

You are called, and He's working for your good. Ask God to change your perspective, to change your vision, to not be negative on this fast, and even going into this new year ask Him for positive outlook.

What needs to change? How will you see the cares of this world differently as a result of today's devotion? What will you be set free from...today? What will you see and do differently when you enter a room, a situation, or a challenge? Make these a matter of prayer in your prayer time below and take time to journal these questions after your prayer time.

Final Thoughts:

Purpose in your heart right now to be the one who changes the atmosphere in the room simply because you carry the Hope of the World in your heart! Determine that you will seek to ***see the best in others first – and that includes yourself***. See what God sees in others and if you don't know what that is, ask the Lord to show you. He will.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Numbers 13
- Ephesians 1
- Philippians 4:4-9

Prayer:

God, just take the negativity out of me, and put in me the spirit of hope, faith, and love. Lord, we agree for it. Touch our eyes, open our eyes to see the positive. Help us to think positive thoughts. Teach us to believe for good things. Remind us that we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

21-DAY FASTING DEVOTIONAL

Be blessed. Keep fasting, keep praying. We're doing it with you and together, we're going to shake the world as we fast and pray.

Your Prayer:

day 5

Gratitude Determines Attitude

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

Heaven has no shortage of oil. The Holy Spirit has no shortage of the anointing, miracles, healing, blessing, dreams and visions.

Fasting Day 5:

After you have fasted for five days your energy level may decrease because you are lacking the two things that normally keep you wound up: caffeine and sugar. Thankfully, the low energy blues don't last too long if you will stick to your plan.

As you fast today, remember this: gratitude determines your attitude. We need a spirit of gratitude, and what we're praying for is that we will be thankful. One thing fasting does is it clears your mind. It removes all of the distractions of normal life, and you begin to **develop a gratitude of your salvation and the fact that your name is written in heaven.** Fasting reminds you of the fact that you have a covenant with God.

When I fast, all of the problems of life that were so big before I started fasting begin to shrink. They become small when I get in the presence of God. I hope you'll do that today as you worship. Put on some worship, and create an attitude of gratitude. Begin to thank God. Bless Him, out loud. Say praise words and praise phrases to God, and tell Him thank You for everything, for the small things and the great things. He's worthy of the praise.

People with great faith approach situations differently because they know the battle is won before they ever enter the room. They take the high road of just praising God, giving Him the glory. Just say, "Lord,

I want You to give me on this fast a fresh attitude of gratitude. If you'll do that, you'll see the goodness of the Lord in your life. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me, you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation," Jesus said, "But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Listen to that. "Be of good cheer." Get an attitude of gratitude, smile, and thank God for His goodness in your life today. Give us that spirit that says, "God, I'm grateful."

Synopsis: Your Gratitude Determines Your Attitude

In every situation you encounter there is ALWAYS one thing you have complete control over: YOUR ATTITUDE. Your attitude determines your approach and your approach to a situation or another person can escalate or de-escalate, bring tension or calm, trust or turmoil. If you truly believe that the Lord works all things together for your good, then start there. Start KNOWING that God is going to bring something good into every situation – that He has your best interest in mind.

Key Scripture:

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ^[a]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,

And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers,

they shall not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."

Isaiah 43:1-2

Bringing It Into Focus:

I have learned through experience that a person's attitude can tell me a lot about their level of faith. ***People with great faith approach situations differently*** because they know the battle is won before they ever enter the room. They take the high road because they know it's not all about them. If you want to go higher with the Lord – then be humble – if you want to soar with eagles then learn patience and perseverance in the valley, KNOWING you are in God's hands.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Let Your Faith Fight For You pg. 1214

A good fight is when you know how it is going to end. You are not in this thing alone. If the devil is pushing you with tests and trials, God is going to push back with His goodness. Good days are coming. Victory is coming. Blessings are coming. If you don't lose heart, your faith will fight for you!.

Evaluation:

Exercise #1: Rate Your Attitude

Rate your overall attitude toward life on a scale from 1-10. A 1 would mean you are a very negative person whereas a 10 would mean you see every situation as amazing and awesome.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Question #1: Why is your score what you say it is?

Question #2: Are you happy with the score you chose? Why or why not?

Question #3: What would it take to move your score closer to a 10?

Question #4: Do you consider yourself a grateful person to God? To others?

To God- why or why not?

To others- why or why not?

List the top ten things you are grateful for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Insight:

I have come to believe that ***grateful people are breakthrough people.*** People who struggle with gratitude, whether genuinely unhappy or by neglect, are too focused on their list of issues to see the breakthrough God has for them. Living a life of gratitude is a choice and it's ALWAYS the right choice.

Next Steps:

Start with the list of ten things you listed above and let your prayer of thanksgiving for those ten things start your day for the rest of this 21-day fast. ***We see what we choose to see and we speak what we choose to speak every day.*** For the next several days choose life, light and words of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 138
- Psalm 145
- Hebrews 12:28-29
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer:

Father, bless and keep us today, and give us the spirit that says, "God, I'm grateful. If You never did anything else for me other than sending Your Son to die for me, it would be more than enough. Forgive me for the times I lose sight of that and develop an attitude of complaining and griping. Develop in me an attitude of gratitude that cannot be shaken. Today I will give thanks for You are good and Your love endures forever."

Your Prayer:

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day 6

**Perfect Vision Is Not Enough –
Eyes On One Side Only**

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

God says I'm going to bless you in spite of what's happened to you. I'm going to bless you a thousand times more than you are today. Quit weeping over the past. Behold, I do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth. Can you fear what I hear?

Fasting Day 6:

Stay the course! Your first full work week is coming to an end and you can spend more time with the Lord as you fast. By now you have probably experienced it all: headaches, nausea, the brown tongue and the bad breath it produces, and the low energy spells. I promise you, if you will **stay the course**, there is a sweetness coming when you hit your stride in week two.

Today, we're fasting and praying, and we're going to really center in on one word: focus. Ask God to give you the focus that you need this new year. Ask Him to show you what you need to focus on. Some people have 20/20 vision of their past, and they only focus on what's behind them. They're completely blind to the amazing future that God has for them. Whether you are wildly successful, or you're enduring some of the greatest trials of your life, **you don't need to focus on your past**. You need to focus on the future.

God stands ready to hand you the next chapter of your life, but if all you can see is what's behind you, you'll never know what's before you. Leave the past behind, and turn around, and see all that God has for you. He said in the scripture, "Not that I have already attained, or that

I have perfected, but I press on and I fix my eyes on what lies ahead. I lay hold of that which the Lord Jesus has for me, and I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, ***I forget those things which are behind and I reach forward into those things which are ahead.***”

That’s what God wants you to do. Focus on what’s ahead, not on what’s behind. I believe you’re going to find that upward call of Jesus Christ.

Synopsis: Focus is Everything

You can’t grab hold of your future if you’re focused on your past. Allow me to paint a word picture. If your body is turned in one direction you can’t see what’s behind you because it’s physically impossible. You have to turn around to see the other direction. The same is true spiritually. ***Some people have 20/20 vision of their past – but they are completely blind to the amazing future God has for them.***

Key Scripture:

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on,

that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do,

***forgetting those things which are behind
and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
in Christ Jesus.***

Philippians 3:12-14

Bringing It Into Focus:

Whether you were wildly successful or endured some of life's greatest hardships in your past – at some point you have to turn your back on all that, turn around and adjust your focus on your future. **God stands ready to hand you the next chapter of your life**, but if all He can see is your back, you'll never even know He's there. Leave the past behind; turn around and see all the Lord has for you.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Divine Enablement – Roadmap to Your Purpose pg. 1189

The problem is that not everyone is doing what they are actually called to do. In fact, based on dismal job satisfaction surveys nationwide, over 70 percent are not working in the field of their calling and passion. Do you want to know why you are dying spiritually? It is because your gift is in a box somewhere and you think it's the pastor's job to pump you up every Sunday. Fire you up. The ultimate purpose is not to bless you so you can have a nice, successful life. It's all about the kingdom and assignment.

Evaluation:

Question 1: What are you still carrying from your past that seems to continually affect your present and your future?

Why is there reluctance to lay it down?

Question 2: Is there something the Lord told you to do or laid on your heart in the past that you never did?

Could the Lord be giving you a second chance to answer that call?

Question 3: Who is it in your past that keeps your focus?

Has God told you to let that person go? Have you? Should you?

Will you? Explain:

Question 4: Could it be that your next season has not begun because you are still living in the former season? If yes, explain:

Insight:

While we like to say that some people seem to have eyes in the back of their head, the fact of the matter is that we do not. Another fact is that ***we cannot see what we are not facing***. Peripheral vision only sees so far. So it stands to reason that to see what is behind us we have to physically turn around – or in the case of your past, you have to physically turn away. This can be difficult when there are things in our past that meant so much to us.

I once heard it explained like this. A dog will fight you tooth and nail for a bone with a little meat on it. So to try to take that bone away is possible. But dangerous. No, the secret to getting that dog to drop the bone is to offer a full steak instead. Whatever it is in your past that you are holding onto seems like a lot when it's all you have.

Next Steps:

What God is offering you in your future is so amazing that, if you were to see it now, you would have no problem releasing it. But that's not how God works. The currency of heaven is faith and obedience. ***He's there waiting on you to turn around***, but He won't let you see it until you exercise faith and obedience. Do you trust Him? Has He told you to let it go and turn around? Make the decision today in your prayer time to open your hands, release what you are holding onto, and turn away by turning around and changing your focus. Your future is calling. Make that decision today. Then take time to journal your process as you fast and pray.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Genesis 19:12-29
- Philippians 12:12-14
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- Isaiah 43:18-19
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Prayer:

Father, we pray today for the right focus. Open our eyes to focus in on what matters, focus on our family, focus on our marriages, focus on people that love us, and that we love. Help us to have a focus, most importantly, on You, Jesus. We're not fasting to be fasting. We're fasting to see You, to focus on You, to make You supreme Lord of our lives.

Do that today. Focus on Him, focus on the Word and focus on the promises.

Your Prayer:

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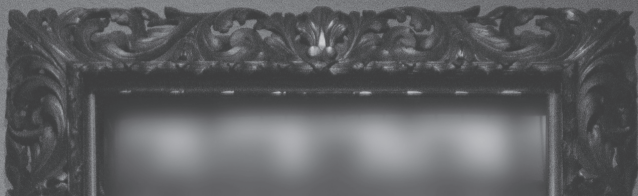
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Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus



The Mirror

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A **mirror** is a flat piece of glass which reflects light so that when you look at it you can see yourself reflected in it.

The YOU that you see in the mirror will be determined

by the LIGHT you choose to reflect.



day 7

Seeing Your Sin

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Great Mercy

Mercy is all of heaven standing in the grandstands screaming out over our sin, over our failure, "Give him another chance. Give her another chance."

Fasting Day 7:

Welcome to Day Seven of our fasting and prayer. One full week at the end of today. Drink your water and fight for time with the Lord. ***He is much nearer than you might have imagined and your breakthrough is closer than you think. Press in.***

There are literally hundreds of thousands of people who are joining us on this fast, and we're so thankful that you're doing it today. I was recently in a very special place, the Garden of Gethsemane. As I stood there, I had you on my mind. And I prayed, "God, open their eyes to the price that Jesus paid and the value He placed on each of them when His sweat became as drops of blood; where He, in great anguish, took the cup and took into His body their sins, diseases, pain, and heartache."

