



CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY FOUR: SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



4. Spiritual Practices

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

Seeking God wholeheartedly for outpourings of the Spirit happens in the context of disciplined spiritual practices. Faithfully seeking God day after day, month after month, pleases Him and draws His presence and blessing.



When the Israelites left Egypt, God taught them to orient their lives around God.

We do the same as Christians. We leave the old way of life where we fit God in where it's convenient. Rather, we orient our lives around God.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
- 4. Spiritual Practices**
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



Vibrant Spirituality is Composed of Three Parts

1. Hungering After God Himself
2. The Seven Principles of Seeking God Lifestyle
3. Spiritual Practices

The seven principles of seeking God wholeheartedly are to be practiced according to patterns God established in the Scriptures. The following are the spiritual practices.

Pattern of Regularly Seeking God is in the Heavens!



Genesis 1:14, 15 (NIV) - And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and **let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,**¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.

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Pattern of Regularly Seeking God is in the Scriptures

1 Chronicles 23:30-31 - And they were to stand **every morning, thanking and praising the LORD, and likewise at evening**, and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on **Sabbaths, new moons, and feast days**, according to the number required of them, regularly before the LORD.





Pattern of Regularly Seeking God is in the Scriptures

- **Daily:** morning and evening (the sun rises and the sun sets every day) (Numbers 28:1-8)
- **Weekly:** weekly on Sunday (originally Saturday) (Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 23:3; Numbers 28:9, 10; Deuteronomy 5:12-15)
- **Monthly:** monthly day (a “new moon” occurs every month) (Numbers 28:11-15)
- **Annually:** seven special gatherings per year, especially seven-day gathering every six months - (in the spring and the fall) (Leviticus 23:1-44)



Pattern of Regularly Seeking God is in the Scriptures

Regular, dedicated, focused times of seeking the Lord are essential for spiritual strengthening and fillings of the Holy Spirit.

*We are commanded to be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10),
and filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).*



Good Motives When Practicing Acts of Righteousness

Matthew 6:1 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people **in order to be seen by them**, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

It's ok that others know when Christians are praying, fasting, etc, after all this is how we are aware of the examples in the Bible. What's important is that there are good motives when praying and fasting. If it's being done in order to be seen by others, then that needs to be repented of.



Spiritual Practices

1. Morning and Evening Devotions
2. Sabbaths
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays
4. Monthly All-Day
5. Twice Yearly Conferences
6. Periodic Extraordinary Seeking After God
7. Three Spiritualities



Spiritual Practices

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Morning and Evening Devotion

- 1. Morning and Evening Pattern: Old Testament**
2. Morning and Evening Pattern: New Testament
3. Morning and Evening Pattern: Church History
4. Morning and Evening Pattern: Scriptural Commands
5. Length
6. Takeaways



Temple Sacrifices Morning and Twilight

Exodus 29:38-41 - Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old **day by day regularly**.³⁹ One lamb you shall offer in the **morning**, and the other lamb you shall offer at **twilight**.⁴⁰ And with the first lamb a tenth measure of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.⁴¹ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it a grain offering and its drink offering, as in the morning, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

1 Chronicles 23:30 - And they [Levites] were to stand **every morning**, thanking and praising the LORD, and **likewise at evening**,



Devout Jews Sought God Morning and Evening

Joshua 1:8 - “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it **day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Daniel 6:10 - When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He **got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God**, as he had done previously.



Devout Jews Sought God Morning and Evening

Luke 1:8-11 - Now while he [Zechariah] was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And **the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.** ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

(See also 1 Chronicles 16:40; Psalm 1:1-3.)

Temple Mount



The 35 acre plaza known as the Temple Mount can hold as many as 100,000 people. In the center was the Temple where sacrifices were made to Yahweh morning and twilight every day.

4. Spiritual Practices

Temple Mount



In the first century, sacrifices were made at 9:00am and 3:00pm consistent with the Roman pattern of ringing bells at those times.



Morning and Evening Devotion

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4. Spiritual Practices

Christians Sought God Morning and Evening

Professor of Liturgy at Notre Dame, Paul Bradshaw, documented the prayer practices of the first-century church, noting that the book of Acts confirms the **morning and evening prayer patterns** of the Apostles and Christians:

“The observance of the afternoon time of prayer is mentioned in the New Testament: Peter and John go up to the Temple ‘at the **hour of prayer, the ninth hour**’ [3 pm] (Acts 3:1), and Cornelius the centurion keeps the **night hour of prayer in his house** [3pm] (Acts 10.3, 30). The ninth hour, 3 p.m., appears to have been chosen for the afternoon prayer in order that it might coincide with the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice in the Herodian Temple.”



Christians Sought God Morning and Evening

Acts 3:1 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at **the hour of prayer, the ninth hour**

Additional New Testament Evidence: Acts 2:14, 15, 42, 43; 10:9, 30, 31;
1 Thessalonians 3:9, 10; 2 Timothy 1:3

The consensus among historians is that first-century Christians practiced similar devotional patterns of the devout Jews of the day.



Timing of Christian First-Century Devotions

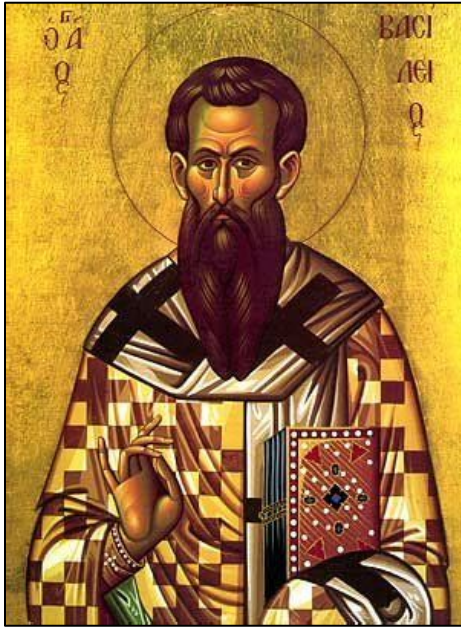
- 9:00 am** Third hour of the day - Bells rung in Roman cities - Morning sacrifice at the Temple.
- Noon** Sixth hour of the day - Some would have a time of prayer.
- 3:00 pm** Ninth hour of the day - Bells rung in Roman cities. Evening sacrifice at the Temple.
- Night** Some would have a time of prayer in the evening.



Morning and Evening Devotion

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Second Century Devotional Patterns



According to Tertullian in 200 AD, Christians prayed five set times per day, before meals and before going to the baths. This pattern lasted for hundreds of years and was imitated by the Muslims which they continue to practice to this day.

