

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS MONTH - 2015

INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH – EDMONTON LOVE TEMPLE



PRAYER FOCUS - WEEK ONE

Personal Spiritual Renewal & Empowerment

James 4:1-8

July 2nd - 5th, 2015

A Message from the Shepherd

Isaiah 40:28-31 Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. ²⁹He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. ³¹But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Every year, the International Central Gospel Church as a corporate body, observes July as its '**Spiritual Emphasis Month**'. During this period, members of the church all over the world FAST, PRAY and SEEK the FACE OF GOD concerning His will and purpose for their lives.

Spiritual Emphasis Month is a time of **Renewal, Transformation and Empowerment** for GREATER WORKS. Jesus said: **"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do the same shall he also do, and GREATER WORKS than these shall he do, because I am going to be with the Father."** (John 14:12)

As a church, I would like us to FAST, PRAY and SEEK the FACE OF GOD from **Thursday July 2, 2015 to Friday July 31, 2015**. I trust that the Holy Spirit will help us during these thirty (30) days of fasting and prayer to put away all immature ways and become more perfect in our walk with God. Take advantage of this season of waiting and ask God to perfect all that concerns your life and make you a better person. It is my prayer that by the end of this fast, we would become renewed, transformed and empowered to do greater works for God.

Our focus for the first week is **"Personal Spiritual Renewal and Empowerment"**. Because we are not at the same level, the grace we need to navigate life may not be the same. As a result, the empowerment we seek as individuals can take on many forms.

For some, empowerment may mean understanding where God is taking them to (i.e. vision) and what He wants them to do. Such a vision answers the question "Why?" Without it, people lose hope and perish. In case you have reached a point where you feel or are dispirited, tired and may have lost your desire to continue doing what God has called you to do, this is the time to wait on God and trust Him to give you a clearer vision and above all renew and empower you to pursue your God given dream.

For others, empowerment may mean guidance because they have reached a point where they feel confused and uncertain about where their life is headed. They wonder if perhaps they have wandered off the path along the way. Some too, may have realized that they have become bitter and poisoned along the way and need guidance getting back on track.

Others may also have a complicated decision to make and need guidance from the Lord. Some may also be asking questions and not coming up with answers. Questions like: "Am I wasting my time in this role that I have agreed to perform?" "How much longer do I have to keep doing this?" "Am I working with the right people" or "Am I in the right church?" For such people, empowerment may be having a sense of peace about a decision they need to make to get back on track.

For some of you too, empowerment may mean receiving an anointing, a particular spiritual gift or

grace to complete that particular assignment or task God has assigned you in life.

In my opinion, our first and greatest source of empowerment is to know who we are in Christ and what God has called us to do. If you know who you are in Christ and what God has called you to do, you will be willing to allow Him to break, melt, mold, fill and use you for His Glory. You will also know who you are supposed to hang out with, what to say and what you are not supposed to say.

I encourage you to attend all the following meetings and your life will never be the same:

- Monday to Thursday - prayer meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via phone conference.
- Friday – church service from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
- Saturday – morning devotions from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. via phone conference.
- Sunday - church service from 10:00 to 12 noon in the auditorium.

During the fasting period, I entreat you to give yourself enough rest if possible. Meditate on God's word and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Stir yourself up and pray. Talk less and pray more. (Luke 18:1, 1 Thess. 5:17).

- Read the Bible and good books on Prayer, Spiritual Warfare, Intercession, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, etc.
- Listen to or watch video tapes on Prayer, Spiritual Warfare, Intercession, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, etc.
- Abstain from strong stimulants such as coffee, etc. You may drink plenty of water during the day.
- Break with light food or beverages or fruits (exercise self-control - Galatians 5:23).
- Pregnant women, nursing mothers and those on medication are excused from the fasting; however, they are encouraged to be part of all the services.

Pastor Emmanuel Anum Laate

Day 1 - Thursday, July 2nd, 2015

Sanctification:

It is important to identify and lay aside those things that hinder your growth spiritually. Allow the Spirit of God to search you and confess sincerely anything He brings to your attention.

