

New Lifer News

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

by Bob See

We are five days into our 21 days of prayer and fasting! As I said in my blog days three-five are the toughest – both physically and spiritually – whenever I fast. So if you are fasting, understand that normally there are one or two tough days and then things begin to improve.

While the notion of fasting seems to catch people's attention, we are encouraging you to see it's the prayer that is the priority. We are asking every New Lifer to set aside extra time in these days to seek God. We are encouraging you to spend time alone before Him, asking Him to reveal areas of your life that He wants to change. The "Breaking up Fallow Ground" article posted on New Life's website (in the How to Fast file under the Information tab) is a great place to start in bringing your life before God. This is the path to breakthroughs and new beginnings with God.



In addition we are asking every New Lifer to pray for the church, that we experience church-wide revival, meaning God does a new work in all our lives and restores families, marriages, and individuals. We're asking you pray for New Life leaders to receive clear directions from God on when and where to expand ministry, and to pray for all New Life leaders to be filled again with the Holy Spirit. We are praying that this will result in many people in our area turning to Christ in 2010.

God says in James "if you will draw near to Me, I will draw near to you". Imagine what will happen if we as a church collectively "draw near to Him" in these 21 days. I believe we will see lives transformed marriages and families healed, and Kenya prayers answered. I believe we'll see new power for ministry and evangelism, and divine guidance for our next steps as a church. So be encouraged and keep praying!

Pastor Bob's Blog Address: <http://www.newlifeonline.org/nlcc/>

Spiritual Morning

by Deidre Buckingham



I desperately needed a quiet moment alone with Jesus – or so I thought. My daughter was ill through the night, and I spent several hours sleeping in our recliner. I woke early, determined to get a few minutes of devotions in – a bit of spiritual food and refreshment before trying to head sleep-deprived into my day. I was hungry, angry, and beyond tired. But I was not lonely. I wanted to be left alone.

Perhaps my son smelled the coffee brewing earlier than normal or heard me on the stairs though I tried to avoid the well-known creaky parts of the steps. I was not glad to hear the pattering of little feet. I resented him being awake. I muttered a heartfelt, but cynical prayer to God, "Well thanks. This is exactly what I *don't* need."

I had no heart to interact with my son. I felt badly about it, but I was exhausted. I couldn't possibly imagine how on earth I was going to make it if Jesus didn't help me. But I was mad. This was my time with God. Why did my son have to ruin it? Why did God let him wake up to bug me? I felt sabotaged. Certainly there was only one way to recharge in order to get through my day without yelling at my children, fighting with my husband or kicking the proverbial dog – for me to be completely alone with God.

I determined to read my bible anyway hoping my son would play quietly at my feet or at the least, go upstairs and wake up my husband. He chattered about the good dreams he had last night and the train he was making with his Lego's. I hissed back, "Mommy needs time with Jesus." He's heard it before. He knows what it means. *"Please be quiet while Mommy begs God to help her keep her sanity today."*

I wanted to read the book of 1 John. I've always loved the books of John. John writes clearly. No hidden mysteries. No challenging turns of phrase. Just straightforward text.



3We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4We write this to make our[\[a\]](#) joy complete. 5This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all**[b]** sin.

None of the verses jumped out at me. No poignant nugget about how to make it through the day with a sick daughter and a perky son. “Should have read the Psalms,” I thought. “God as a Strong Tower, Safe Refuge, Deliverer – that kind of encouragement.”

A thought crossed my mind to share what I was reading with my son. I halfheartedly said, “You wanna hear what the bible says?” True to his enthusiastic nature, my son nearly screamed, “YES!” I scanned the chapter for something that would be four-year-old friendly. “God is light,” I said. “That means everything that is good is from Him. If you ever want to know where God is, look for things that are good.”

“Man, that's a lame explanation,” I thought. “Does light really mean good? I'm supposed to know this stuff. How come I can't explain 1 John to a four-year-old?”

My son ran with the idea, verbally 'chewing' on the concept of God's goodness and physically getting more and more excited. He started pacing.

“OK, so God is light and the sun is light and stars and everything. And He made 'em. And my dream last night was good so that's [from] God.”

“And Jesus says whenever you talk about Him with someone else, He comes too.”

“So He's here?” As soon as my son said the words, I sensed the presence of God. 'From the mouth of babes.' This is what God wanted. For the three of us to hang out early in the morning. Together. He didn't just want me and Him to connect. He wanted my son to be there too. I felt the weight of my selfishness lift with a joy for my son and for God that I knew was from the Father.

“Yes, honey. He's here” I couldn't help but smile. God with us, with me and my son, in the ridiculously wee hours of the morning. Waiting to connect with us both, wanting to spend time with a sleep-deprived mom and an energetic young boy at the same time. Refreshing us both my bonding us together in His presence.

I reread 1 John. The verses were now rich with the refreshment I needed for the day. “Proclaim what you've heard and seen of God. Share it with your loved ones. Enjoy the fellowship of the Father and of the Son. Find complete joy. Fellowship with one another. And in doing so, by the blood of Jesus, be purified from all your sin.”