The times of prayer were sunrise, 9:00am, Noon, 3:00pm and sunset. The most important were the middle three.

Apostolic Tradition by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)



The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus describes the practice of prayer in the early church.

Chapter 36. But if on any day there is no instruction, let everyone at home take the Bible and read sufficiently in passages that he finds profitable. If at **the third hour thou art at home, pray then** and ²give thanks to God; but if thou chance to be abroad at that hour, make thy prayer to God in thy heart.



***Apostolic Tradition* by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)**

For at ³ that hour Christ was nailed to the tree; therefore in the old [covenant] the law commanded the showbread to be offered continually for a type of the body and blood of Christ, and commanded the sacrifice of the dumb lamb, which was a type of the perfect Lamb; for Christ is the Shepherd, and he is also the Bread that came down from heaven. At **the sixth hour likewise pray also**, for, after Christ ⁴ was nailed to the wood of the cross, the day was divided and there was a great darkness; wherefore let [the faithful] pray at that hour with an effectual prayer, likening themselves to the voice of him who prayed [and] caused all creation to become dark for the unbelieving Jews.



4. Spiritual Practices

***Apostolic Tradition* by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)**

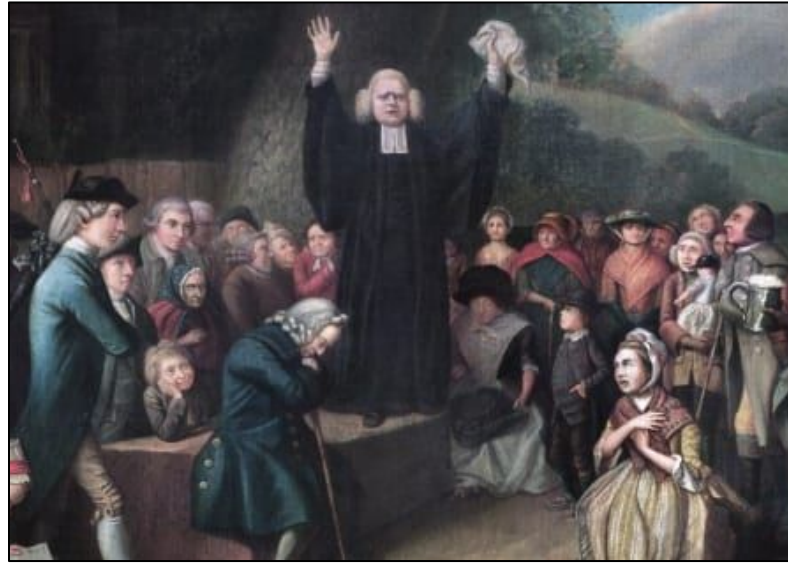
And at **the ninth hour let a great prayer and a great ⁵ thanksgiving be made**, such as made the souls of the righteous ones, blessing the Lord, the God who does not lie, who was mindful of his saints and sent forth his Word to enlighten them. At that ⁶ hour, therefore, Christ poured forth from his pierced side water and blood, and brought the rest of the time of that day with light to evening; so, when he fell asleep, by making the beginning of another day he completed the pattern of his resurrection. **Pray again before thy body rests on thy bed.** ⁷ At **midnight arise, wash thy hands with water and ⁸ pray**. And if thy wife is with thee, pray ye both together; ⁹ but if she is not yet a believer, go into another room and pray, and again return to thy bed; be not slothful in prayer.



***Apostolic Tradition* by Bishop Hippolytus (ca 200 AD)**

...And **at cockcrow rise up and pray** likewise, for at that ¹⁴ hour of cockcrow the children of Israel denied Christ, whom we have known by faith; by which faith, in the hope of eternal life at the resurrection of the dead, we look for his Day. And so, all ye faithful, if ye thus act, and are mindful ¹⁵ of these things, and teach them to one another, and cause the catechumens to be zealous, ye can neither be tempted nor can ye perish, since ye have Christ always in your minds.

Founders of Evangelicalism in 1700's Prayed Set Times per Day



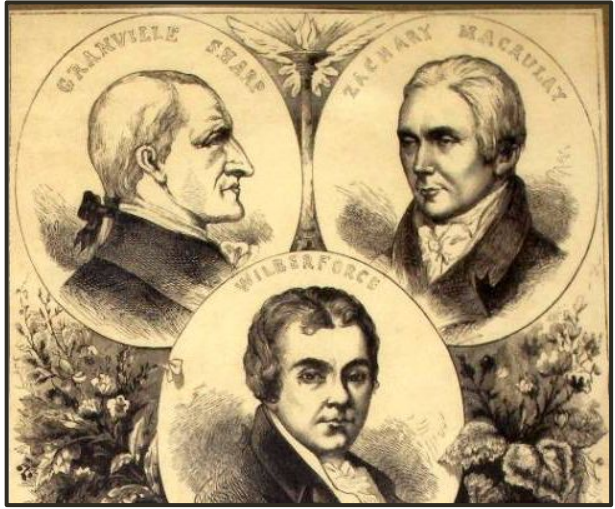
John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards are considered the founders of Evangelicalism, having established a movement encircling the globe. To stay strong in the Lord, and to have His presence and power, they prayed every day at 9am, noon and 3pm, and usually more often, and also fasted Wednesdays and Fridays.

Columbia's (King's College) Original Royal Charter in 1754:



“We do further will, ordain, and direct, that **there shall be forever hereafter publick morning and evening service constantly performed in the said College, morning and evening forever**, by the President, Fellows, Professors, or Tutors, of the said College, or one of them, according to the Liturgy of the Church of England”

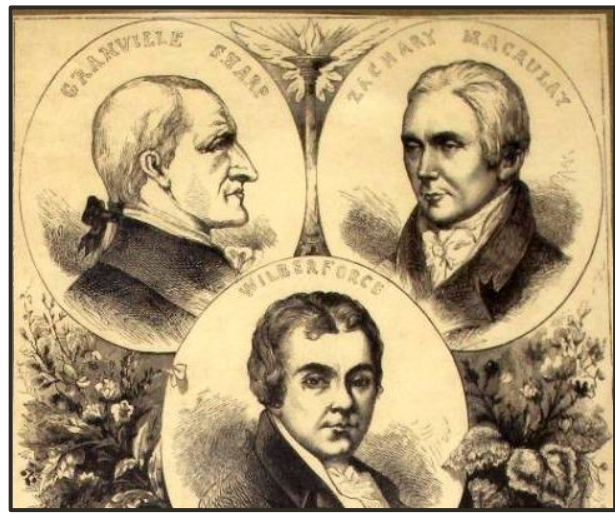
Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect in Early 1800's



Members of the Clapham Sect

Clapham was a neighborhood near the Houses of Parliament in London in the early 1800's where a group of powerful, influential, and devout Christians lived. The group became known as the "Clapham Sect" and led the charge to abolish the slave trade. The prominent historian G. R. Balleine gives a short description of these Christian friends, describing their disciplined three-times-a-day pattern of seeking God in prayer.

