

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Valerie Surrett

MESSAGE: GIVE, PRAY, FAST

Jesus taught us how to give, pray and fast God's way.

Give

- Matthew 6:1-4 -Not giving for show
- 3 John 1:1-9 - Giving is the expression of a prosperous soul
- Give consistently
- Give to the vision of spreading the Gospel

Pray

- Matthew 6:5-8 - Not praying to appear spiritual
- Focus on the Lord
- Trust that He loves you and He knows what you need
- Matthew 6:9-13 - Praying effectually as Jesus taught us
- Recognition - We pray to Jehovah, the Living God- not "the universe" nor any other man-made god
- Relationship - We are God's adopted sons and daughters if we have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (John 1:12)
- Reverence - God is holy and must be approached with reverence
- Revelation - 4:8b
- God's priorities are supreme! Matthew 6:33
- Submission- Luke 22:42
- Petition- Matthew 7:7
- Provision- Matthew 6:12
- Repentance and reconciliation- Matthew 5:7; 2 Corinthians 5:19
- Protection- Luke 22:40; Psalms 91:3
- Acknowledge God's sufficiency- Ephesians 3:20-21

Fast

- Matthew 6:16-18 - Not self-denial for show
- Isaiah 58:5-9a - Self-denial for God's glory and purpose
- Natural- Walk in integrity/Spiritual- release of God's supernatural power
- Natural- Love people even when it's inconvenient Spiritual- Bring people into God's kingdom
- Result- Isaiah 58:8-9a

When we give, pray and fast with wrong motives, nothing of eternal worth happens, and our spiritual life is diminished.

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When we give God's way:

- God's kingdom is advanced
- Our soul prospers
- We get into position to receive blessing
- Luke 6:38- *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

When we pray God's way:

- We acknowledge His sovereignty
- We receive provision, forgiveness and protection
- Our faith is established

When we fast God's way:

- God lifts burdens and breaks yokes
- Souls are saved
- We walk in God's light, health and protection
- God hears and answers our prayers