Hebrews 12:1-2; 14-15 Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ¹²Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Confess all sins and ask for forgiveness - **2 Chronicles 7:14**. Turn away from apathy, backbiting, bitterness, disobedience, prayerlessness, selfish motivation, the tendency to ignore the needs of the poor and needy, discrimination, treating people as being less than yourself, etc.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to make a commitment to turn away from all confessed sins, make amends if need be and above all, to forgive those who may have wronged you.
- Pray that God will renew you and put a steadfast spirit within you - **Psalm 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.*
- Pray for the fear of God in your life - **2 Corinthians 7:1**
- As directed by the Holy Spirit

Day 2 – Friday, July 3rd, 2015

Spirit-filled Living:

Spirit-filled living means allowing your entire life to be literally carried along or moved along by the Holy Spirit, just like wind filling the sail of a ship moves it along. It means to bring your values in conformity with the teachings of Jesus, to be led by the Holy Spirit and to bear the fruit of the spirit in your daily walk. **Spirit-filled Living is the key to experiencing personal spiritual health.** If individually, we are healthy spiritually, corporately as a local church, we will be healthy and growth will become automatic.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that you will bring order into your life by avoiding a life of sin.
- Bind every voice of the devil that will try to influence, suggest or compel you to neglect fellowship. **Hebrews 10:25** *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*
- Pray for the grace to commit to start each day with a half hour of prayer and bible study.

- That you will live and walk by the spirit. **Galatians 5:25** *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to bring your values in conformity with the teachings of Jesus. **Galatians 5:24** *Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*
- Pray that you will bear the fruit of the Spirit. That God will help you to become a vessel in His hand. That your life will be set apart for noble and sacred use. **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*
- As directed by the Holy Spirit

Day 3 - Saturday July 4th, 2015

Family / Relationships:

The family is God's ideal! Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to accept God's word as the final authority in all matters relating to the home and family values.

Hebrews 13:1-4 Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.²Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!³Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies. ⁴Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for perfection in relationships. That all things will be done decently and in order.
- Ask God to bless marriages in the church with unity and peace. Also that God will heal and save marriages that are facing serious challenges.
- Ask God to bless the fathers to effectively play their role as spiritual leaders in the home.
- Pray for those who are yet to marry to continue to keep serving and trusting God to lead them to the right people. That God will open their eyes to see and choose the people who are God-fearing.
- That God will give those who are yet to marry the qualities that would make them good spouses.
- Ask God to build a hedge of protection around the children. That every child in Love Temple will be protected against any worldly influence - drugs, peer pressure, evil, pre-marital sex, alcohol etc.
- Ask God to help every member of ICGC Love Temple to walk in unconditional love. That He will bless us with the spirit of oneness.
- As directed by the Holy Spirit.

Day 4 - Sunday July 5th, 2015

Praise and Worship:

Let's celebrate our God. Let His banner be raised and His glory be seen. Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. Don't ask for anything. Just raise your voice in praise and worship to the merciful, faithful, longsuffering, forgiving, patient Yahweh whose love has kept your life intact despite all the odds against you.

Psalm 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bles*s His holy name ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God for seeing you through the first half of 2015.
- Thank the Lord for His grace, mercies, forgiveness, healing, goodness, provision, protection, guidance and also for all the victories you have won - **Psalm 149**
- Praise God for the lessons He taught you and the opportunities He has provided..
- Praise God for the peace and prosperity of Edmonton, Alberta and Canada. Praise Him also for granting wisdom for governance to those in authority at both the provincial and federal level - **Isaiah 60:18**
- Praise God in anticipation of all the blessings coming your way – an overflow of His goodness and mercies (fresh fire to serve the Lord, protection, financial prosperity, career advancement, marriage, healthy family relationship, God-fearing spouse, etc).
- Thank God for this year of perfection, for all He has and yet to do.
- As directed by the Spirit of God.

Perfection Declaration 2015

O Lord my God How excellent is your name in all the earth.
When I consider the work of Your hands, The sun, the moon and the stars,
What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?

You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

You, O Lord, are perfect in all your ways;
Your Word is tried and proven
In your Word I see myself
In your word I am changed
It is written, 'You shall be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect'
Therefore with all boldness I affirm that
As He is; so am I in this world
His righteousness is my righteousness
His wisdom is my wisdom
His grace is sufficient for me

The Lord perfects that which concerns me
He has made me whole
Forgiven
Saved
Redeemed
Justified
I am complete in Christ
Nothing missing; Nothing broken
My cup runs over
Surely, goodness and mercy
Shall follow me all the days of my life
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever,

In Jesus' Name
Amen