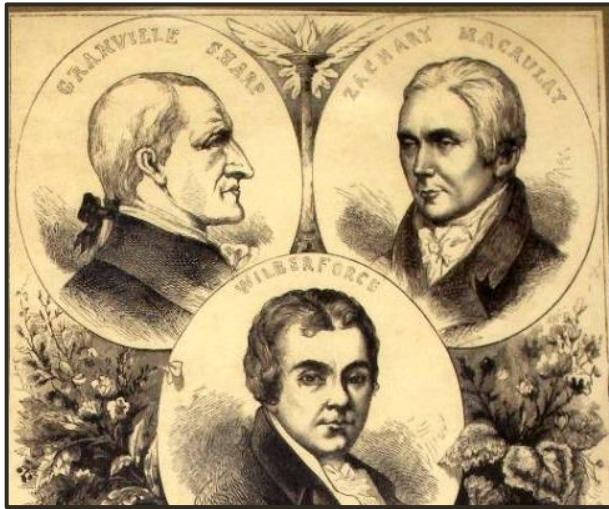
Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect in Early 1800's



Members of the Clapham Sect

“But little did the critics guess the almost monastic self-discipline by which these well-to-do Christians ordered each day of their lives. They moved in Society, they were given to hospitality, because they believed it a duty. ‘My business is in the world,’ wrote Wilberforce, ‘and I must mix in the assemblies of men, or quit the part which Providence seems to have assigned to me’ but every temptation to self-indulgence was rigidly held in check.

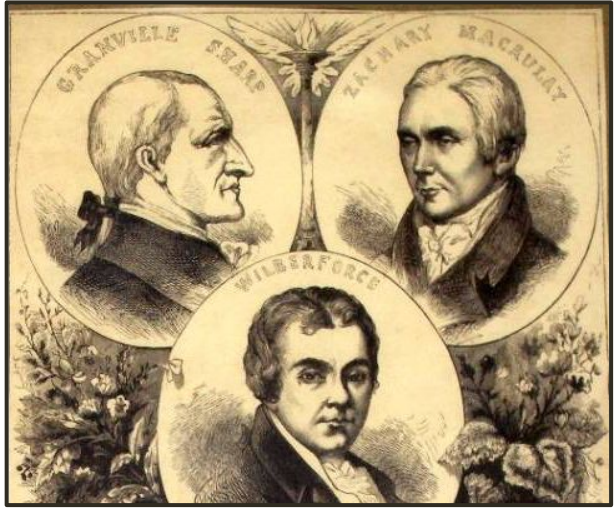
Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect in Early 1800's



Members of the Clapham Sect

“Like all Evangelicals in those days, they were very early risers, for they realized intensely the value of time. Every hour was mapped out beforehand; some of Wilberforce’s time-tables were discovered after his death – so many hours for prayer, so many for study, so many for business, so many for rest, and a column at the end in which to enter all the time that had been squandered.

Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect in Early 1800's



Members of the Clapham Sect

They made a point of setting apart three hours a day for prayer – from five to six in the morning, from twelve to one at noon, and from five to six in the evening.”

G. R. Balleine
A History of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England

Charles Spurgeon in 19th Century England



“Morning prayer is the key of the day, and evening prayer is the lock of the night.” - Charles Spurgeon

Holding morning and evening devotions was normal practice for Christians in England in the 19th century. So much so, that a classic devotional, Morning and Evening, by famous preacher Charles Spurgeon is published to this day.



Morning and Evening Devotion

1. Morning and Evening Pattern: Old Testament
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5. Length
6. Takeaways



Scriptural Expectations to Seek God Morning and Evening

Luke 18:1-8 - And he told them a parable to the effect that they **ought always to pray** and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who **cry to him day and night**? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



Scriptural Expectations to Seek God Morning and Evening

1 Timothy 5:3-8 - Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵ She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and **continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶ but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.**



Scriptural Expectations to Seek God Morning and Evening

1. **Scriptural Commands and Inspiration** - Luke 18:1-8; 1 Timothy 5:3-8; OT and New Testament morning and evening patterns
2. **Christian Practice of First-Century Christians and Through History** - Pious Jews in the first century, then the Apostles and Christians sought the Lord two to five times daily, how could Christians today not be expected to do the same?
3. **Testimony of Spiritual Power** - Just about everyone who practices two to four devotional times daily testifies to the spiritual strength it provides. It's part of the way we obey God's command to be strong in Him



Takeaways

- **Devotions Need to Be Minimum of Twice Daily** - There were always held at least twice per day, and for hundreds of years, five times a day.
- **Harmful Consequences of Neglect** - Failing to spend sufficient time daily seeking God has enormous negative consequences, making Christians very weak spiritually.



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Length of First-Century Devotions: 30-90 minutes

First-Century Culture Was Event-Based and Not Time-Based

Structured Part (Approx. 20 Minutes)

- Recitation of the Decalogue (Dt. 5:1-21) and Recitation of the *Shema* (Dt. 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Num 15:32-41)
- Recitation of the Tefillah (18 Benedictions) and Recitation of the “Our Father”

Plus (Approx 10-70 minutes)

- Corporate and Personal Prayers: Length?
- Additional Scripture Readings, Discussions, and Worship: Length?



Length of First-Century Devotions: 30-90 minutes

Suggestive Passages

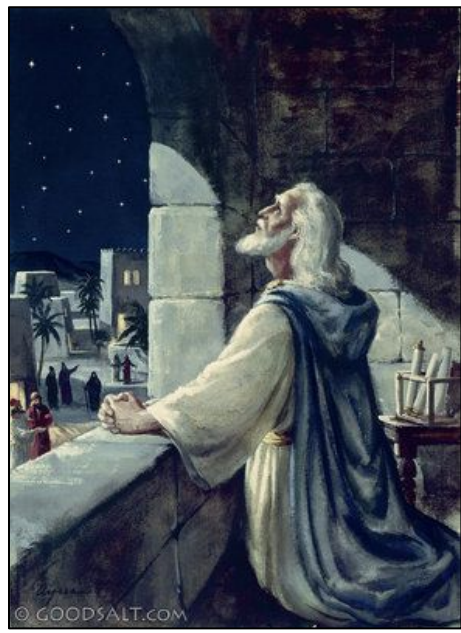
- **Acts 3:1** - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at **the hour of prayer**, the ninth hour.
- **Matthew 26:40** - And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with **me one hour**?”

