

2024 Call to Prayer and Consecration

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

The Book of Acts confirms that one of the keys to fruitful evangelism, personal renewal, and overall effectiveness in ministry is fervent prayer. When they wanted to see souls saved and lives changed, the early church prayed. When they wanted to minister to the needs of people with supernatural power and effectiveness, they prayed. When they needed miraculous provision, they prayed. In fact, whenever they faced personal or corporate challenges that required God’s intervention, they prayed...and God answered! And today, nearly 2,000 years later, prayer remains the key!

As I have done for many years, I’m calling the congregation I shepherd to **40 days of special prayer and consecration. This year, our consecration will run from Monday, February 19 through Good Friday, March 29, 2024.** Specifically, I am asking each of you to:

1. **PRAY.** Set aside quality time to seek the Lord both privately and, if possible, with your Life Group or a prayer partner during this period.
2. **RESTRICT YOUR EATING.** Practice one of the following for either all 40 days, 21 days, or at least 10+ days of this consecration period. Here are some ideas:
 - fast from solid foods for 24 hours at a time.
 - fast from solid foods for 12 hours at a time (e.g., from 6am to 6pm).
 - eat only one meal per day.
 - eat only fruits, light soups, and vegetables.
 - abstain from favorite foods or beverages (e.g., fast food, Starbucks, sodas, desserts, etc.).
 - eliminate sugar and flour all 40 days, 21 days, or at least 10+ days.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are under a physician’s care, consult him/her before fasting. And to avoid dehydration, be sure to drink plenty of water while fasting.

3. **BE PROACTIVE.** Identify one of more goals (e.g., physical, financial, relationship, time management, lifestyle, etc.) and do something each day to move toward those goals.

On the reverse side of this letter you’ll find our prayer agenda for these days.

Let’s get after it,

Pastor Paul

BECOMING THE PEOPLE GOD HAS DESTINED US TO BE

Below is our prayer agenda for these days. Please include these items in your private and Life Group prayer times:

1. **Give God praise and thanks.** Spend some time praising God for who He is and for some of the specific blessings He has given you recently.
2. **Pray for personal spiritual renewal.** Examine your heart, attitude, and lifestyle. If you identify any spiritual complacency or apathy, confess it and repent. Spend time **praying that you'll have a fresh passion and love for God and a powerful infilling of the Holy Spirit in your life.**
3. **Pray for spiritual revival within the DCF family and throughout the entire body of Christ.** Pray against spiritual complacency and apathy and **ask the Lord to convict His people, causing us to repent and to hunger and thirst for righteousness and for spiritual power.**
4. **Pray for the not-yet believers you know.** Spend some time *praying by name for individuals and families that need to be saved*, asking the Lord to remove the barriers and blindness that are preventing them from seeing the light of Christ. Also, pray for God to give our church a rich harvest of new followers of Christ.
5. **Pray for the not-yet believers you don't know.** Spend some time *praying by location for individuals and families on your block, in your community and throughout the region who need to be saved*. Pray that God will send into their lives believers who will witness to them and lead them to Christ. You may also *pray for persons by groups/categories that are close to your heart* (e.g., not-yet believers who are drug addicts, business execs, single parents, teenagers, etc.).
6. **Pray for our nation.** In a lot of ways, America is more divided now than at any time since the Civil War. And what's worse, the church of Jesus Christ is just as divided. **Let's humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways** (see 2 Chron. 7:14).
7. **Pray about and exercise spiritual authority/discipline to rid your life of vices such as:**
 - Drug abuse, smoking/vaping, excessive use of alcohol
 - Unhealthy relationships
 - Unforgiveness/bitterness toward others
 - Unhealthy busyness.
 - Idol speech/foolish talk (talking too much about things that benefit no one; cussing/foul language)
 - Gluttony/excess (the inability to say no; ruled by food or ill-advised activities)
 - Gossip (innuendo, chatting with the wrong people about issues that don't pertain to them, etc.). This includes all social media interactions.
 - Rebellion (resistance in your heart to legitimate authority; failure to give appropriate honor; etc.)
 - Unhealthy sorrow (a spirit of heaviness due to any kind of loss)
 - Habitual indiscriminate spending.
8. **Pray for our spiritual leaders.** Spend some time praying that God will protect and fortify Pastor Paul, Lady M, and all others who hold pastoral and leadership positions at DCF.
9. **Pray for the people in your Life Group.** Spend some time praying over the specific needs/prayer requests of each individual in your group.
10. **As you end each prayer time, rejoice and declare that we have the victory in Christ!**