Many of you are feeling the weakness of your flesh, and your spirit is willing saying, "*Don't quit. Don't give up. You can do it. Seek God. Seek God.*" But your flesh is saying, "Just quit. What difference is it making?" You know what? I would almost guarantee, if you're truly fasting, you've entered into such warfare that the enemy has hit you with things out of nowhere and you want to give up. ***I'm praying for you that you will not quit, that you will not give up, but you will seek God and finish***

this first week with great victory. You know what? The devil's a liar because he said you wouldn't make it seven days, and you've made it seven days, and now you're going to make it another seven days, and another seven days, because your heart is set to seek the Lord.

Synopsis: Open My Eyes to MY Sin – if there be any wicked way in me, show me, Lord

Today I want to challenge you to a time of self – reflection and honest inquiry with the Lord. It seems like everyone calls themselves a Christian these days, but we know that simply isn't true. To be born again means just that – there has been a death to the old you and you have become a new creation. I am always a bit taken back to read where people can live together out of wedlock, steal on their taxes, rage at their spouse, or fill in the blank...and still come to church, lift their hands to Jesus and worship as if there was nothing wrong. For some it is sheer rebellion and disobedience. They know better and they choose to live in it. But I have also encountered people who sincerely and genuinely do not know that what they are doing is wrong in God's eyes.

Key Scripture:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴ And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:21 – 24

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.

Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Isaiah 44:22

Bringing It Into Focus:

It isn't always some overt in your face sin. For some it's things they do in private, or in relationships, or even things they were brought up believing are normal. For others, it's living in unforgiveness or bitterness.

Ask the Lord to open your eyes to anything He wants to rid you of – take from you – or set you free from. Sometimes we can't see sin with our natural eyes. But if you will ask, if there is something there, He will show you. There is no time like during a fast when you are washing out all the toxins and impurities, to have those areas of darkness and sin washed out as well.

Thoughts:

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Spattered Garments pg. 929

Don't walk around in spattered garments with evidence of the world and all its lusts and temptations all over you. Put on a garment of praise. Put on that armor that the book of Ephesians talks about. Put on humility and righteousness and love. Put on the fruit of the Spirit. Put on abundance and joy. Take heed to the garments you put on each day, knowing this could be the day you stand before that throne.

Evaluation:

Question 1: This is just you and God talking – what areas do you struggle with sin?

Question 2: A Deeper Dive – What are the one or two sins that seem to have you? These are the one or two that you have probably carried with you for many years.

Question 3: If there was a way to rid yourself of that sin, would you do it?

Question 4: Is there a device, an instrument or any physical object, material or person that Satan uses to ensnare you?

From the message: Great Grace

Mistakes are the price we pay for a full life if we learn from those mistakes. The issue is not are you going to be knocked down? The issue is if you're going to stay down. Mistakes are the catalyst to the miraculous if you will put 'em in God's hands.

Question 5: Is there a reason you refuse to separate yourself from this? An example would be a cell phone, a friendship or a website or a place you go, etc....? List and explain:

Insight:

What do you do when the thing that ensnares you is something you think you have to have to survive in the 21st century such as a cell phone? But, on the other hand, what do you do when you know your willful sin is keeping you trapped in a never – ending cycle of failure and guilt?

I have good news. While God stands ready to forgive any and all sin though the blood He shed on the cross, it would appear that God couldn't possibly forgive when it's the same sin – over and over. But that's because when we limit God to what we would be capable or incapable of, we miss God altogether. **He's not like you or me. He**

DOES forgive, every time. Forgiveness isn't the issue. What's at stake is you walking fully in your calling.

I wish I had an easy answer for you but the bottom line is this: What you are experiencing is as old as the Garden of Eden and the story of God's people from the beginning whether they were worshipping a golden calf or refusing to kill every living soul when taking the promised land. With besetting sins, there are always one of two things at play:

1. **An inordinate affection for something or someone** – which is akin to worshipping false gods or idols. This could be everything from famous people and their lifestyles to a person who has complete control over what you do. This could be an obsession with money or the things money can buy. But it could also be a religious personality that you follow blindly even though those who know you best have tried to warn you.
2. **Refusing to kill everything God tells you to kill.** When you are prescribed antibiotics by a doctor you are always told to take them for the full amount of days prescribed. But so often, we take them until we feel better and then stop taking them, which allows those few little remaining bacteria to stay and grow stronger and ultimately make you sick again. In the Old Testament following Joshua's reign we find God's people eventually enslaved by the very people they refused to fully destroy. What has God shown you to fully get rid of? What has He told you to eliminate but you justify keeping it around for other purposes?

Next Steps:

Do either number 1 or number 2 above sound anything like what you are going through? If yes, then you have to come before the Lord and confess it because He promises in His word that ***if you will confess your sins He is faithful and just to REMOVE YOUR SIN.*** That's so powerful. But what will you do with your idol? What will you do with that one thing God has told you to eliminate? Will you? Are you willing to tell someone else that can help you? What are you willing to do to see ALL God has for you come to pass?

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 51
- Romans 6:1-14
- Romans 8:1-11
- 1 John 1:5-10

Prayer:

Father, I pray today that our spirit man would become so strong that, as we fast, the flesh would be reduced and the spirit be made more and more like the image of Jesus Christ. We submit everything to You in prayer. Lord, I hold up the people who are fasting and praying these 21 days. I hold up their families. I hold up all the prayer requests that have been coming in. I hold them up, Lord, and I ask You to move mightily. Release angels the way an angel came and ministered to You in the Garden of Gethsemane, Lord. I pray angels will be released on this fast, angels that fight, angels that direct, angels that stand by us through life's greatest storms.

In Jesus' mighty name, Hallelujah.

One final word: While you're fasting, and while you're praying, I just want you to know something the Lord showed me for YOU for this fast when I was recently in Israel: This is out of my Legacy Bible. I opened it up and one of the teachings said these words. ***"Great moments are coming in this year, great moments that will astound you." Believe it! Great moments are coming for you!***

Your Prayer:

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for·give

verb

stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw, or mistake.

day 8

Seeing Your Current Situation

FROM THE MESSAGE:

What Happens When We Fast and Pray

There are times – strategic moments in your life when God comes not with a demand, but a challenge. You don't have to do it. You're not more saved if you fast. You're not more holy if you fast. It's a divine challenge from God. And He says, at strategic moments in our life, I want a partnership with you. And what you do physically is going to release spiritual things when you obey me.

Fasting Day 8:

This is Day Eight of our 21-Day Fast, and we're so glad that you're joining us on this fast. One of the interesting things about fasting is that even though your world has been turned upside down for a season – the rest of the world goes along as if nothing is happening. But let me be the first to remind you – ***something IS happening and all of heaven is sitting up and taking notice.*** Don't look back now. Press on and press in!

Synopsis: Seeing God in the Storms of Life

Many times, the greatest obstacle to moving forward with the Lord isn't in the past; it's some paralyzing event or set of circumstances happening right now. Criticism, betrayal, conflict or even things like a bad medical report or a child who is far away from God can stop you where you stand and things like purpose, calling, and legacy seem like a distant, fading ship in the fog.

I bring you good news – Jesus hasn't gone anywhere, and just like He was with Peter when Peter walked on water – **He is right there to save you.** Your hope is not gone. Your future is secure and that set of circumstances you find yourself in is but a season, not a sentence. When your world appears as though it's all falling apart in the physical, it's actually falling into place in the spiritual. God's got you!

Key Scripture:

But Jesus (walking on the water) immediately said to them:

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out,

"Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:27-32

Bringing It Into Focus:

Cherise and I were at the Dead Sea which is literally the lowest place on the earth. Maybe you're there spiritually. Maybe you're there emotionally. The reason that it's called the "Dead Sea" is because there's nothing living in it. It's so salty because it has no outlets. It only takes in; it doesn't give out.

Here is the lesson of the Dead Sea: ***When you get discouraged, go and help somebody else. Encourage somebody else.*** Love somebody else. Don't become a Dead Sea, only taking in and never giving out. Sometimes when you're fasting and praying, it will bring up a lot of negative emotions. Elijah, when he fasted, went under a juniper tree and became depressed. Fasting cleanses us spiritually, yes, but it cleanses and stirs us emotionally as well. But what brought Elijah out of his cave of depression was when God told him to go anoint somebody else. When he went and anointed three people, his depression lifted.

Trust Him and draw near. He is your protector, defender and your strong tower. He goes before you and prepares the way. ***In times like these you have to trust God and lean not in your own understanding.*** Keep walking with Him, especially when your emotions are taking you down a darker path. Stop where you are, look up and call out His name. He will answer you and direct your path back to the light.

Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.

*In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct
your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

This is a promise you can count on when your emotions cause you to fear and see only the negative.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Lord is My Doorkeeper pg. 1263

We are always moving through seasons. Throughout transitions, it is so important to know that God is in control. A door separates one room from another room, which means you do not have to move far to make your transition. It may not be too far to move from one season into another, from one place to another place, from brokenness into wholeness,

from sickness into health, or from poverty into blessing.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Are you in an emotional season right now? If yes, explain. If there isn't one now, talk about the last troubling season you went through:

Question 2: Did God seem distant, fully present, or not there at all?

If there was distance, was it Him or was it you?

Insight:

Sometimes, when we go through the emotional or "woe is me" seasons of this life, especially when fasting, it can seem like God is silent and far away. I want to give you something to consider: First, ***He is NEVER far away. In fact His Holy Spirit lives inside you and never leaves you.*** Second, if it seems as though God is silent sometimes, it's because sometimes He is. Remember this in seasons of silence: The teacher is always silent during a test. And God never tests you to hurt you but to grow you and to prepare you for the next season. Sometimes the test is to see if you are ready for the next season.

Next Steps:

Go love on somebody today. Go help somebody this week. Go pour into somebody else something the Lord has shown you. And while you're on this fast I agree with you that God's going to open up rivers of blessing; not just for you, but through you also.

The Lord told Abraham that He would make him a double blessing. He said, "I'm going to bless you." That's blessing number one, and then "You shall be a blessing." That's blessing number two. Really, it's the double blessing – the greatest blessing – when you can bless others. So, don't just take in, always taking in and never giving out, or you'll become like that Dead Sea.

Nothing can live in the Dead Sea. The Bible said, "Out of your belly will flow rivers of living water." So, ***I just want to encourage you today. Be blessed.*** Keep fasting and keep praying. You're doing amazing and God hears your cry.

Your physical obedience always brings spiritual release. Don't ever forget that. ***What you're doing physically can affect the spirit world.*** That's also the reason He said, "Raise your hands." When Moses lifted his hands they won the battle. When his hands went down they lost the battle. Your physical obedience to God can release spiritual blessings into your life. Keep fasting. Keep praying. Keep lifting those hands to God!

