

BREAKING THE CHAINS

Church Fast October 21-23

Pastor George Stahnke

For several months there has been a growing sense of urgency in the areas of personal holiness and evangelism. The purpose of this fast is to give ourselves more fully to the Lord and to allow Him to bring about in us these and other desired changes. We also believe that God wants to bring about measurable transformation (reduced crime, thousands saved, increased unity among Christians and church leaders) to our city.

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

Neh. 9:1-3 On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads. ²Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and *confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers*. ³They stood where they were and *read from the Book of the Law of the LORD* their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in *worshipping the LORD* their God.

Ephes. 6:12 (The Living Bible) For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

Thayer Definition: πάλη *palē* 1) wrestling (a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck) 1a) the term is transferred to the Christian's struggle with the power of evil

Against the rulers the darkness of this world

I do not regard this passage, therefore, as having a primary reference to the struggle which a Christian maintains with his own corrupt propensities. It is a warfare on a large scale with the entire kingdom of darkness over the world. Yet in maintaining the warfare, the struggle will be with such portions of that kingdom as we come in contact with and will actually relate:

- (1) To our own sinful propensities—which are a part of the kingdom of darkness;
- (2) With the evil passions of others—their pride, ambition, and spirit of revenge—which are also a part of that kingdom;
- (3) With the evil customs, laws, opinions, employments, pleasures of the world—which are also a part of that dark kingdom;

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- (4) With error, superstition, false doctrine—which are also a part of that kingdom; and,
- (5) With the wickedness of the pagan world—the sins of benighted nations—also a part of that kingdom. Wherever we come in contact with evil—whether in our own hearts or elsewhere—there we are to make war.

Against spiritual wickedness—Margin, “or wicked spirits.” Literally, “The spiritual things of wickedness;” but the allusion is undoubtedly to evil spirits, and to their influences on earth.

In high places “in celestial or heavenly places.” The same phrase occurs in Eph. 1:3; 2:6, where it is translated, “in heavenly places.” The word (epouranios) is used of those that dwell in heaven, Matt. 18:35; Phil 2:10; of those who come from heaven, 1 Cor. 15:48; Phil 3:21; of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and stars, 1 Cor. 15:40. Then the neuter plural of the word is used to denote the heavens; and then the “lower” heavens, the sky, the air, represented as the seat of evil spirits; see the notes on Eph. 2:2. This is the allusion here. The evil spirits are supposed to occupy the lofty regions of the air, and thence to exert a baleful influence on the affairs of man. What was the origin of this opinion it is not needful here to inquire. No one can “prove,” however, that it is incorrect. It is against such spirits, and all their influences, that Christians are called to contend. In whatever way their power is put forth—whether in the prevalence of vice and error; of superstition and magic arts; of infidelity, atheism, or antinomianism; of evil customs and laws; of pernicious fashions and opinions, or in the corruptions of our own hearts, we are to make war on all these forms of evil, and never to yield in the conflict. —Barnes' Note on the New Testament

Matt. 16:18 I tell you that you are Peter, and it is on this rock that I will build my church, and the forces of hell

Additional references you may want to read: 1 Kings 21:12; 2 Kings 18:6; 2 Chron. 20:3; Ezra 8:21; Esther 4:16; Isaiah 58:4-5; Joel 1:14; Joel 2:15; Jonah 3:5; Zech. 7:3.

For Your Personal Prayer Time

- Worship and Praise
- Waiting and Listening
- Confession of personal sins
- Scripture Reading, meditation and Prayer



Points of Intercession for Your City

- Racial tension and discrimination still a problem
- Gang activity and associated violence increasing
- Divorce rate in El Paso County 60-70% highest in State
- Pray for elected officials: Our Mayor, City Counsel and Judges that they would make good decisions that would help to bring God's blessing. Pray for our Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments for wisdom and protection
- Those of you who live outside of Colorado Springs pray for your area in the same fashion.

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Prayer for Spiritual Authority

- Increased Unity between Pastors and Servant ministry leaders in our cities,
- Our church leadership Team and ministries (Small groups, Teens, Sunday School, nursery, etc.
 - Neighbors, Family, Friends, Co-workers That I Want to See Accept or Rededicate Their Lives to Christ



Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

As you close your prayer time tell the Lord of your love for Him. Worship and Praise His mighty name!

Look for ways to bless the people you have prayed for with acts of kindness. Remember, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

We will meet for a time of worship and prayer, Saturday October 23 at 6:00 PM. We will be breaking the fast together after the service. This is a very important service! May God richly bless you and your participation.

Original Song by Carol Lewis "The Fathers Heartbeat"

Can you hear the Father's heart beat
Calling us to war?
He is training our hearts for battle
To fight the enemies store.

Fix your eyes on Him
Can you see His master plan?
He is calling out His people
From the world they have ran.

It will not be worldly weapons
That He places in our hands
But the powerful tool of prayer
Which will slice the devil's bands.

There are many chained in sinful clasp
By Satan's evil scheme.
Who will fast and pray
And join the winning team?

For God is raising an army
To battle in the skies
A war to set the captives free
From the father of all lies.

This call is not for the faintish one
For faith must fill your heart
Believe to see the Spirit work
As in prayer you do your part.

For spoils from the enemies camp
Will certainly be found
Treasures out of darkness
Will be free, that once were bound.

Can you hear the Father's heart beat
Calling us to war
Will we respond to His cry
Or block our ears some more?

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