How Much Time is Needed?



- What to say if asked how much time needed to be a **collegiate athlete**?
- How about if asked how much time needed to become a **medical doctor**?
- How about if asked how much time needed to prepare to **run a marathon**?

How Much Time is Needed?



If a person had become a Christian a few years prior, had grown in the faith, was well established and then asked, “How much time should I spend in devotions each day if I want to have the spiritual strength, faith and impact of Daniel?”

What would you tell them and what’s the basis for your answer?



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American vs. First-Century Devotions

- **Two to Four Times Daily** - First-century Christians held devotions two to four times daily: always morning and evening, and sometimes also at noon and even during the night.
- **Communal** - First-century devotions were almost always communal.
- **About an Hour Long** - First-century devotions were approximately 30 to 90 minutes in length.
- **Summary** - Christians in the first-century held devotions morning and evening at a minimum, and for approximately 60 minutes in group contexts.



Practicalities

- **Devotion Time** - For a devotion, listen to praise music, repent of sins, read and memorize the Bible, learn to listen to God and pray fervently. Perhaps some days 60 minutes would be spent all at once instead of split between morning and evening, but twice daily is the ideal.
- **Together is Usually Better** - Devotions can be practiced alone, although is often more rewarding when accompanied by friends and family.
- **Family Altar** - Some families establish a “family altar” which is a fixed time and place to pray as a family mornings and evenings. The goal is to be faithful to this commitment for at least four of the six available days per week.

Implications of Morning and Evening Devotions



- *Shouldn't it be expected that to see similar levels of spiritual strength, and outpourings of the Holy Spirit that similar practices of seeking God should occur today?*
- *What could be better than coming before the Lord, entering His presence every morning and evening?*

Cape Cod Morning, 1950
Edward Hopper

Day and Night Prayer in the International Church



“There is not a Christian in Uganda who does know this and does not live this way.”

John Mulinde
Leader of World Trumpet Mission, Uganda



Spiritual Practices

1. Morning and Evening Devotions
2. **Sabbaths**
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays
4. Monthly All-Day
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Sabbaths

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 - “**Observe the Sabbath day**, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”



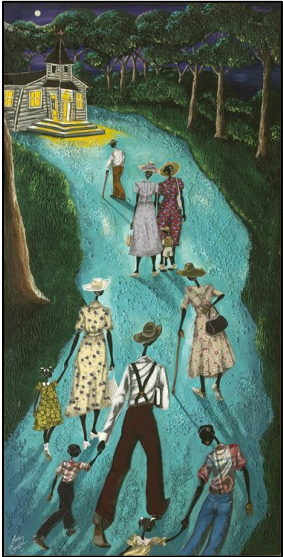
4. Spiritual Practices

Sabbaths

Numbers 28:9, 10 - “**On the Sabbath day**, two male lambs a year old without blemish, and two tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, and its drink offering: ¹⁰ this is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.”

Acts 20:7 - **On the first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight

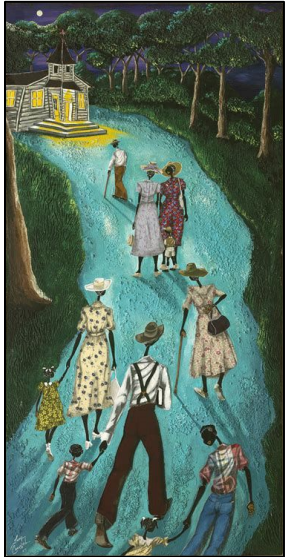
Sabbaths



It's a privilege to spend Sundays (or another day as a Sabbath) attending church, resting and participating in other activities to grow in God. Some churches may offer more than one service on Sunday, so attending both can aid you in your Christian growth and strengthening. The minimum time commitment entails sixty to ninety minutes for church and the same amount of time in the evening.

Night Church, 2009
Leroy Campbell

Sabbaths



Attending church in person is to be prioritized above attending remotely because the former provides more opportunities to develop relationships and otherwise participate in the larger community. Seek out a church community that teaches the Scriptures and calls its members to wholehearted devotion and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Night Church, 2009
Leroy Campbell



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Enduring Practice of Fasting Wednesday and Friday



Matthew 6:16 - [Jesus speaking] “**And when you fast,** do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.”

Salvator Mundi, 1510
Leonardo Da Vinci

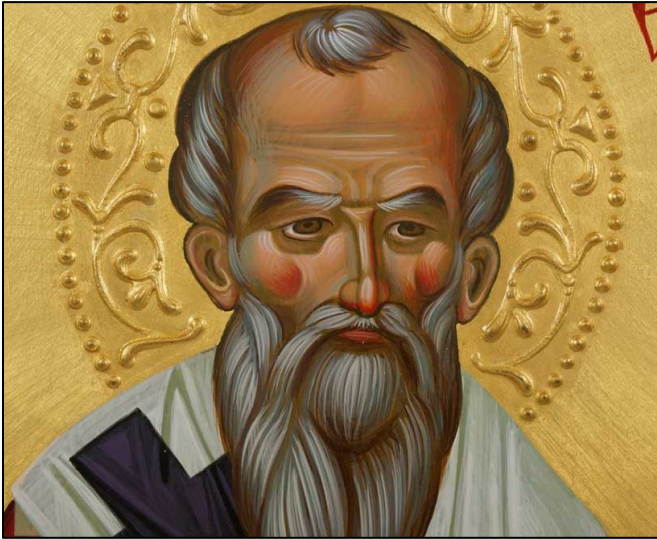


Enduring Practice of Fasting Wednesday and Friday

Didache (c. 75AD) Chapter 8 - Let not your fasts be with the hypocrites, for they fast on Mondays and Thursdays, but do your fast on Wednesdays and Fridays.

And do not pray as the hypocrites, but as the Lord commanded in his Gospel, pray thus: “Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, as in Heaven so also upon earth; give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into trial, but deliver us from the Evil One, for thine is the power and the glory for ever.” Pray thus three times a day.

Enduring Practice of Fasting Wednesday and Friday



“Who does not know that the fast of the fourth and sixth days of the week are observed by Christians throughout the world?”

Epiphanius (310AD - 403AD)
Italian Bishop in the Fifth Century

Enduring Practice of Fasting Wednesday and Friday



John Wesley would not ordain to ministry any man who did not fast Wednesdays and Fridays. Whitefield, Edwards and others fasted according to this pattern and even more frequently.