There are always things you will need in order to stand and not fall that God is developing in your current season. Journal about this in your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 14:22-33
- 2 Corinthians 4

Prayer:

Father, encourage people today. Turn them from a Dead Sea to a flowing mighty river. Today when they are tempted to take their eyes off of You and onto the storm, remind them of the hope of glory You've called them to. Shift their perspective and focus to find You in every storm. Remind them that You are near to the brokenhearted and close to the crushed in spirit. In Jesus' Name.

Your Prayer:

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en·cour·age

verb

give support, confidence, or hope to (someone).

day 9

Seeing Your Potential

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Dig It

You want to be blessed? It requires sacrifice. You want an anointing a thousand times stronger than you are today? It requires sacrifice. I've been preaching a long time and I know the Bible pretty good, and I'm going to tell you, if I have to sacrifice, I can't lean on anything in my past, no anointing from the past.

Fasting Day 9:

Welcome to Day Nine of our 21-day fast. I have been to the mountain where the Bible said, “Jesus, for 40 days and 40 nights, fasted and prayed in the wilderness, being led by the Spirit.” I cannot imagine why He chose that place for such a historical event. It's so barren out there with none of the comforts of our life. To be out in those extreme places and to know what Christ went through there was almost overwhelming.

Today, as we are fasting and we're praying, I want to focus on those of you who are in a wilderness place right now. ***I want you to focus on being led of the Spirit***, wherever the Spirit leads you. If He's allowing you to be in the middle of a wilderness situation in your life, it's because He's going to bring something out of it. The Bible said, “Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit.” And that's what I believe is going to happen to you on this fast. As you come out of it, you're going to return in the Power of the Holy Spirit – the very SAME SPIRIT Jesus was talking about.

If you haven't been able to focus on anything other than your hunger pangs, you are about to experience a sweetness in your daily walk and prayer time. It's a natural response from a supernatural God.

Synopsis: God has an Amazing Purpose for Your Life

Did you know you were created for a purpose that is bigger than you could imagine? In fact, if I could do anything differently in my thirty-plus years of ministry I would have dreamed bigger! Not only can I never outgive God – I can't outdream Him. And neither can you. If there is one thing I can tell you for certain it's that God has a plan and a purpose for your life that He thought of long before you were even born. Scripture confirms this over and over. What an exciting time to be alive and what an amazing gift to know He has a plan and a purpose for the one life you've been given to live.

Key Scripture:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

John 10:12-14

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Bringing It Into Focus:

I want to challenge you to see what's possible – and then see it bigger. It's easy to imagine something for a moment and say "That would be nice." But I'm talking about actually getting a picture in your head and seeing it, today, tomorrow, and every day. And here's the good news – none of what you can imagine is dependent solely on you. You plus the Lord is an army and ANYTHING is possible.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Fasting For Your Breakthrough pg. 968

It's time for you to prepare your heart for what God wants to do. It's time for you to birth your assignment. It's time for God to target your children for His plan. It's time for you to see that miracle of provision come to you! It's time for you to fast and pray. As you fast and pray, you will conquer the things that have been conquering you.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Let me ask you a question: Who is responsible for making you aware of your purpose? You figuring it out or God making it clear to you?

Question 2: By your best understanding, what is your purpose or purposes right now?

Question 3: What questions do you have for God about your purpose or assignment? Be specific:

Star or highlight this section so you can remember to include your responses in your prayer time and in your journaling.

Insight:

I want to pray for you today. Maybe you've been in a dry place. Maybe you've been in a wilderness, a hot place filled with heat and intense pressure and you don't know what to do or where to turn. There is a God in heaven who hears your cry. He sees you as you're fasting, as you're praying, as you're seeking Him. When you come out of this – and you WILL come out of this – you're going to come out in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Next Steps:

God is going to give you three things: wisdom, favor, and the anointing. The anointing is the ability to do something at a whole new level. Favor means that doors open that no man can shut. God knows how to pronounce favor over your life. One day of favor is worth a year of labor. One day of favor, in 2020, can change your whole future.

I agree with you for days of favor, anointing, and wisdom for every situation – the wisdom of God. You will come out of this fast with wisdom that is beyond your natural ability. Wisdom to help you make the right decisions concerning your family, concerning your business, concerning your life. God cares about these things and as you fast and as you pray, He sends the power of His Holy Spirit in these three areas of your life today. Keep fasting and praying.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Joel 2:24-29
- Habakkuk 2:2-3
- Jeremiah 29:11-14
- Proverbs 16:1-4
- Matthew 6:25-34

Prayer:

Allow me to pray for you today. *Father, the Bible teaches that You, Jesus, were led of the Spirit, after being baptized in the Jordan River, to the wilderness to fast and pray. And God, I pray for those that are encountering their wilderness. I thank You today, that Your grace is sufficient. I thank You today that the Comforter is with us. And I thank You, Lord, that You're going to bring people out of this fast in 2020, with the power of the Holy Spirit, resting heavily on them.*

Your Prayer:

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Seeing Through the Eyes of Others

Empathy and Exhortation- Two Eyes that MUST Be Opened

Empathy is the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position.

Exhortation is a strong word of encouragement and support.

**WHAT you see through the eyes of others
will determine**

the IMPACT you will have on their lives.

day 10

**Through The Eyes of Those
Closest to You**

FROM THE MESSAGE:

What Happens When We Fast and Pray

The love of God is absolutely full and free. It's perfect love, it's full and it's yours. But the favor of God does not come in its fullness on your life until you do certain things that get God's attention. You can't buy God's favor, but you do not get more of God's favor without sacrifice. The increase of favor comes from obedience and sacrifice.

Fasting Day 10:

I want to welcome you to Day Ten. As we're fasting and praying together, we're so thankful for this massive army that is joining us, all over the world, people fasting and praying. And today the focus is on, "Open my eyes, Lord, and let me see through the eyes of those who know me best." You know, it's our family that matters the most. And sometimes we're impressing others, but we're not really having impact on our own families. I pray that what we are in public is seen in private by our families.

I also want to really encourage you to spend time with others who are fasting. You can do that in person or online. Another way to stay connected is to go to our website and blog with other people fasting just like you. Go to jentezenfranklin.org for fasting friends, recipes and other resources designed to help you finish this fast.

Synopsis: Seeing Yourself Through the Eyes of Those That Know You Best

If your family was asked to describe your character what would they

say? If they were asked about your strengths and weaknesses would there be any surprises? Most of us have a public life and a private life and our families see us in our private lives when our guard is down. ***Who we are in public matters.*** But what our families and those who know us best see matters even more.

Key Scripture:

*For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed,
nor hidden that will not be known.*

Luke 12:2

Bringing It Into Focus:

If I've led thousands to the Lord but lost the respect and admiration of my family then something is not right. To see yourself through your immediate and extended family's eyes and those who know you best is an exercise worth trying. I don't ever want to be what's standing between Jesus and those I love the most. And neither do you.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

What Can I Expect to Experience When I Fast? Pg. 379

*Here are four things to consider when you fast: **Detoxing** will happen eliminating toxins from your body. Your **physical activity will slow** down considerably. You will need **more rest** as your body instinctively responds to the loss of fuel. Lastly, your **water intake** will need to increase. Spiritually, spend time listening to praise and worship. Engage in prayer as often as you can throughout the day. Reflect on God and enjoy His Word while allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Get away from normal distractions and keep your heart and mind set on seeking God's direction. You are following Jesus' example when you fast.*

Evaluation:

Question 1: Think of the three closest friends or family members you know. What value do you add to their life?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now go back and write what value they add to yours. Is there a balance or an inequity?

Thoughts:

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Question 2: Do you draw those who know you best toward the Lord, away from the Lord, or no effect?

Question 3: List the words you have heard those who know you best use to describe you:

Now list any words not on the list that you would like to be known for by those who know you best:

Thoughts:

Insight:

When you fast and when you pray ask the Lord to reveal in you anything that is not like Him. Pray for transparency, especially before those who are closest to us. Pray for authenticity and a pure walk with God before people in public, and your family. How do you treat your wife? How do you parent your children and show love to your family? It's not enough to know you love them – you need to show them. Maybe you need to hug your kids today. Maybe you need to call someone that you care about while you're fasting.

Isaiah 58 said, "Hold not yourself back or hide not yourself from your own flesh." If there are any situations that need reconciliation, don't hold yourself back, but give yourself, during this fast, to healing those relationships. There's an amazing verse that says in Luke 12:2, "For there is nothing that is covered, that will not be revealed and there's nothing hidden, that will not be known." Simply ask Him, "Lord, just make me real. Just make me so real that my children see. And when they think in their private thoughts about their father, or their mother, let them think he or she really does love the Lord. "That is Christianity at its greatest and that's the stuff "that is more caught, than taught."

Next Steps:

The anointing is more caught than taught. You can teach the law, but if you don't live it in a daily way, in front of your family, they won't catch it. Those who know you best often see things you don't – good and bad –

healthy and unhealthy. If you want to take this to another level, sit with some of those who know you best and ask them some of these same questions and allow them to be honest. People who know you best and love you best have no interest in hurting you and what you learn could be life-changing.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Luke 11:33-36
- Matthew 7:3-5
- Galatians 6:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 7:9-11
- Hebrews 12:7-17

Prayer:

Father, today, on this 10th day, do a work in our families and in our own life, through the eyes of those who know us best. Let us be transparent and pure and real. Let us be kind. Let us be forgiving. Let us be compassionate one to another, tenderhearted, as the scripture said, with brothers, with sisters, with parents, with children, with any areas of reconciliation needed. I pray today for that kind of power to be released on our families and in our own lives, in Jesus' name.

May God bless you. You've made it to the 10th day. You're halfway there. 21 days of consecration and fasting. Keep on praying. Keep on reading your Bible. Keep on believing for great miracles. 2020 is the year of fresh vision.

Your Prayer:

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day 11

Through The Eyes Of Conflict

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Great Mercy

You're not going to see eye to eye on everything. So what a family has to do is see each other through mercy, through blood.

Fasting Day 11:

It's Day Eleven of our 21-day fast. I pray that the daily devotion and the lessons on each page have helped grow you. I also pray that your eyes have been opened to things you haven't seen before. And I come bearing good news – the best is yet to come. The last ten days are the sweetest of all if you will stay the course.

I also come with a word of grace – if you fall off the wagon and eat something that violates the fast you committed to, shake it off. Jump back in immediately. It doesn't mean you are a bad person; it means you are human. There's grace for that.

Today we're focusing on eyes that are open to seeing resolved conflicts in our life. Are there conflicts on your job? Are there conflicts in your family? Are there conflicts with friends? Maybe somebody said something, did something, that has really offended you or hurt you. This is what the Bible talks about in 1 Peter 3:9 when it says, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

Synopsis: Seeing Conflict Through God's Eyes

I remember reading that over 70% of all people do not enjoy their

work. When this is broken down, two of the most common reasons are difficult colleagues and office politics. When the statistics are that high, then I know I'm speaking to a whole lot of folks. There will always be difficult people in our lives because we are all human and all uniquely different. My guess is that when I said "difficult person" a face came to your mind. The question isn't, "How do you see the most difficult person in your world?" The important question is, "What do you do with the most difficult person in your life?"

Key Scripture:

"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless,

for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing."

1 Peter 3:9

Bringing It Into Focus:

Hold the face of that difficult person in your focus for a moment and answer a few questions.

