

The Season of Pursuit

January 20 – April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday)

As we begin a new season of life and ministry together as a church, our desire is to see God move in powerful ways that far exceed our own expectations. We, as a church, have been in a long season of waiting and transition, itching to get going. Naturally the temptation for all of us is to simply want to hit the ground running. But as your Pastor, I think the healthiest thing we can do as we attempt to accomplish the Great Commission (Matt.28:19-20) of making disciples of all nations, is to individually and corporately seek the wisdom, heart, and desires of God. Therefore, we will begin 2020 in a “Season of Pursuit,” pursuing God and pleading for Him to move in powerful ways!

When Jesus was asked by John the Baptist’s disciples why his disciples did not fast like they or the Pharisees did, his response to them was, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?” The obvious answer is “No! Why would people long for someone who is in their midst?” But then Jesus follows that up with this statement: “The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, **and then they will fast**” (Matt.9:15). Fasting is a practice mentioned and sanctioned both by Jesus Christ, the prophets, and the apostles who wrote the Scriptures. There are multiple aspects to fasting but one of the most central is the connection between fasting and pleading for God to move. When the people of God knew there was no possibility for them to achieve victory or success apart from the supernatural work of God, their response was to “fast and pray.”

Fasting is the practice of intentionally abstaining from food and/or drink to create a space in our day to pursue God. I once heard someone says, “Fasting is about giving up something good, to go after something better.” There is no magic formula to fasting and it certainly is not about putting God in our debt as if “now He better do what I ask.” Rather, when we fast and pray, it centers our lives, thoughts, and motives on God and His kingdom. We display our dependence upon God as we humble ourselves by placing our bodies in a position of need (hunger) and depend on Him to be our strength. We fast and pray because the Bridegroom has been taken away and we long for Him, and though His kingdom has come, it has not yet fully been realized in our midst. We need to fast and pray because we recognize that there is no way we can do what Christ has called us to do as His church, make disciples of all nations, unless God shows up and moves in our midst. And so, we fast, and we pray...

The Plan & The Challenge:

- Each Monday you will receive a video message from Pastor Brad to use throughout the week as you pursue God through His Word & prayer in **daily personal devotions** (try using the book of Acts).
- Would you set aside **one meal per week**, over the next 12-weeks, to fast and pray? Pray for DCF, both its leaders (elders, deacons, & staff) and its members, to be united & devoted to discipleship: both making and being made into disciples of Jesus. As you get hungry before the next meal, pray again. *If you can’t fast from food, consider a media fast, or something else that could create space in your week.
- Would you **identify one unbelieving friend/co-worker/family member each week** and pray for that person every day of that week (12 people total over the “Season of Pursuit”).
- We will kick-off the “Season of Pursuit” on January 20th and end on Easter Sunday.

Our Goal: Our desire is that over these 12-weeks, God would create a hunger in our hearts for Christ, His gospel, His Word, and the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations. May this be the spark that ignites a burning passion within us to reach Dearborn and make disciples of Jesus Christ!

~Pastor Brad