John Wesley (1703 - 1791)
Founder of Methodism



Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays

As practiced by the early church for hundreds of years and still practiced by many worldwide, Christians can fast by refraining from all food up until at least 3:00pm or 4:00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Fasting helps Christians humble themselves, draw closer to God and experience more of His presence. There may be circumstances that would require switching a fasting day to another day during the week, and also circumstances to refrain from fasting because of family, medical or other concerns.



Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays

There's incredible power in being part of a growing community of Christians fasting the same time every week. It reinforces the habit and serves as a reminder of the need to draw close to God.



4. Spiritual Practices

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Monthly All-Day (a “New Moon” Occurs Every Month)



Starry Night, 1889
Vincent van Gogh

Numbers 28:11-14 - “**At the beginnings of your months**, you shall offer a burnt offering to the LORD: two bulls from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish; ¹² also three tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, for each bull, and two tenths of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, for the one ram;

Monthly All-Day (a “New Moon” Occurs Every Month)



Starry Night, 1889
Vincent van Gogh

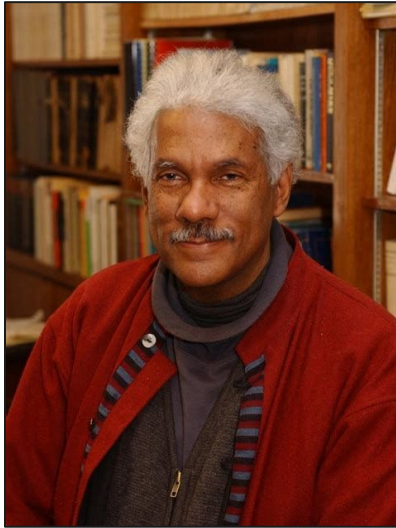
Numbers 28:11-14 (cont'd) - ¹³“and a tenth of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for every lamb; for a burnt offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ¹⁴Their drink offerings shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, a third of a hin for a ram, and a quarter of a hin for a lamb. **This is the burnt offering of each month throughout the months of the year.”**



Monthly Seeking God in the New Heavens and New Earth

Isaiah 66:22-23 - “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³ From **new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath**, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.”

Slaves Periodically Sought God All Night



Princeton scholar Albert Raboteau asserts that a contributing reason why Blacks in the U.S. territories became so thoroughly Christian with little to no syncretism from previous tribal religions is because as slaves they would periodically sneak away deep into the woods and spend all night worshipping and drawing near to God.

Dr. Albert Raboteau (1943-2021)
Princeton University Professor



4. Spiritual Practices

Monthly All-Day

Once a month it's useful to devote an entire Saturday or other day to strengthening your relationship with God either alone or with friends and family by drawing close to God by praying, building strong relationships, reading the Bible, repenting of sins, listening to Christian messages and worshiping. Eight to twelve hours of the day should be dedicated to this pursuit.



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Two Primary Annual Gatherings for Spiritual Strengthening

1. **Festival of Unleavened Bread** in the Spring (seven days)
2. **Festival of Tabernacles** in the Fall (seven days) (2 Chronicles 8:13; Ezra 3:4; Zechariah 14:16)
 - **Content:** Seven-day group gatherings consisting of worship, prayer, Bible engagement, confession, and fellowship.
 - **Timing:** They were six months apart, so that Jews received strong spiritual strengthening for seven days every six months.



Pattern of Regularly Seeking God is in the Scriptures

1 Chronicles 23:30-31 - And they were to stand **every morning, thanking and praising the LORD, and likewise at evening**, and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on **Sabbaths, new moons, and feast days**, according to the number required of them, regularly before the LORD.



Three Required Annual Trips to Jerusalem for Men

Deuteronomy 16:16, 17 - Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the **Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths**. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. ¹⁷ Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

Example of Hezekiah at Passover



2 Chronicles 30:21-31:1 - ²¹ And the people of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days **with great gladness**, and the Levites and the priests **praised the LORD day by day, singing with all their might to the LORD.** ²² And **Hezekiah spoke encouragingly** to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So they **ate the food of the festival for seven days**, sacrificing peace offerings and giving **thanks to the LORD**, the God of their fathers.

Hezekiah Destroys the Idols, 1585
Maarten de Vos



Example of Hezekiah at Passover

2 Chronicles 30:21-31:1 (cont'd) - ²³ Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days **with gladness**. ²⁴ For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers. ²⁵ The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who lived in Judah, rejoiced.



Example of Hezekiah at Passover

2 Chronicles 30:21-31:1 (cont'd) - ²⁶ So there was **great joy** in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and **their voice was heard**, and **their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven**. ^{31:1} Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and **broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars** throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had **destroyed them all**. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, every man to his possession.

Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths



Nehemiah 8:1-18 And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (cont'd) - ³ **And he read from it** facing the square before the Water Gate **from early morning until midday**, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (cont'd) - ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and **worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.** ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (cont'd) - ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; **do not mourn or weep.**” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. **And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹² **And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.**



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (cont'd) - ¹³ On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. ¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, ¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written." ¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (cont'd) - ¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. **And there was very great rejoicing.** ¹⁸ **And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.**



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 9:1-5 - Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and **confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.** ³ And they stood up in their place and **read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day;** for **another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.**



Example of Nehemiah and Feast of Booths

Nehemiah 9:1-5 (cont'd) - ⁴ On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God. ⁵ Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, “**Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.**”

Financing of the Feasts - Purpose of Three Tithes



The First Tithe: The Tithe for the Levites (Numbers 18:21) - Ten percent of income set aside to fund the work of the Levites and the priests in their offerings and ministry to God. Equivalence today is money donated to local church and Gospel proclamation.

The Payment of the Tithes, ca. 1620
Pieter Brueghel II (The Younger)



Financing of the Feasts - Purpose of Three Tithes

The Second Tithes: The Festival Tithes (Deuteronomy 14:22-23) - Ten percent of income set aside to fund the festivals in Jerusalem every year. Equivalent use today would be money spent on oneself and family in Christian conferences.

The Third Tithes: The Tithes for the Poor (Deuteronomy 14:29, 30) - Ten percent of income set aside to give to the poor every three years, equivalent to 3.3% per year. Equivalence today is money donated to the poor through World Vision, Bowery mission, or even through one's taxes.



Mood of the Feasts

Nehemiah 8:9-12 - And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. **And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” ¹¹ **So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”** ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.