1. What does that person think of you?
2. When that person sees you do they see a loving man or woman of God or something else?
3. Didn't Jesus die for your most difficult person?
4. How do you think God sees that difficult person?
5. Could there be a reason the Lord placed YOU in that person's life?

Thoughts:

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Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Willows and Palms pg. 135

There is something very different about people who are going through great trials. They show up and they are desperate for a word from God. God meets them there and they find the peace they need on the altars.

Evaluation:

Question #1: Is there a face or faces that come to mind when you think of your most difficult people? If yes, explain briefly what it is that is so annoying or hurtful, and be specific.

Question #2: Describe the way this person or persons views you:

Question #3: If there was anything you could say to this person(s) without any ramifications what would you say?

Insight:

Bullies don't stop being bullies when they are handed a high school diploma, and no one deserves to be bullied, ever. If things are unprofessional or cross a line physically, sexually, or emotionally there are resources that range from supervisors and HR departments to attorneys and even law enforcement. But for those situations that don't rise to that level, ***God is able to make lemonade out of lemons and there is no bridge too far for Jesus.*** Just look at how far He went to reach you.

That also means you refuse to be drawn in. Sometimes people will “run you hot.” Have you ever been driving your car on a hot summer day and that needle keeps moving closer and closer to H? It means it’s running hot. There are some people that, the more you talk to them, the more they pull you into conflict.

What we’re praying and fasting for today is that God would open our eyes to being a peacemaker; to being someone who can resolve conflicts, not throw kerosene or gas on the fire, but actually extinguish the fire of conflict. God, if you will let Him, if you will ask Him, will use your presence to throw water and douse conflicts and bring peace to situations. The Lord said, in a very famous message found in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Be a peacemaker today. Let God open your eyes to solutions to conflicts so that you might bring peace and the very Presence of God.

From the message: The 1000x More Anointing

Something happens when we become broken. And that’s what fasting does. It breaks your pride. It breaks your ego. It breaks the cycles of flesh, and sin, and carnality. It just breaks it down. And once you get broken – the question is, can you go through a broken thing, and still maintain the fire, and still hold on to a trumpet of praise?

Next Steps:

Question of the day: Are you willing to allow the Lord to use this situation to grow you and possibly even reach this same person or persons? Reconsider the questions asked in the Bringing It Into Focus section:

1. What does that person think of you?
2. When that person sees you do they see a loving man or woman of God or something else?
3. Didn’t Jesus die for your most difficult person?
4. How do you think God sees that difficult person?
5. Could there be a reason the Lord placed YOU in that person’s life?

Journal your thoughts in your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal and in your prayer time below.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Ephesians 4
- James 4:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 13

Prayer:

Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray today for the spirit of peace. I pray today for the spirit of reconciliation, of victory in every conflict. There are many people who are going through things during this fast. Maybe it's a lawsuit; maybe it's a problem on the job where there's great conflict. May You open our eyes and give us the method, the way to peace and reconciliation with people in difficult situations. We ask for it, Lord. We submit it to You today, God. I thank You for the anointing to bring the resolution to conflict in these situations. In Jesus' name we pray.

God bless you. Keep fasting and praying.

Your Prayer:

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day 12

**Opening Your Eyes To The
Presence Of God**

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

I'm not fasting for more of God. I'm fasting so that God will have more of me. And I'm fasting that the fierce demons – the more fierce demons will be cast out. Anybody ready for a visitation of new wine?

Fasting Day 12:

Welcome to Day Twelve! Today's topic – the Presence of God is what this fast is all about and I truly believe that if you have been fasting this past twelve days that you are experiencing His presence and sensing a call to what God would have you do next. Press in and stay the course, my friend. This next nine days will go by in a flash!

Today we're focusing on the Lord opening our eyes to the presence of Jesus. There's an amazing verse in Luke 2 that talks about how Jesus was lost and his parents didn't even know it. They sought for Him and, after a few days, they found Him in the temple.

It's amazing to me that those who were closest to Jesus lost His personal presence. And that's what fasting is really all about. Fasting is saying, "Lord, I feel distant. I know I'm saved. I know You love me and I know that I love You, but I feel like I'm losing Your presence in my life. I want Your presence in an intimate way, near me again." The Bible said His parents found Him in the temple. I'm praying that today, as you fast and you pray, God will open your eyes, and you'll find the personal presence of Jesus. In the midst of all the distraction, in the midst of the busyness of life, that as you're fasting, it's like a spiritual string tied on

your finger to remind you: “I need You, Jesus. I need Your presence in a new year. I want Your Presence, not just in my church, but in my home. I want it in my family. I want Your presence in my life and I want You to live in me, and perfect in me Your image and Your will.”

Today, may the Lord open your eyes to the presence of Jesus; His healing presence, His delivering presence, His encouraging presence that drives fear away. Let His presence fill you with courage and boldness, and let fear melt off of you today.

Synopsis: Seeing and Experiencing the Presence of God

What an amazing thought that the God of the universe thinks about me. And He thinks about you...a lot. So many people see their relationship with God as all one way – praying to God, worshipping God, and learning from His Word. But there is a whole other dimension when you consider that God wants to speak to you about you. Like any other relationship, it's a two-way communication.

Key Scripture:

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:7-10

“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:16-17

Bringing It Into Focus:

If there is anything I have learned about my relationship with the Lord it's that He desires to speak to me, reveal things to me, and love me. I don't hear audible voices so it's not anything like that, but I will tell you this, ***I know when He's spoken to me, and so will you.*** And I know when I have been in His Presence and there isn't anything that compares.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Holy Spirit Changes You pg. 1019

I know how important salvation is. It is everything. Salvation is what gets you to heaven, but baptism in the Holy Spirit is what gives you dominion on earth. Some of you have salvation for heaven, but no dominion on earth. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit right now, right where you are. Take that next step of faith and ask.

Evaluation:

Question 1: When was the last time you remember that the Lord spoke to your spirit in such a way that you knew it was Him? Talk about that time.

Question 2: One of the ways the Lord speaks to us is through His Word. Do you take time daily or even weekly to spend time reading and meditating on God's Word? If yes, how much. If no, why not?

Is it possible to seek the Lord with your WHOLE heart and seldom or never read His Word?

Question 3: When is the last time you truly felt the Presence of God? Where were you and describe the experience?

Insight:

Communication between friends isn't really communication if only one person does all the talking. Far too often that is how we pray. We come with the things we have to offer and the questions we have, say amen, and move on. But what if it was God's plan to answer your questions in real time with a passage of scripture or a revelation He gives you?

When you pray, stop to listen the way you would in a conversation. When you worship Him, ***allow for moments to receive His love and experience His Presence.*** I believe God is wanting to fill you with His Holy Spirit, His power and, even more importantly, His love. We tend to speak to God more like it's a letter we mail, knowing it could be weeks before we receive a response. Nothing could be further from the truth because when you worship or when you pray He is right there.

From the message: Dig it

You'll never have a public powerful manifestation of God's power and glory until you have a private conversation with God in prayer.

Next Steps: What do you see now that's new?

How much does God's Presence and hearing His voice in your life matter to you? What are you willing to do to experience more of His Presence? Are you willing to add silence and listening as you pray? Are you willing to ask for the Presence of the Holy Spirit to invade a place where you are worshipping? Are you willing to read a passage ten times if that's what it takes for meaning to emerge and the revelation of a deeper truth is received?

There is no fear when God is near. The presence of Jesus drives fear from you. I speak that over your life.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Luke 2
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 29:11-14

Prayer:

Father, in the mighty name of Jesus, I pray today for the tens of thousands of people that are joining us on this fast. May the presence of Jesus be real in their lives. May they find You. May the presence of God be found; the tangible anointing of God in our lives. In Jesus' name I pray.

Thank you so much. Keep fasting and praying. Send your prayer request in to **jentezenfranklin.org**. We have incredible resources to help you in your fast. We also have a Legacy Bible that will be a blessing to you. It's full of God's Word and teachings I have created from actual messages I have preached. There are also incredible amounts of prayer and fasting material in the Legacy Bible that will really open your eyes to the presence of Jesus like never before. Keep on fasting. Keep on praying. God's going to do great things in 2020 in your life.

Your Prayer:

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Impaired Vision

Impaired Vision

Visual *impairment*, or *vision* loss, is a decreased ability to see to a degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means.

WHAT you choose to see is a choice – and what you see will determine what you believe.

You can't see what you can't see. Fortunately, God provides a number of visual aids to help us see clearly.

day 13

The Incense of Prayer

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

The same is true spiritually. When you begin to deny the flesh, when you begin to suppress the sense of taste, your spiritual hearing becomes more in tune to the dimensions of God's voice, God's plan, God's purpose, and God's strategy for your life. And suddenly you have ears to hear. My sheep know my voice.

Fasting Day 13:

As we approach the end of week two, hopefully you have hit your stride and you have experienced moments of peace or, better yet, revelation. Remember to stay connected to others at this time at jentezenfranklin.org.

Today, we're talking to you about the "Incense of Prayer." The Bible said in Psalm 141:2 that our prayers rise before God as incense. In Jerusalem there is a very special place of prayer called the Wailing Wall. If you go to the Wailing Wall anytime – 24 hours a day – there's prayer going up...prayer going up like incense. ***When we pray and when we fast we believe that we can affect change for the good.*** There's something about praying that God would release His help, His love, His mercy and His grace on our families, our lives, on our nation, and on the nation of Israel.

Synopsis: Blind Spots

I want to encourage you today to send your prayers up all day long. We're believing for God to move mightily in your life as you're fasting, as you're praying, and as this ministry is fasting and praying. We do it every year at the beginning of the year. I'm also seeking the Lord through fasting and praying just like you. I praise the Lord for those of you who are joining us.

Never forget – fasting does two things to your prayers. ***It builds your faith and increases your fervency.*** The two things that God said you have to have to get prayers answered is faith and fervency. ***And when we fast it gives faith and gives fervency to our prayers.*** The effectual fervent prayers of righteous men and women avail much.

Key Scripture:

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and
know my anxieties;*

*And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the
way everlasting.*

Psalm 139:23-24

*And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went
out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and
chariots. And his servant said to him,*

“Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

*16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with
us are more than those who are with them.” 17 And Elisha
prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.”*

*Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he
saw. And behold,*

*the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all
around Elisha.*

II Kings 6:15-20

Bringing It Into Focus:

Are there places in your life where your vision is obstructed? If yes, **stop and pray** right now and yield those places to the Lord. If you can't think of any, then ask the Lord to reveal places where you aren't seeing the full picture. Sometimes it's a bias or something you have just always believed was true. Maybe it's a blind spot you have in a relationship or in the way you see another person...maybe even a person who is very close to you. If you will ask the Lord to reveal these areas of your thinking or belief system...He will. He may not reveal it immediately, but I believe if you will ask Him, He will show you before this 21-day fast is over.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Grace, Grace pg. 932

We don't have to fight on our own. The battle is not ours. It is God's battle (II Chronicles 20:15). Let grace fight. Let grace win. Let grace reach. Let grace deliver. Let grace set you free. Grace! Grace!

