

Day 35
The Fast of Crucifixion

Jesus challenges us, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23, *NKJV*). Our generation has been conditioned to enjoy the best the world has to offer. Fasting speaks boldly against consumerism and our practice of putting food first in our life. To set aside what we want is to encourage personal spiritual growth. It means we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. We would have difficulty rising to the challenge of discipleship and living consistent Christian lives without fasting.

Paul told us how this crucified life takes place: “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14, *NKJV*). When we are “crucified” to the world, we take up all that the cross symbolizes. It means humiliation, sacrifice and repentance of sin. So when we take up the cross, we yield ourselves to God and determine to serve Him with all our heart.

That doesn’t mean we lose our sin nature. No, we still have an old nature that will tempt us to sin (see 1 John 1:8). But we surrender ourselves to God to get His victory over it; nor does it mean that we will never sin again. John teaches that the one who thinks he has stopped sinning is deceived: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:10, *NKJV*). What does it mean when we “crucify” ourselves—or take up our cross—we take on the victory of Christ who triumphed over sin in His death. His death gave us life, so we get the energy of Christ’s life when we receive His crucifixion. – by Elmer Towns©

-My Time to Pray-

- Lord, I repent of every known sin, and I determine to live holy to You.
- Lord, I pray save America, and turn Christians back to You.

Day 36
Fasting and Weeping

Have you ever prayed so hard that you began to weep? Maybe when you got saved you were so convicted of your sin that you wept before God. Today, let’s talk about weeping for our nation. Can you look at our nation through God’s eyes? Can you weep for our nation in this time of crises?

If our eyes are always dry, it probably means our soul is also dry. Because, like the sun that bakes the clay, something could have hardened our heart. On the other hand, when we shed tears before God, it probably means God has touched the very center of our feelings. He has scratched away the scab that has protected a raw wound that needs healing.

Sometimes you will weep over lost loved ones. Paul felt that way when he prayed for lost Jews: “I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Rom. 9:2-3, *NKJV*). His tears were for those who were lost. We must weep over sins, but we must also weep over the sins of Christians and our nation.

Be careful about praying for God to break your heart. He may do it and cause you more pain than if you dealt with your sin immediately and completely. When God breaks your heart, you can pray for our nation and for the church that seems so callous. – by Elmer Towns©

-My Time to Pray-

- Lord, show me the sin that hinders my prayer life; I’ll confess and repent.
- Lord, I repent and turn from sin that blocks my fellowship with You.