Mood of the Feasts

James 4:4-10 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ **Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.** ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

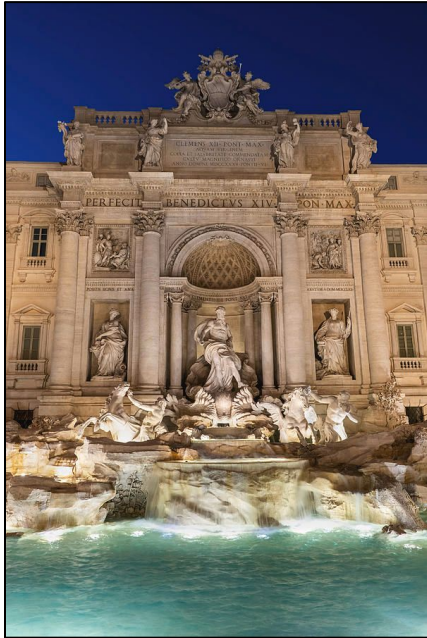


The Need to Develop One's Inner Fountains

Psalm 36:8-9 - They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the **fountain of life**; in your light do we see light.

Jeremiah 2:12-13 - Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the **fountain of living waters**, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

The Need to Develop One's Inner Fountains



Jeremiah 17:13 - O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the **fountain of living water**.

Trevi Fountain at Night in Rome



4. Spiritual Practices

Jesus Promising the Holy Spirit at End of Feast of Booths

John 7:37-39 - On the **last day of the feast**, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart **will flow rivers of living water.**’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

On the last day of the Feast of Booths, Jesus promised fillings of the Spirit would come after Pentecost, and by the timing of His words, suggesting that Holy Spirit fillings come at the end of seven days of seeking God as per the feasts.



Ten Day Gathering for Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:12-14 - Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ **All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.**

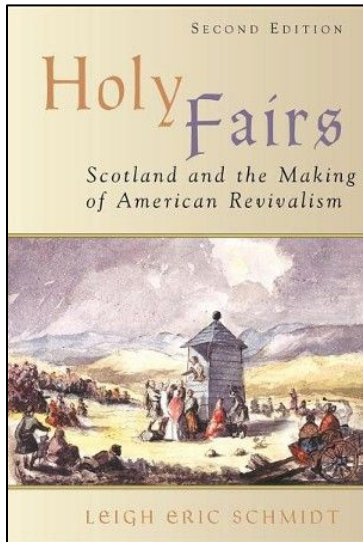
We see energetic seeking of the Lord as a group from Christ's ascension to Pentecost.



Pattern for Christian Strengthening

1. **Group:** Many gathering together
2. **Multi-Day:** Length of seven days
3. **Regularly:** Twice per year
4. **Means of Grace:** Filled with worship, prayer, Bible teaching and reading, repentance, fellowship. Sometimes rejoicing, sometimes humbling, mourning and fasting.

Holy Fairs by Scottish Presbyterians



For many years Scottish Presbyterians stirred faith and devotion through multi-day gatherings derisively dubbed “Holy Fairs” by detractors. They brought these practices in the New World after immigrating in the 1700’s.

Holy Fairs: Scotland and the Making of American Revivalism

Leigh Eric Schmidt, Professor at Washington University in St. Louis

Holy Fairs by Scottish Presbyterians



“In 1630 one of [John Livingston’s] stops was at the kirk of Shotts for the celebration of a ‘solemn Communion.’ There he joined with a handful of the most popular ministers the Presbyterians could boast for a series of meetings that reportedly **went on ‘almost day and night, for four or five days’** together. These highly charged meetings found culmination on Monday in an extraordinary ‘down-pouring of the SPIRIT.’

John Livingston (1603-1672)
Scottish Presbyterian Minister

Holy Fairs by Scottish Presbyterians



(cont'd) “On that Monday, outdoors in ‘the Church-yard,’ Livingston preached a sermon he always considered the most powerful he ever delivered. As he exhorted the ‘great multitude...there convened’ for two-and-a-half hours in ‘a soft shower of rain,’ **his words had ‘a strange unusual motion on the hearers’**; it was even said that many were so overwhelmed by his performance that they gained away and laid upon the ground ‘as if they had been dead.’

John Livingston (1603-1672)
Scottish Presbyterian Minister

Holy Fairs by Scottish Presbyterians



(cont'd) “One chronicler concluded that ‘near 500 had at that time a discernible change wrought on them, of whom most proved lively Christians afterward...many of the most eminent Christians in that country, could date either their conversion, or some remarkable confirmation in their case, from that day.’ This ‘solemn Communion as the Kirk of the Shots’ capped a decade of Presbyterian revivification in Scotland.

John Livingston (1603-1672)
Scottish Presbyterian Minister

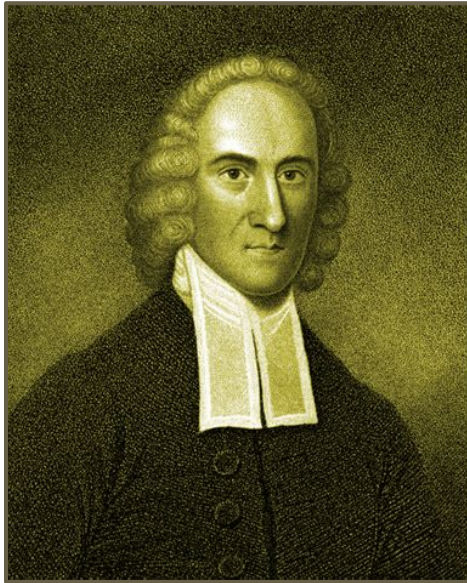
Holy Fairs by Scottish Presbyterians



(cont'd) “More than any other event, the impressive revival at Shotts indicated that the sacramental occasion had come into its own and **was helping foment a Presbyterian awakening. [It was] legendary in evangelical annals ever afterward.**”

John Livingstone (1603-1672)
Scottish Presbyterian Minister

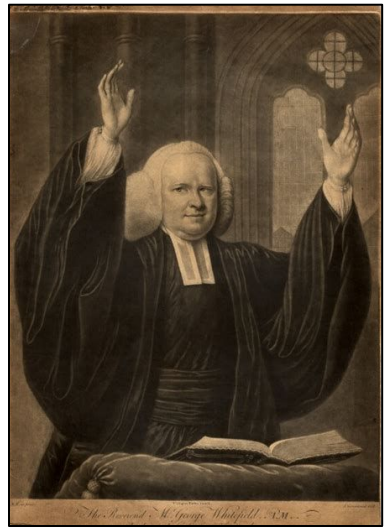
Godly Men Spend Many Days Seeking God



“The state of the times extremely requires a fullness of the divine Spirit in ministers, and we ought to give ourselves no rest till we have obtained it. And in order to [do] this, I should think ministers, above all persons, ought to be much in secret prayer and fasting, and also much in praying and fasting one with another. It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if ministers in a neighborhood **would often meet together and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.**”

Jonathan Edwards
Pastor and Theologian of the Great Awakening

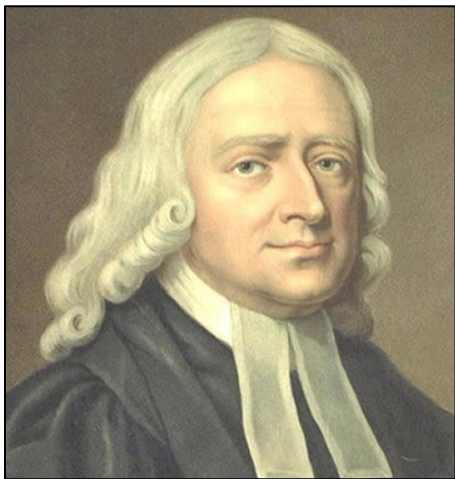
Godly Men Spend Many Days Seeking God



“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.”