Evaluation:

Question 1: Have you ever been told or noticed that you have blind spots? These can be anything from relationships to personal habits or the way you treat people. If yes, what are they?

Do you agree? Why or why not?

Question 2: Where are your blind spots in your walk with the Lord? Put another way, what are the areas that are neglected in your walk with Christ?

Question 3: Sometimes blind spots happen through misplaced trust. Have you experienced betrayal or been hurt by others that you never saw coming? If yes explain:

Insight:

Pray. We all have blind spots and many times the things we are blind to in our own character we are quick to criticize in others. If you want to know where your greatest blind spots are, just take inventory on those you criticize the most and the reasons you criticize them. But whatever YOUR blind spot is, the Lord stands ready to eliminate it and give you full and perfect vision, but only after you acknowledge the blind spot, and ask God to remove it. Pray.

Start with your incense of prayer and allow it to go up before the Lord. Many times, ***answered prayer comes when God reveals something to us about our character*** – or anything else you might have missed – your blind spot. Prayer will reveal – always has – always will.

Next Steps:

Prayer is the starting point for everything and is like incense before the Lord – something God talks about in the Old Testament. If you've missed the importance of this in your walk with Christ, you've stepped over the key to everything. For too many – they try everything else first. But without prayer it's just your effort. Blind spots can be very dangerous be they in a car or in a life. Ask the Lord to reveal yours and don't get defensive. Admit it and ask for the help God is ready to give. He will and when He does, you will see things you have never seen and experience both the Lord AND others in ways you can't imagine. That's what every person says who has their vision corrected or healed.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 139:23-24
- 2 Kings 6:15-20
- Psalm 19:12-14
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- 1 John 1:5-10

Prayer:

The two things that God said you must have to have your prayers answered are faith and fervency. When we fast and we pray it gives faith and gives fervency to our prayers. The effectual fervent prayers of righteous men and women avail much. So God, I pray today for those who are fasting and praying by the millions around the world. I thank You, Lord, for those who have made a decision in 2020 to say, "God, open my eyes to the power of prayer, of burning incense." If it's worth worrying about, it's worth praying about.

God says, "I hear your prayers from this holy place." And God, I just pray today for every person who needs Your help and needs Your strength, Your love, Your mercy and Your grace. Touch our families, touch our lives. Touch each ministry fasting with us as well. Oh God, keep Your hand upon us and hear our cry and hear our prayer.

We pray today for the peace of Jerusalem. We pray today for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. We pray Your hand mightily upon them with protection and favor and help. And Lord, I pray for America. I pray for our election. I pray for this year that we would have leaders who stand with Israel – who will stand and remember Jerusalem and remember our connection to our faith. It all goes back to Jerusalem where Jesus Christ bled and died, and He rose from the dead. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray.

We know that there are so many of you that have been in contact with us during every fast, saying you're fasting from all over the world. We thank God for you! Keep it up. You're doing great. God's going to bless you, and He's going to use you to be a blessing. Remember, that's really the greater blessing.

Your Prayer:

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fo·cus

noun

*the state or quality of having or producing clear
visual definition.*

day 14

Foreign Objects

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

See, there are curses in people's families – curses of poverty, curses of divorce, curses of sickness and trouble, but when you fast, curses can no longer have dominion over your children.

I do believe that there is a blessing that comes that we can raise up a foundation for many generations through fasting.

Fasting Day 14:

Welcome to the fourteenth day of fasting and prayer. You're headed into your final week now, the final seven days. ***I'm believing for breakthroughs like you've never dreamed or seen.*** Please know I'm praying for you today, that God would open your eyes like never before and give you the power of a firm stand.

The Bible said in Joshua chapter 4, "After they crossed over the Jordan into the promised land, that they stood in the middle of the river bed to gather the rocks to build an altar." ***You're going to be standing in the middle of your miracles this year,*** in 2020, as you fast and as you pray. Don't be shocked at where you end up.

Synopsis: Your Inner Eyes-Wisdom and Discernment

They say that nothing is more harmful to the eye than foreign objects. In fact, God gave you two different features designed to keep foreign

objects out: **the eyelid** and the **sclera**. The eyelid is the outer protection that we close when we see harmful objects coming. But the sclera, which is the white of your eyes, protects the eyes from the unseen items that try to assault your eyes such as pollen, dust, and tiny particles that can create discomfort or even severe damage. In the spiritual sense, the eyelid would be wisdom for the issues you encounter each day whereas the sclera would represent discernment.

Key Scripture:

My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel. Then you will show discernment, and your lips will express what you've learned.

Proverbs 5:1-2

Bringing It Into Focus:

Not every challenge you will face will be seen with the naked eye. Many times, the challenges are only felt or sensed. That's why it's critical that you have a prayer time and spend time in God's Word. Your spiritual sensitivity will give you a "no" in your spirit when everyone else sees only a yes. Your spiritual sensitivity – or discernment – is what will cause you to see the truth in a situation where your physical eyes see just the opposite. That comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Place of Sacrifice Becomes the Place of Blessing pg. 27

We are such a feeling people. We are manipulated and controlled by the flesh. We go to church if we feel like it. We tithe if we feel like it. We obey God if we feel like it. We pray if we feel like it. But God is saying, "If you want this blessing then you have to be obedient beyond your emotions. You need to be obedient beyond your feelings and beyond what the flesh cries out for."

Evaluation:

Question 1: Do you believe there are two worlds – a physical world we can see and touch and a spiritual world where we cannot see with human eyes? Explain:

Question 2: What kinds of things do you need to do to interpret your circumstances through the eyes and mind of Christ?

Question 3: What kind of covenant are you willing to make with the Lord about your spiritual growth? Use this format:

Jesus, if you will _____ then I will commit to _____.

Journal about your response in your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal.

Insight:

Paul said it like this to the church at Philippi: "And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you can approve the things that are superior and can be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness."

(Philippians 1:9-10)

The scriptures are full of passages that talk about the importance of wisdom and discernment, especially in the book of Proverbs. Consider this passage from I Corinthians:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

*These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to***

him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:12-16

What a powerful description on the need for Godly wisdom and discernment. Spiritual growth is not an option if you are to recognize the hand of God in your life and on your life.

Ask God to open your eyes, to show you any compromise in your life, to stand firm, to say, “God, I’m standing for what’s right,” because if you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything. **Take a firm stand. Stand for what’s right this year.** The Bible said in Psalm 1:1 that, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sits in the seat of the scornful nor stands with sinners.” Make your stance known. I don’t want to be standing for the abortion of babies. I don’t want to stand with people who are doing wicked things and who are immoral and only care about their comfort and their physical desires. Stand for principles. Stand for the truth.

Commit to growing in the Lord. **Know why you believe what you believe.** God’s Word is available to you without any interference or hindrance – unlike so many experiences in other nations of the earth.

Next Steps:

Briefly describe what needs to change in your every day and week to week life so you can commit to growing in your faith – in wisdom and discernment over the course of this new year:

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Proverbs 3:1-8
- Colossians 3:1-17
- James 3:13-18
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Prayer:

Father, bless today those who are fasting and praying with the power of a strong firm stand and a thirst to know You and Your thoughts, and Your ways better. In Jesus' name.

God bless you and keep you. May his face shine on you, be gracious unto you, lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. God bless Jerusalem and God give them peace like never before. Amen.

Your Prayer:

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day 15

Eyes Filled With Pain

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Are You Tired of Being Upset?

Prayer enhances the word when it is preached. Prayer enhances praise when it is offered. Prayer empowers worship when the song is sung and backed up with prayer. Sitting in church is not the most powerful thing you can do. Prayer is; and then as you sit there, the door is opened to your ears and your heart and revelation can come.

Fasting Day 15:

Here we go! The third and final week! While this could be your greatest breakthrough week ever, I do want to warn you about a few things. Every commercial you see on television will be a pizza commercial. It will seem as though there are one thousand more restaurants in your city and cheeseburgers will be on every billboard. So you have to be like Peter when he got out of that boat. Don't look! Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Synopsis: As We Age – We Must Remain Flexible and our Eyes Must Be Open to New Ways of Looking at Old Truths in New Ways

Change is inevitable, and sometimes it's harder to navigate as you get older. As we age, our eyes have to be recalibrated through new eyes-glasses in the physical and a teachable, flexible attitude in the spirit world.

One of the signs that an eye is aging is when the surface begins to harden and becomes less flexible. Things that used to be crystal clear are now blurry. After you pass the age of 40, it's harder to focus on objects up close. **Presbyopia** is a normal loss of focusing ability as you

grow older. For a time, you can compensate for presbyopia by holding reading material farther away from your eyes, but eventually you will need reading glasses or surgery.

The same is true when it comes to your spiritual life. As we age, the world begins to change all around us and what used to be clear becomes blurry and, despite our efforts to compensate, ***we need God's help to see what He is doing today.*** You can try to act like everything is fine – or worse yet, you can dig in and insist you don't need to change anything. But it's not long until you are bumping into everyone and everything and creating more problems than you are solving.

Key Scripture:

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Psalm 92:12-15

Bringing It Into Focus:

No matter what your age, the Lord's not through with you yet. Allow Him to open your eyes to new ways of doing things and new roles He has for you as you age gracefully but effectively. The church is in desperate need of wise counsel from men and women who have braved the storms of life-seeing the highs and lows – and who are willing to walk patiently with the young.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Valley of Decision pg. 888

Once you've consulted and acknowledged Him, He will give you success, and whatever your hand touches will profit. Not because you are so capable, but because He will teach you and lead you and His hand of favor will be on your life and on your work.

Evaluation:

I realize that, as I write this section, there are many different ages represented. ***But four things are true about every single person walking this 21-day journey with me.*** First, we are ALL getting older. Second, there is a generation coming up behind us that will see and experience the world in different ways than we did, and that next generation will either work to exclude the older generation or see your value – because there is great value in each of us.

Third, no matter how young or how old you are, God has a purpose and an assignment on your life – or you wouldn't be here. And fourth, you certainly would not be on day 15 of a 21-day fast if God hasn't chosen you for a next season – or profound impact in your current season.

Question 1: Where do you fall in the spectrum of ages mentioned above and what kinds of pressures are you feeling in your personal and professional world?

For example, I am in my mid-fifties, which means there are at least three decades of adults coming up behind me – and I have to manage professional and personal relationships with everyone from those older to those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. How about you?

Question 2: Where are your greatest challenges?

Question 3: What about YOU? What are you doing to stay relevant in an ever-changing world?

Professionally:

Personally:

Question 4: Are there areas you are unwilling to bend that are creating issues for you?

Professionally:

Personally:

Insight:

God wants to use you in amazing ways. But for some people, they can't see past their current pain, past disappointments or hurts – or disabilities in their present. You have disqualified yourself for something you are carrying without realizing there is a ***God that stands ready to touch you, heal the broken places and set you free from chains real or imagined.***

In John 5 there is the story of a man who was paralyzed, and he had waited by the pool for 38 years for his healing. Thirty-eight years. It was believed in that region that once a year an angel would come down and trouble the water, and the first person into the water would get a miracle. This man had waited 38 years and he could never get into the water first.

