

Repair or Pitch: *The Call to Prayer and Fasting*

Introduction: -we have a choice to make, a ballot to cast
-like the absentee ballot I have received

-America, the nation who pledges we are “one nation under God” with a motto of
“In God We Trust”

-crime, violence, race riots, rape, divorce, sexual promiscuity, homosexual movement,
teen pregnancy, abortion, AIDS, drug, alcohol addiction

Vote: Destruction Isaiah 59:1-16a

Repair Isaiah 58:6-12

-Isaiah 58:12 *“Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of the Streets to Dwell In”*

-we are in a major spiritual crisis, and the answers are not found in the presidential ballot
box, but the prayer closet

-it is going to take some extraordinary measures to cast our ballot
-we cannot settle for business as usual, it is not getting the job done

Adrian Rogers *“I believe as the West goes, so goes the world. And as America goes, so
goes the West. And as the Church goes, so goes America. And as believers fast
and pray, so goes the Church.”*

-prayer and fasting Isaiah 58:6 *“the fast I have chosen”*
-Why fasting?

I. Return to God

Joel 2:12-17

-the #1 motive for fasting must be a return to God
-not what God will do for me, not a way to manipulate God

-the ultimate goal is a deeper relationship with God, an intimacy with God
-eliminating distractions

II. Repent of Self

1 Peter 5:6

- *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exult you in
due time.”*

-Psalm 35:13 *"I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer would return to my own heart."*

-Ezra 8:21 *"I proclaimed a fast. . . that we might humble ourselves before our God."*

III. Revival for the Land

2 Chronicles 7:14

"Fasting is the only discipline that meets all the conditions of 2 Chronicles 7:14. When one fasts, he humbles himself; he has more time to pray, more time to seek God's face, and certainly he would turn from all known sin. One could read the Bible, pray, or witness for Christ without repenting of his sins. But one cannot enter into a genuine fast with a pure heart and a pure motive and not meet the conditions of this passage." Bill Bright

-we will know we have returned to God when His presence is evident in revival

-Matthew 17:20-21

-are we desperate for God to do something supernatural in our lives, the life of our church, the life of our nation?

Application:

World War II, fighting Japanese man-to-man from island to island with great casualties
-kamikaze spirit, willing to die for the emperor they believed to be god

American forces knew if they invaded Japan, millions would die, outcome uncertain
-President Truman ordered the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
-the Japanese surrendered and the war ended

-we are in need of a spiritual atomic bomb

-1857, a hunger for revival, 200 church leaders gathered in Pittsburgh
-suggestion made they preach on prayer and fasting the first Sunday of 1858 and declare the first Thursday of the new year a day of prayer and fasting for revival

-1858, over one million people saved out of a population of 30 million
-if the same percentage were to be saved today 8.5 million would come to Christ in one year

Joel 3:14

- King called in a young page who had never done anything of importance
- sent across town to the prison where a prisoner was to be executed with a pardon
- stopped on the way to by him some cloths, some food
- when arrived at the prison with the pardon, found the prisoner had been executed five minutes before he arrived
- hear saying, "What's the king going to say? What's the king going to say? What's the king going to say?"

How do you vote today?

Much more important than your vote on November 5

Vote: Destruction

Do nothing

Repair

Relationship with God in Jesus Christ

Repent and return to God

Radical commitment to obedience

Wednesday, October 30

Day of Prayer and Fasting for America

Isaiah 58:6-12 or 59:1-16a

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I. Return to God

Joel 2:12-17

-see quote from Henry Blackaby

II. Repent of Self

1 Peter 5:6

-Psalm 35:13

"The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, yoke of oxen, and a wife (Luke 14:18-20). The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable." John Piper, Hunger for God, p. 14

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-Matthew 17:20-21

Application:

1857, a hunger for revival, 200 church leaders gathered in Pittsburgh

-commitment to preach on prayer and fasting the first Sunday of 1858

-declared first Thursday of new year day of prayer and fasting

1858, over one million people saved out of population of 30 million

-same percentage today would be 8.5 million in one year