George Whitefield, Anglican Minister and Revivalist of the Great Awakening of 1730’s and 1740’s

Godly Men Spend Many Days Seeking God



John Wesley (1703-1791)
English Revivalist and
Founder of Methodism

From *John Wesley's Journal*: Monday, January 1, 1739

“Mr. Hall, Kinchin, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchins, and my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane, with about sixty of our brethren. **About three in the morning, as we were continuing in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground.**”

Let It Be Like Cane Ridge!



Organized by Presbyterian minister, Rev. Barton Stone, 20,000 gathered for a week outside Lexington, Kentucky in August 1801 to seek God.

Famous Camp Meeting in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, 1801

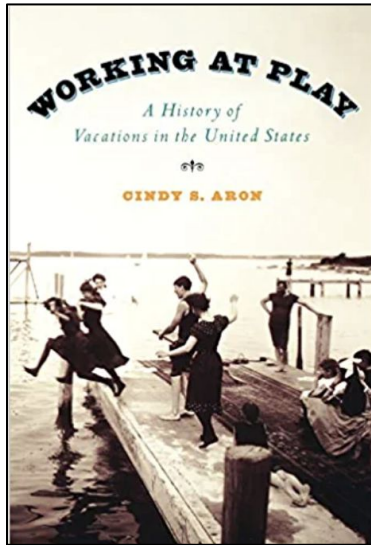
Let It Be Like Cane Ridge!



Famous Camp Meeting in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, 1801

The term “camp meeting” was coined shortly after the famous, massive gathering which played a major role in the Second Great Awakening. Today, Christians have forgotten the importance of using “vacations” to draw closer to the Lord.

History of U.S. Vacations



Much of the mindset and practice of vacations in the United States derives from the practice of Christian camp meetings popularized in the 1800's, and originally inspired by the Presbyterians of Scotland.

Cindy Aron, professor of history emerita at the University of Virginia, wrote *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States* (Oxford, 1999).

Godly Men Spend Many Days Seeking God



“I would seriously recommend to you, when settled in the ministry, the celebration of extraordinary seasons of devotion. If your ordinary prayers do not keep up the freshness and vigor of your souls, and you feel that you are flagging, **get alone for a week, or even a month if possible. We have occasional holidays, why not frequent holy days?**”

Charles Spurgeon
19th Century English Pastor

Godly Men Spend Many Days Seeking God



“I believe that God answers prayer. And even if He doesn’t, I will die seeking Him.”

“The Lord said, ‘Two people can say the exact same thing and the impact is vastly different because I am with one of them.’”

Mulinde and friends got away to seek the Lord for 90 days.

John Mulinde
Founder of World Trumpet Mission, Uganda



Twice Yearly Conferences

Approximately every six months Christians benefit from attending a conference up to a week-long with great teaching, worship, repentance, prayer, fellowship and encouragement. This renews love for God, brings honor to Him, likely facilitates a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and strengthens Christians for effective service. The goal is to be faithful to this commitment approximately every six months, spending a minimum of three or more consecutive days of eight to twelve hours each day drawing close to Him. During these times Christians should expect to receive a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.



Twice Yearly Conferences

Not all Christian conferences are created equal. Each day of the conference should be filled with prayer, Scripture, and worship. If the days are not chock full of activities helping attendees draw close to God (and instead filled primarily with recreational and fellowship activities), then there's not as much spiritual benefit.



Will the Feast of Booths be Widely Observed in the Future?

Zechariah 14:9, 16-19 - And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one ... ¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem **shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.** ¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the **Feast of Booths.** ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the **Feast of Booths.**



4. Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices

1. Morning and Evening Devotions
2. Sabbaths
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays
4. Monthly All-Day
5. Twice Yearly Conferences
- 6. Periodic Extraordinary Seeking After God**
7. Three Spiritualities



Extraordinary Prayer

- 24-Hour prayer chain by the Moravians lasting 100 years
- Businessman's Prayer Revival
- Prayer Mountains in Korea
- Praying in the Swamps in Uganda
- 24-Hour Prayer Continuously
- All Night Prayer - Circling a Locale
- Ten Nights Praying Midnight to 3am
- 5 am Daily Prayer
- Noon Daily Prayer

Inspiration from the Moravians



On August 26, 1727 in Herrnhut (current eastern Germany), leadership birthed a 24-hour prayer chain, lasting over 100 years.

Leviticus 6:13 - Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

Inspiration from the Moravians



Isaiah 62:6, 7 - On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.



God's Response to Breakthrough Fasting

- Answers to Requests
 - Ezra Received Safe Passage (Ezra 8:21-23)
 - King Ahab Received Mercy (1 Kings 21:27-29)
 - Esther Saved the Jews (Esther 4:16)
 - But not Always! (David fasting for His son's life - 2 Sam 12:16-24)
 - Provision to rebuild the wall (Nehemiah 1)
- Reception of More Revelation (Acts 13:1-3; Joel 1:13; 2:28, 29)
- Power in Ministry and Strength to Resist Temptation (Luke 4:1 (led by Spirit), v 14 (power of the Spirit))
- More of God's Presence (Luke 5:35)



Lengths of Breakthrough Fasting

- **Three-Day Fast** - **Ezra** (Ezra 8:21-23; 10:1-15), **Esther** (Esther 4:15-17 - dry fast) and **Paul** (Acts 9:1-19 - dry fast)
- **Seven-Day Fast** - **King David** (2 Samuel 12:15-23)
- **21-Day Fast** - **Daniel** (Daniel 10:1-21)
- **40-Day Fast** - **Jesus, Elijah** (1 Kings 19:4-8), **Moses** (Deut 9:6-12, 18, 25, 26; 10:10 - twice dry fast)
- **70-Day Fast** - **All Jews in Persia** (Esther 3:12; 4:1-3; 8:9, 15-17)
- **120-Day Fast** - **Nehemiah** (Neh 1:1-2:1)