One day Jesus came, and the man said, "I don't have anybody to put me in the water." He didn't realize that the One he was talking to, Jesus, was the living water. Jesus said, *"Do you want to be made whole?"* While you're fasting and praying with us on this 21-day journey, I want to ask you a question. ***Do you want to be made whole?***

I really feel like you need to understand the significance of this place you are in – fasting and praying – from anywhere in the world. You are like that man by the Pool of Bethesda. Some of you have been dealing with problems that are long-term and others find themselves in a place

of need or hurt, offense like nothing they have ever experienced. Maybe some of you had even given up hope before you started this fast. Know this: ***If God could heal a man after 38 years, it's never too late for a miracle for you.***

I'm praying for you today as you're fasting and you're praying that those things that have been going on for a long time in your family, a long time in your home, maybe your physical health, that you would see the stronghold of the enemy broken. I agree with you for that right now.

Some are going through something extraordinary. Remember, Jesus said, "This kind of demonic power can only be broken by fasting and prayer." There are some spirits that never respond until you fast and pray, and I agree with you that it's time for the power of bondage that's held someone you love for a long time to be broken. I have purposed in my heart not to be one of those people, and you should too.

Next Steps:

Is there training you can receive in areas of life that seem to be passing you by? What would it take for your voice to remain relevant over the next ten years? ***I think we all need to think and pray on these kinds of things because change is happening all*** around us, but so are opportunities to grow and train and learn how to do new things. I believe the Lord sent me to tell you that the best is yet to come and there is still a place for you to serve on the front lines for Jesus, but it will require a teachable spirit, an open and willing heart, and a mind that is ever learning.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 92:12-15
- John 15:1-17
- Hebrews 6:1-20
- Ephesians 5:1-21
- 1 Peter 2

Prayer:

Let's pray. *Father, thank You that, just like at the Pool of Bethesda, You are still the Healer. You are still the Anointed One, and You're the same yesterday, today, and forever. I pray for every person under the sound of my voice to receive a fresh anointing to be healed, and that long-time, long-term difficulties and bondages would break in the name of Jesus while we fast and pray.*

God bless you. Keep on keeping on. The anointing of God is increasing in your family and on your life as you seek God in fasting and prayer.

Your Prayer:

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vi·sion

noun

*the ability to think about or plan the future with
imagination or wisdom.*

Seeing What's True

Truth

The **truth** about something is all the facts about it, rather than things that are imagined or invented.

TRUTH is unchangeable, irrefutable, and not changed by time, perspective, or opinion. The TRUTH has NOTHING to fear from INVESTIGATION. Conversely, a lie cannot live.

day 16

Godly Contentment

FROM THE MESSAGE:

Are You Tired of Being Upset?

Prayer produces peace in my mind and in my heart. Prayer lets me know that God is solving my problem, and until then I can be at peace. When I pray, I'm not giving God a deadline. When I pray, I'm not trying to force God to do anything against His Word. When I pray, I am reminding myself that He knows who I am; He knows what I need.

Fasting Day 16:

I pray that you are experiencing the Lord in amazing ways. You have His attention so press in. Ask your questions and allow Him to reveal His plans for you. Write EVERYTHING down that He shows you so you have a reminder when this season of fasting is over. ***Press in friend. Worship Him and tell Him you love Him*** and allow Him to fill your room or your car or wherever you are with His presence.

Synopsis: Contentment is Directly Connected to Gratitude

The dictionary definition of the word “contentment” is “a state of happiness and satisfaction.” Let me ask you a question: Are you happy? I understand hunger and drive and goals and dreams...but putting all those aside for just a moment, are you happy? When happiness and contentment are always something out in the future that occurs AFTER we have arrived or AFTER some great achievement, we miss God all together.

Key Scripture:

Paul said:

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry,

whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12-13

Bringing It Into Focus:

When you are walking through the dark hallway of life's pressures and trials, God can ***open your eyes to discover untapped potential, beauty, truth, and life.*** True contentment can only be experienced when our eyes are open to all God has done for us and is rooted in gratitude and eyes that can see what is so obvious to everyone else.

If ALL you had was your salvation you would have enough to be thankful for every day. If your family is saved as well you are blessed beyond measure in any situation...even death.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Break Through the Faith Barrier pg. 1183

If you are having trouble and pressure, it is not necessarily an indication that things are bad. It could be that you are right on the verge of breaking through a new faith barrier. You never get from one level to another without going through a test. When your life feels like it is going to come unraveled, that is when you hold on to God's promises.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Write in your own words your personal understanding of the word contentment:

Now pull up the dictionary definition and write it below to see how close you are:

Question 2: How would you define the word “contentment” as it is talked about in the Bible?

Question 3: Rate your contentment level on a scale from 1-10 with 1 being the inability to see any good in your current situation and a 10 is “I feel like I won the lottery every day!!”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Question 4: Why did you choose the score you chose?

Question 5: What would it take to move that score closer to a 10?

Insight:

Did you know that there are two types of photoreceptors in the human retina – **rods and cones**? **Rods** are responsible for vision at low light levels (scotopic vision). They do not mediate color vision, and have a low spatial acuity.

Cones, on the other hand, are active at higher light levels and are capable of color vision and for high spatial acuity (the ability to discriminate fine details of the visual scene you see).

In the same way, in the spiritual sense, we have eyes that see the basics such as form, and texture, big and small. But just like the Lord gave cones to add to what the rods can do, in the spiritual sense our spiritual “cones” add so much more to what we see beyond what is necessary by adding colors and hues and brilliance – things we could never see if we only had rods. God gave us both so we have all we

need to function and to show us so much more than that. ***What a gift vision is and what a gift it is to know how much we have to be thankful for.*** What a creative God and what an amazing view we have, if we choose to see just how bright and brilliant everything we have been given really is. This is where contentment is rooted – seeing all the colors and hues of life. What a gift!

From the message: Great Mercy

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. It's the most wonderful thing in your life or it is the worst thing in your life, and it depends on how you use it. Your tongue will either become the most wonderful thing for your family to hear or the worst thing.

Next Steps:

List the three most important things you need to do to experience greater contentment going forward and then journal what the Lord has shown you in this process:

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 34
- Matthew 6:25-34
- Philippians 4
- 1 Timothy 6:6-7

Prayer:

*Lord, I thank You for all that You've done for me. I love You and I praise You for the blessings You've given me. **I ask You, God, to keep my contentment and happiness always focused on You.** I don't want my happiness and contentment to be filled by something or someone else. Remind me to not fill that with other things of this world. I know only You, God, can fully bring me love and happiness, joy and contentment. Don't let the things of this world pull me away from that truth.*

Your Prayer:

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day 17

WE WIN!
Over And Over

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast and Pray

Prayer produces peace in my mind and in my heart. Prayer lets me know that God is solving my problem, and until then I can be at peace. When I pray, I'm not giving God a deadline. When I pray, I'm not trying to force God to do anything against His Word. When I pray, I am reminding myself that He knows who I am, He knows what I need.

Fasting Day 17:

Welcome to Day Seventeen of the 21-day fast! By now, depending on how closely you stuck to the fast, you should actually feel bursts of energy and incredible mental clarity. It is amazing what the brain can do when the body rids itself of toxins and the digestive system has been given rest. You have probably lost weight which has other positive health benefits. But don't think for a second that you are above temptation. Stay connected to others, especially now when you are so close.

We're believing God in your life today to do great and mighty things. I want to encourage you to ask God for any and everything that your heart is full of.

Synopsis: Knowing the Battle has Already Been Won Should Affect How You See the Problems and Challenges You Face

It always amazes me to see people get so worked up about the evil that exists in the world. Don't get me wrong, the Bible says that we are to hate evil...and I do, but not as one who lives in fear that evil might win. ***The victory for all time was won at Calvary and the deal was***

sealed with the empty tomb. The end result has never been in doubt in God's eyes. That's a perspective far too many overlook. If you will allow the Lord to open your eyes to what's true about the enemy Satan you will see a desperate being who knows his time is short and his final end is near.

Key Scripture:

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Bringing It Into Focus:

Knowing you are in a fight where the outcome has already been decided should change the way you carry yourself when difficulties arise and when discouragement comes knocking at your door. ***You carry an extraordinary*** mantle of victory and the banner of the King's child into every situation you encounter. If we ever really understood who we are and knew that we would always win we would carry ourselves very differently in every situation. Victory doesn't always look like victory in a particular moment but every war has its battles and one battle does not win the war. We win when setbacks do not leave us feeling at a loss. We win when we truly model with our countenance that we are victorious because the battle has already been won. We need to act like we really believe that because we did – He did.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Hindered But Not Defeated pg. 1203

Now let me show you what he (Satan) does. If he knows he can't defeat you, he will try to trick you into a position of self-defeat. His goal is to wear you down and cause you to throw in the towel. Don't do it. Don't give in! Pray. Fast. Trust.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Are you easily discouraged by circumstances, people/relationships, or setbacks? Explain your answer:

Question 2: Do you always respond to challenges or setbacks in the way you wish you would respond?

Do you ever respond in a manner that you later regret? Explain:

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

You Cannot Live Today Off Yesterday's Victory pg. 300

Here is the main message. When you are in an unguarded moment, your emotions can overtake you. The human heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). There is something about the heart that says, "Oh, I could never act like that." Yes, you could. You may not have experienced the right situation at the right time, or been pushed to your end, but when you are, you will understand and you will have your unguarded moment.

Insight:

It has been said by many a wise person that ***difficulties and trials in life don't make us who we are, they reveal who we are.*** I believe they also reveal what we really believe about God. Challenges to our circumstances are always tests of our faith. Is God REALLY there? Is He really present there with you in those times? You know He CAN help but will He? These are normal human responses but you are not a normal human being. These are not the questions you will need in moments like those.

When we fast and we pray, we're not demanding God do something on our behalf. It doesn't give us clout to order God around. Fasting simply gets you to the place, like David, where you say, *"God, I want You to do this. I'm asking You to do this. But if not, I'm still going to worship You. I'm still going to serve You. And I'm in this fast, committing this thing to You, completely, not my will, but Your will be done and I trust You with the results."*

That's a great place to be – a place of peace. Today, completely submit every situation that you need God to move in and you've been praying and fasting about. Completely submit it into God's hands, right where you are right now.

From the message: Great Grace

Heaven wants to make you, hell wants to maim you, and both want to use your mistakes to do it.

Next Steps: What do you see now that's new?

So right now, just say, "God, this is what I'm asking you to do." This, by the way, is how I pray for people. If I'm called into the hospital and someone's in critical condition or some terrible wreck, ***I always ask God for a miracle***, even if the doctor says there is no hope. Even if someone is dying of cancer and the doctors have said there's no way that they can live, God is still the God of the impossible. God is the God

of miracles. So I lay my hands on that person and I'll say, "God, I'm asking You to heal them, but if not, then deliver them into Your hands. I commit their spirit into Your care."

It's amazing to pray in situations like that. It's a prayer of total committal to God; either heal or raise them up. Either heal them or take them home. We win either way! And God knows how to do those things in our lives, and not just in life and death situations, but in everything that's troubling your mind.

What if you turned each statement above into a "faith" statement? Let's take a look and say each OUT LOUD as you read them:

- God REALLY is here
- He is present here with me in those difficult times
- Not only CAN He help, I know He WILL help me in times of struggle

Our words matter and our words have consequences. Speak life – ALWAYS. Speak HOPE always. Speak FAITH always. Speak BELIEF always! Proclaim VICTORY over every situation because you are MORE than victorious in every situation.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Joshua 1
- John 16:25-33
- Romans 8:12-39

Prayer:

Lord, in the final few days of this fast, we submit everything to You, knowing we are victorious already because the battle has been won! We humbly ask for Your will in all we do with the time we have here on earth. You are sovereign, God, and we trust You, even when we don't understand everything. We completely surrender to You. Take out of us the will to try to control and play God, because You are God and we are not. And so Lord, we submit all things to You in prayer and fasting today. And I know Your will is going to be done and Your will is always

right. So, God, we bless You. In Jesus' name we commit and submit all things into Your hand. Amen and Amen.

Keep on fasting. You're almost there. You're going to win this battle. God's gonna bless you in 2020. Open my eyes, Lord. Praise God. Amen.

Your Prayer:

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sub·mit

verb

*accept or yield to a superior force or to the
authority or will of another person.*

day 18

How You Win Everyday!

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast and Pray

And that's why I love this season. When we get real. When we get honest. When we get to this place where we feel like we're disconnected from God, we're too connected to the world, but in comes fasting and it disconnects us from the world. In comes prayer and it reconnects us to God. And suddenly, we have dominion and power over the enemy, and a fresh anointing and we obtain the favor of God again on our lives.

Fasting Day 18:

The final weekend is at hand and so is food around every corner. You've come too far to turn back now. Don't settle for anything less than the full twenty-one days. Remember also that if you slip up here or there, jump right back in. ***You are never disqualified from setting yourself apart to be with Jesus.*** If you have learned anything by now, I pray you have learned that advancement in the kingdom is a spiritual process – not a physical one. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world – and most importantly, we win – not by might and not by power, but by His Spirit in us.

Today I want to focus on staying sharp through the daily disciplines of the faith. In some parts of the country there are Lumberjack competitions where the biggest and strongest compete by chopping down trees and sawing through thick logs. In one such competition, there was a match between a young, strong ax man and an older, slimmer one.

By the end of the day of competition, the old man had cut down double the amount of trees that the young man had cut down. Frustrated,

the younger ax man finally confronted the older and said, “I don’t understand. I never stopped swinging. I never stopped. You know, I never stopped cutting down trees and yet you took two breaks every hour. How could you cut down more trees?” The older man, with humble eyes and a kind reply said, “Every time I stopped, I sharpened my axe.”

A lot of people are swinging, but they don’t have the edge. You can chop all you want, but if you’ve lost the edge, it won’t matter. You will feel defeated and worn out, swinging as hard as you can, all day every day, only to feel defeated with winning always just out of reach.

Synopsis: Your Enemy Isn’t Human – Your Weapons are Not Carnal (man-made)

If there was any one point I would want you to walk away knowing, more than anything else, it’s that **because you are a Christian there will be attacks on your life and the lives of your loved ones**. I would want you to know that your enemy does not wear a human face because he is a spirit and because he is a spirit, no man-made weapon can help you. I would ask that you be able to see the many weapons at your disposal, but they are not instruments you can hold in your hand.

Key Scripture:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [a]wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:11-13

Bringing It Into Focus:

Your weapons are your testimony and scripture, to stand and not fall. The battle belongs to the Lord. Just like Jesus did when tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He responded with scriptural reminders about the God He served rather than engage in debate or argument.

According to II 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. The attacks of the enemy are real, but no weapon formed against you shall prosper – (Isaiah 54:17).*

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

Fasting is Spiritual Warfare pg. 1193

The enemy will shoot the darts of doubt. Our defense is faith. Faith is certainty. Faith says, "I do not believe it because I see it. I do not believe it because I feel it. I have a certain promise that I'm holding on to, and when the enemy's shooting those darts of doubt, I will hold up the shield of certainty. I know what God told me. He is my healer. He is my success. He is my victory. He is my God, He is my Jehovah-Jireh. I know it."

Question 1: How would you think or feel if you truly believed that the person who offends you most is actually being manipulated by a much stronger power – whose aim is to offend, hurt, or discourage you?

Question 2: Have you ever said or done something that you look back on and wish you had never done? Have you ever looked back and said to yourself, "I can't believe I did that?" Or "I can't believe I said that. That's not even how I feel." Explain:

Why do you think you behaved the way you did or said the things you said? Could it be you allowed the enemy to manipulate you and use you to hurt someone else?

Insight:

Interesting that when we talk about people that irritate like we did on a previous day, faces can immediately come to mind. We all have those people who have betrayed us – stabbed us right in the back or falsely accused us of something. It's so easy to attach a face because then we have someone to blame and focus our anger on. But the fact of the matter is that it isn't a person who brings you harm...it's the spirit behind the person. Look at what it says in Ephesians 6:11-13:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Next Steps:

So as we're fasting, and as we're praying, I believe you're going to get back the edge. That's what I'm praying for in this new year, that you will get that sharpness. The Bible says in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron." One thing that you're doing at the beginning of a new year is you're giving God everything. You're saying, "*Lord, give me that edge back. Give me that spiritual edge and give me that edge back in the dream that you've called me to and the thing that you've called me to do.*"

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 37
- Isaiah 54:17
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-18
- Ephesians 6:10-20

Prayer:

So Father, I just pray for every person who is reading this today, that You would give them their edge back. Give them that spiritual power, not just swinging the ax, not just a dull blade, but give them that sharpness back in their walk like never before. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

God bless you. Let's keep on. Just three more days. Bless you.

Your Prayer:

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The Mind's Eye – Seeing the Road Ahead

Vision

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The faculty or state of being able to see.

The ability to think about or plan the future with
imagination or wisdom.

**Where you will go from here depends entirely on
your ability to see what's possible.**

day 19

The Unseen Road Ahead

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast and Pray

And sometimes God says, "I'm waiting on you to do something physically that will release the power spiritually."

Fasting Day 19:

It's Day Nineteen of the fast. By now, you're craving a hamburger, you're craving some steak, you're craving a lot of things. For some people these past 19 days have just been normal days. The question is: Will the normal days do for them what these 19 days of sacrifice did for you? Will putting God first for this season of your life, and this year of your life, matter? What will it do for you?

His Word says in Matthew chapter 6, "If you seek me first, I'll add all the rest that you will ever need." And that's exactly what we're believing for. Today, I just want to challenge you to submit the choices and the decisions that you have to make to God in prayer and in fasting. That in every decision, moment, and every crossroads you come to, His will will be apparent to you. ***Even when you have to make a quick decision, you don't have to do a lot of praying because you have been with Him*** – and His will reveals itself to you in a way that brings peace and confirmation. The Bible says in Proverbs 3 to "Acknowledge Him in all of your ways, and He'll direct your path." What we're doing on this fast is saying again and again "Lord, lead me."

Synopsis: God Has a Plan for Your Life – and Total Surrender is the Quickest Road to Your Future

You may have heard the comment that if you want to make God laugh, make plans. There is actually more truth to that than meets the eye.

There is a plan and a purpose for your life, whether you can see it right now or not. Here's another shocker. Even if you have a dream you see out in the future, more often than not, what lies ahead is far greater than you even imagined.

I believe there is an assignment on every life and ***yours is the one requiring YOUR DNA***. Imagine Moses or David...Peter or Paul. Could they have ever even imagined the directions their lives would go once they committed to walking with Christ? No way. And neither can you.

Key Scripture:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"

the things God has prepared for those who love him—

I Corinthians 2:9

Bringing It Into Focus:

I have a challenge for you. If you truly want to give God permission to do anything with your life He wants, then simply proclaim these three simple statements:

1. I'll go anywhere
2. I'll go any time
3. I'll do anything

There is no telling all the Lord will do with the person who says those three things.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

A Life Worth Remembering pg. 1013

When God lays something on your heart to do, do it. When the Lord impresses upon you to serve someone with a gift or an act of kindness, do not hesitate. Do it. Imagine if Mary missed her moment. Don't miss yours. Remain sensitive to the leading and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. When you feel prompted or attracted to a situation or a person to bless, pause and ask the Holy Spirit if this is one of those moments. In that moment, you will know, and if He says go, then go.

Evaluation:

Question 1: Do you ever worry about your future and if God will ever use you in a significant way?

Question 2: Where do you fall on the "will of God" barometer below? Are you all the way over at "100% God is in control and when He has a next step for me He will tell me" or are you way over at the "I have to be proactive and search out every possibility and knock on lots of doors to see which opens" side?

I have to be proactive – – – – – He will let me know.

Thoughts:

Where do you think God wants you along that line? Why?

Insight:

As I write these last three days of the fasting devotion, you will notice that I do not devote time to trying to convince you to give your life to Jesus and get out of the boat. If you are here now, on day 19, you are way past that point. Your challenge is not whether to get all the way in. You fall asleep at night wondering if God will really use the one life you've given to Him – or if He even knows you are here. Or perhaps you are walking in your purpose but you are having a hard time seeing past the season you are in. Perhaps you are all in but don't know how you are going to pay your rent at the end of the month.

Next Steps:

I've actually had times later in the year that I would have to make a split-second decision. Looking back on it, I didn't have the wisdom. I even questioned myself at the end of that decision. But looking back, it was the right decision. I'm convinced that it was because I fasted and prayed and submitted those decisions and those choices to God in prayer in the beginning of the year and in fasting. ***One of the beautiful and amazing results of fasting is divine direction at the critical moments it's needed.***

Wherever you are in your walk with Christ I am here with two awesome pieces of news: First, God IS with you. Second, there is a plan for your life – for this step and for every step you take heading to your next season. Never forget the secret to taking the next step with Jesus – don't look for a sign or for clues to your next steps – simply seek ye first the Kingdom of God – seek your Savior – all paths forward lead through the strength of your relationship with the waymaker. ***Don't spend your time online looking at job searches – spend time with the one who has already chosen the next door you are supposed to walk through.*** When He is ready to move you, He will let you know, many times with an opportunity you never would have found in an online job search. God's going to open your eyes to the right decisions and the right choices.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- John 4:23-24
- Romans 12:1-2
- Galatians 2:20-21
- James 4:1-12
- 1 Peter 5:6-10

Prayer:

And Father, I pray today for every decision that we will face in 2020. We need Your wisdom, Lord. We need Your divine help. We need Your direction. We submit to You today in fasting and in prayer. Guide our steps in 2020. Lead our children and our children's children to the right schools, to the right people, to the right friends, right choices, right voices, right decisions. In Jesus' mighty name.

Somebody said when you're caught between a yes sir and a no sir, you get an ulcer. You're not going to get an ulcer; you're going to get divine direction by the Holy Spirit. You will walk by faith and God will bless you mightily in 2020, the year of right decisions in your life. Keep fasting. Keep praying.

Your Prayer:

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day 20

Seeing Your Purpose

FROM THE MESSAGE:

The First Fruit of Fasting

Some of you will never find your assignment until you enter into fasting and prayer.