Agony of Breakthrough Fasting

James 4:8-10 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹**Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.** ¹⁰**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**



Agony of Breakthrough Fasting

- **David** - “fasted and went in and **lay all night on the ground.**”
- **Ezra** - “prayed and made confession, **weeping and casting himself down...**neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was **mourning** over the faithlessness of the exiles”
- **Ezra** - “So we fasted and **implored our God** for this, and he listened to our entreaty.”
- **Daniel** - “I, Daniel, was **mourning** for three weeks”



Agony of Breakthrough Fasting

- **Moses** - “Then I **lay prostrate** before the LORD as before, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water..”
- **Esther** - “put on **sackcloth and ashes**, and **cried out with a loud and bitter cry**...there was great **mourning** among the Jews, with fasting and **weeping and lamenting**, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.”
- **Nehemiah** - “**wept and mourned** for days...confessing the sins of the people”



Agony of Breakthrough Fasting

- **Jonah** - “removed his robe, **covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes**...Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.”



Massive Scripture Intake and Its Benefits

- **Princeton Revival of 1815** - One of the main causes to the revival was said to have been President Ashbel Green's requirement that students memorize and recite from memory five chapters of the Bible each week. See [God at Work by Ken Jasko](#)
- **St. Patrick** - While a shepherd in slavery, St. Patrick recited from memory 50 Psalms every morning and 50 Psalms every evening. Patrick's ministry lasted 29 years, baptizing over 120,000 Irishmen and planting 300 churches.
- **CU Fire Retreat** - Example of woman's healing experience reading Ezekiel for two hours at CU Fire Retreat



Massive Scripture Intake and Its Benefits

- **William Wilberforce** - William Wilberforce, laboring 40 years to outlaw the slave trade and emancipate the slaves in the British Empire, hid the Scriptures in his heart, including the entirety of Psalm 119, and would recite on his walks home from Parliament.
- **Chrysostom** - “It is said of Chrysostom, that he had learned his Bible by heart, so as to be able to repeat it at his pleasure: no wonder that he was called golden-mouthed.” Charles Spurgeon



Periodic Extraordinary Seeking After God

As part of God's international, dynamic movement of expanding and deepening the Kingdom of God, He will have you follow His direction for seasons of extraordinary efforts in seeking Him. As you grow in Christ, He will give you the desire and strength to participate in these types of exceptional efforts. The goal is to participate in at least once such effort per year. You may do something God individually calls you to, or you may participate with a larger group of people.



4. Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices

1. Morning and Evening Devotions
2. Sabbaths
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays
4. Monthly All-Day
5. Twice Yearly Conferences
6. Periodic Extraordinary Seeking After God
7. **Three Spiritualities**



4. Spiritual Practices

Distinct from Contemplative Spirituality

Seeking God Lifestyle - It is reflected in the Old Testament, New Testament, first-century church, American revival history and much of the current international church.

Contemplative Spirituality

- Sourced in the desert fathers (monks) in Egypt in the third century.
- Often takes inspiration from Eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism.
- Doesn't emphasize repentance and obedience.
- Often emphasizes “knowing one's true self” and being “authentic” more than knowing God.
- There's a reason revivals do not arise out of contemplative spirituality.

Walking in the Ancient Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 - Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and **ask for the ancient paths**, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”



Walking in the Ancient Paths

The following is a description of spiritualities needed to please our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They are based on the Scriptures as well as the revival-oriented international church and times of great gospel progress in America's history.



Walking in the Ancient Paths

- **Hungering After God Himself** - Christians are to hunger after God Himself first and foremost. There's nothing better than seeking and pleasing the Lord.
- **Seeking God Lifestyle** - The following three levels of Christian devotion depend upon the Christian practicing the seven principles of the seeking God lifestyle.
- **Spiritual Practices** - There are specific spiritual habits that are to be practiced by Christians to fortify them in the faith as described in the following three spiritualities.



Three Levels of Spirituality Among Christians

- **Daniel Spirituality** - This is a spirituality arguably needed of all Christians.
- **Shepherd Spirituality** - This is a stronger spirituality required of pastors and others in Christian leadership. They also have the responsibility of helping lay Christians stay strong in Daniel Spirituality.
- **Pauline Spirituality** - This is the strongest spirituality needed, that of a revivalist which brings power and direction to help pastors and other Christian leaders adopt shepherd spirituality. It takes great zeal and strength to call Christian leaders and others to Shepherd and Daniel Spirituality.



One - Daniel Spirituality

1. Morning and evening devotions of 30-60 min minimum (8 of 12 per week).
2. Weekly morning and evening church attendance lasting one to two hours (3 per mo).
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays until 3pm minimum (6 per month).
4. Monthly all-day seeking God (8 of 12 per year).
5. Twice a year conferences of two to seven days each
6. Periodic extraordinary efforts of seeking God



Two - Shepherd Spirituality

1. Morning and evening devotions of **60-90 minutes** (8 of 12 per week).
2. Weekly morning and evening church attendance lasting one to two hours (3 per mo).
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays until 3pm minimum (6 per month).
4. Monthly all-day seeking God (8 of 12 per year)
5. Twice a year conferences of **three to seven days** each
6. Periodic extraordinary efforts of seeking God
7. **Leadership - Calling laypeople to seek God wholeheartedly**

Focused Time-Frame - January 1 - May 31, 2023 and August 1 - Thanksgiving, 2023, otherwise Daniel Spirituality.



Three - Pauline Spirituality

1. Morning and evening devotions of **60-90 minutes plus two or more hours per day seeking God for direction and grace** (8 of 12 per week).
2. Weekly morning and evening church attendance lasting one to two hours (3 per mo).
3. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays until 3pm minimum (6 per month).
4. Monthly all-day seeking God (8 of 12 per year)
5. Twice a year conferences of **five to seven** days each
6. **Many** periodic extraordinary efforts of seeking God
7. **Leadership - Calling pastors and laypeople to seek God wholeheartedly**

Focused Time-Frame - January 1 - May 31, 2023 and August 1 - Thanksgiving, 2023, otherwise Daniel Spirituality.



Spiritual Practices

- 1. Morning and Evening Devotions**
- 2. Sabbaths**
- 3. Monthly All-Day**
- 4. Twice Yearly Conferences**
- 5. Fasting Wednesdays and Fridays**
- 6. Periodic Extraordinary Seeking After God**
- 7. Three Spiritualities**



Spiritual Practices

Regular, dedicated, focused times of seeking the Lord are essential for spiritual strengthening and fillings of the Holy Spirit.

We are commanded to be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10), and filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Psalm 33:12



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