FROM THE MESSAGE:

When We Fast

What I want you to see is fasting heightened Jesus' awareness of His identity and purpose. If the devil came to Jesus in the wilderness – and he did – and he attacked the identity and purpose for which Christ came, don't you think he's going to attack your identity, and your purpose, and your calling, and your mission in life? Did you think it was just gonna be an easy walk?

Fasting Day 20:

For most people on this 21-day journey, it's the end of the final week and you are at the end of your fasting time. I believe you will see results that continue to happen throughout the rest of the year and even into next December as we have witnessed every year from so many people. ***The fast isn't just about what happens during these 21 days.*** I'm going to pray for you today and for your family and for your life as

you're fasting and as you're praying. Just release your faith now. Make up your mind that this is going to be a year of prayer.

I have been fasting right along with you every step of the way and have felt the things you have felt physically and worshipped right along with you under that same set of stars. I never regret one single second I have fasted and the rewards have been too many to count. I will be praying that the Lord gives you extra strength these last few days.

Synopsis: What If Your Purpose was Everything You Can Imagine? Trust Your Kingdom Desires

I have a question for you. What if the very thing God has for your life is exactly what you would love to do the most? The problem with that, for so many people, is that they really don't know what that is. What about you? When you dream a dream, what do you see? Who is there with you? What kinds of things are you doing? Who are you helping? Psalm 37:4 says to *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."* What are the desires of your heart?

I believe that God wants us, as New Testament believers, to establish 2020 in prayer. Drive a stake down and say I will pray in 2020. ***You need a place of prayer and you need a time of prayer*** if you're going to have the power of consistency in prayer. So just make up your mind that you're going to have a time of prayer and a place of prayer this year.

The thing about prayer is that even if you don't feel like praying, when you have an appointment with God, you can go and be silent. ***Your very presence says, "I'm here for you, Jesus. I'm here to be with you. I'm here, just in the silence."*** Sometimes when I go to my prayer place, I pray out loud.

I like to walk through the woods and if you came up on me, you would think I was talking to myself, but I'm really talking to God. But other times I just walk those trails. The moment that my feet hit those trails, I sense and I know and I believe God knows that I'm there for Him. Sometimes I don't talk at all. I just walk and think. I just say, "I'm here, Lord, and I worship you." Sometimes I'll put on some music in my ears

and just listen to worship and walk through those woods and give God praise and give God thanksgiving. ***You decide in those moments what you will do – but make that appointment – pick that place and designate that time.*** He will meet you there every time.

Key Scripture:

May He grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill all your purpose.

Psalm 20:4

Bringing It Into Focus:

Too often we wrestle with the question, “Is this from the Lord or from my own mind?” But I have come to learn that when I am walking with Jesus, I can trust the desires I have as seeds He is planting in me; desires **HE** is giving me just like the passage says. But I also believe that God helps us by confirming what we think we have heard from the Lord through His Word, His people, or by revelation.

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

How to Tell If Jesus is First in Your Life pg. 1040

This life was never intended for you to be an independent island unto yourself. Actually, it is quite the opposite. The highest level of maturity for a believer is to understand their total dependence on God, with no other ambition but this: Not my will but thine. God has a plan and an assignment for your life. Ask Him what that is and open your heart to whatever the answer might be.

Evaluation:

I have three questions for every person who wants to self-examine to discover truths about their deepest vocational desires. If you would like to take a good look at yourself – give it a go.

Question 1: What would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?

Question 2: When you look out at the world and see things that catch your eye and hurt your heart, what breaks your heart the most?

Question 3: What's that in your hand? In other words, what are you good at? What would you do for free if all your bills were paid? What is your platform – the people you have influence over?

Insight:

If you can answer those three questions honestly, I believe you will see a few things emerge that look something like your purpose – your calling. God has created you with desires and abilities for a reason. He doesn't create a blade of grass to feed the birds or the bark of a tree to make brownies. **He creates everything for a purpose and He has created you for a purpose**, and finding those with similar gifts and talents aren't competition; they are your tribe. They are kindred.

I believe with all my heart that the Lord's purpose has a lot to do with what you would love to do – and what hurts your heart the most – or a solution to a problem the world does not even know they have yet.

God is teaching us that **there's power in persistent prayer**. And you've been doing that for twenty days. You have supernatural power coming your way in 2020.

Next Steps:

Look back at those three questions and write below any of the patterns that emerged or anything that jumped out at you. Write down anything that excited you when you actually wrote it down. Write down anything that brought you hope.

Now answer this: Is there anything you wrote down that the Lord couldn't do? And why wouldn't He do it for you? Journal your thoughts in your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal.

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Psalm 20:4
- Psalm 37:3-7
- Proverbs 3:1-7
- Matthew 6:33
- Matthew 7:7-11
- Romans 8:28

Prayer:

Lord, from this powerful place of prayer, I humbly acknowledge You, Jesus, as Lord. And I praise You. I pray this prayer over the people who have fasted and prayed for twenty days.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation in 2020, deliver us from the evil one in 2020. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

I'm going to pray for each of you today. May the Lord bless you. Thank you. Keep fasting one more day. I'll see you tomorrow.

Your Prayer:

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day 21

Get a Picture

FROM THE MESSAGE:

The 1000x More Anointing

*God has blessed you in the past and is blessing you in the present.
But don't you dare think that God is through with you. This is
about more than the past and the present. This is about the Lord
blessing you one thousand times more...as He has promised you.*

Fasting Day 21:

Welcome to Day Twenty-One of the 21-day fast of 2020. You made it! You did it and I'm so proud of you! I believe God is saying, *"I'm well pleased and I've received your fast and I've received your prayers,"* and God is opening your eyes to the wonderful things, to the mighty things.

I pray you have experienced God's presence in ways you will never forget. I pray that the Lord has opened your eyes to things you never saw before. I pray that you have been changed forever and that the ramifications of these twenty-one days will be felt all around the globe. Dive in and finish this interactive devotion and complete the final activities planned for you on the following pages. Please email us or leave a response or fasting testimony by going to jentezenfranklin.org.

Synopsis: If You Can See It, You Can Be It. Get a Picture in Your Mind of Where You are Going

As you finish your twenty-one day fast I want to challenge you to take a moment right where you are and think of one thing you would like to

see the Lord do in the next thirty days. Now I want to ask you to take that something and **get a picture in your mind of what it looks like if it were to happen**. See it with as much detail and clarity as you possibly can.

Key Scripture:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Hebrews 11:13-15

Bringing It Into Focus:

Do you have enough faith to actually see what you need or are asking for? I believe opening the eyes of your mind to see what's possible is a missing ingredient for far too many people doing their best to stand on faith and belief, but not daring to actually see it in their mind's eye. ***If you truly desire that something in the Lord, paint that picture in your mind today*** – and watch to see the miracle that is possible when faith takes a picture and allows it to develop over time.

“You can’t get somewhere you can’t see. You won’t find acres of diamonds until you get a divinely-inspired image of what it might look like.”

Jentezen Franklin Legacy Bible:

The Five Stages of How a Dream Unfolds pg. 1131

There is a difference between "vision" and "ambition." Vision comes from God, and it will help people. Ambition comes from your flesh and it will help you use people. A lot of people try to legitimize ambition for vision, but there is a big difference. Vision is when God gives it, and it is about helping other people.

Evaluation:

For the following activities please take the next five to ten minutes or so where you can be uninterrupted.

Activity #1: Take a moment right where you are and mentally take a walk out ten years from today. Imagine you are serving the Lord doing what you love to do and you are helping and reaching a lot of people. You are respected and looked to for whatever it is you do...and you do it well. See that picture in your head and lock it in as you answer the following questions:

Notes:

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Question 1: What are you doing and who are you reaching?

Question 2: Who is there with you?

Question 3: What is the impact you are having?

Insight:

Take a moment and look back over your answers to the questions above. Would any of your answers disappoint God or would He be smiling down on you and enjoying your success and your efforts? Explain:

If you can see it, you can be it, but taking the time to sit and see it is a discipline many do not possess. They are all do, do, do. Allow me to say it even stronger: Until you can see it, you'll never be it. There is power in seeing it and allowing your mind to get used to seeing what your heart is believing for.

Next Steps:

Two of the greatest golfers in the history of the game, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods, both have said that before every shot, they would pause and see that shot with the perfect stroke, and with the ball taking the perfect path or trajectory all the way until it drops perfectly into the center of the hole. Repeat Activity #1 above for any situation you are involved in right now in your Open My Eyes Fasting Journal.

This isn't some New Age technique or strategy for mind control or something weird. This is faith in action. This is about seeing and expecting the best outcome possible. This is about believing that anything you attempt for the Lord is entirely possible. Don't just believe it's possible. See what it would look like if it happened. See it. Get that picture in your mind of your future and carry it with you wherever you go. ***Allow your mind time to get used to the mantle it will soon carry.***

Notes:

Daily Scripture Reading:

- Luke 17:5-6
- Hebrews 11
- Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer:

God, I thank You so much for getting me through the end of this fast. I praise You for the strength and willpower You have given me. I praise You for helping me overcome the hungers and aches, the temptations and trials. I ask You to help me continue to see the bigger picture for my future, to continue for me to believe in greater things to come. I thank You for everything.

Your Prayer:

FINAL THOUGHTS

From the message: The First Fruit of Fasting

The victory comes after the fast. Not during the fast necessarily, but after the fast – “Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit” after the fast.

I want to take a moment to personally congratulate you on this achievement, and I don't say that lightly because I understand how hard this is. Whether you fasted 3 days, ten days or the full 21 days, this is no easy sacrifice. It cost you something, and you paid the price. But I also want you to know that the role of fasting in the life of a believer doesn't have to start and end with the annual 21-day fast.

If you have read any of my books or heard me preach regularly then you have heard me talk about fasting as a lifestyle. This doesn't mean you have to fast all year long or all the time. But what it does mean is that **fasting brings breakthrough**. Fasting always decreases me and increases Jesus. It magnifies His presence in my life just like He did in yours this past 21 days.

What do I mean when I talk about a fasting lifestyle? It means when I need an answer from the Lord, I will take a meal, or a day, or maybe two days and fast and pray for the answer. If I am concerned about one of my kids, I may take a month where every Tuesday I fast for the whole month. I know some folks who fast one day a week for their families. **There are no hard and fast fasting minimums.**

Fasting is something Jesus did by example and talked about as if it was a regular practice. And I believe it is something He wants us to do over the course of a year with all its highs and lows and ebbs and

flows. There are even times when something is going on in our nation or our world when I will call our whole church and television ministry to a fast because I believe God sees that and draws near to our prayers in those seasons.

While we don't provide formal periods of fasts like we do each January, we do offer a wide variety of fasting books and resources to help you year round. Please visit jentzenfranklin.org to view these resources.

Before you go, please allow me to pray for you one last time:

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, it's a new year and I'm ready for the change. I come with a physical response. I surrender my life fully to You, Jesus. Cleanse me. Release forgiveness and grace, favor and goodness on my life again. Disconnect me from the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Disconnect me from the wrong people and every ungodly addiction and reconnect me to You by Your grace. By Your blood, reconnect me back to God. Back to Your favor and Your goodness. I receive it right now in Jesus' name.

