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PRAYER & FASTING · 2023

CORNERSTONE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
BISHOP W.L. BUTLER SR., PASTOR

#### At the Cross

Right now believers across the world are preparing for the Easter season. They will be celebrating and singing jubilant songs that commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

But before there was a resurrection, there was first the Cross. There could be no resurrection without the Cross that preceded it, and that Cross represents the most horrible event Jesus could have ever endured. Yet He endured it all without complaint — for you, for me, and for all who would later come to repentance.

Jesus accepted His assignment, but the Bible plainly tells us that He did not relish the experience. He had to set Himself to "endure" it as a part of the assignment the Father had entrusted to Him. **Hebrews 12:2 says**, "Looking 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

**At the Cross, Jesus took our place.** "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The innocent Jesus substituted himself for guilty sinners like us.

At the cross, Jesus became a curse for us. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." (Galatians 3:13). Like thorns, darkness at noonday was a sign of God's curse due to sin. Jesus bore the thorns and darkness of our sin on the cross.

**At the cross Jesus, was clothing you.** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with a robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10). Through his death on the cross, Jesus covered the shame of our nakedness by giving us his robe of righteousness.

At the cross, Jesus was tearing heaven open for you. And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and lifegiving way through the curtain in the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:19–22)

At the cross, Jesus was healing you. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1Peter 2:24). Jesus was beaten, wounded, and broken on the cross. Because of His willingness to suffer, we are healed. As Jesus hung on the cross, He fulfilled the promise of forgiveness, cleansing, and healing.

Jesus lived a pure, sinless life. If there was ever anyone born on this earth who didn't deserve the Cross, it was Jesus. However, it was part of God's plan for Him to procure the salvation that today we gloriously and freely possess!



### Prayer Focus

#### Schedule

Monday - Friday • 12 PM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday • 7PM
Soak Saturday • 9:30 - 11:00AM

#### Because of the Cross

Sunday: I Have Access and Communion with God

Hebrews 10:19 · Matthew 26:28 · Luke 22:20 · 1 Corinthians 1:9

Monday: I Am Loved, Cleansed, Washed

Romans 5:6-8 · 1 John 4:10 · 1 John 1:7 · Revelation 1:5

Tuesday: I Am Forgiven, Justified, Reconciled

Ephesians 1:7 · Romans 5:9 · Romans 3:24-25 · Colossians 1:20

Wednesday: I Am Saved, Redeemed, Healed

Romans 10:9-10 · Colossians 1:14 · Isaiah 53:5 · 1 Peter 2:24

Thursday: I Am Sanctified and Made Righteous

Hebrews 13:12 · Romans 3:22 · Romans 5:17 · 2 Corinthians 5:21

Friday: I Have Victory and Authority over the Devil

Revelation 12:11 · 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 · Hebrews 10:12 · 1 John 5:4

Saturday: I Have Grace and Peace

2 Corinthians 13:14 · Titus 2:11-14 · Colossians 1:20 · Hebrews 13:20

### Fasting Guidelines

#### **OPTION 1**

(Following the 21 Day Consecration)

#### What to eat:

- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Wholegrains
- Legumes
- Water, 100% Juice, Herbal Tea (Caffeine Free), Almond or Soy Milk (Unsweetened)

#### What not to eat:

- Meat
- Breads
- Dairy
- Sweets and desserts
- Fried Foods
- Coffee, Carbonated and energy drinks

#### **OPTION 2**

Liquid only fast from 6:00a - 6:00p. One meal (excluding sweets) after 6:00p.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

Limit TV, shopping, cell phone activity, social media, video games, and social activities. Spend as much time as you can, reading and studying God's Word, Praying, Worshipping and Listening to what God is speaking to YOU! If you mess up, don't get discouraged. Just get right back on track and keep going. God's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23). He wants you to finish, and He will give you the grace and strength to do it!

# What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is a string of eight days that allow us an opportunity to reflect upon the shift in humanity Jesus' sacrifice on the cross launched. It starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. The week leads us through the Last Supper, His crucifixion, and ends on Easter Sunday with His resurrection. This is the basis of Christianity, His sacrifice launched the New Covenant God promised and many had prophesied throughout the Old Testament. Each day of Holy Week allows us to peek into the heart of our Savior at an intently close proximity. His love for us is reflected in every significant step toward the cross, every breath up to the last, and His resurrection.

#### **How Holy Week Leads to Easter Sunday**

Though Jesus didn't walk the earth incarnate until He was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, He exists and works throughout the entirety of the Bible. Scripture assures us that He was present at Creation with the Father, that He is the Word, and many prophesies were specifically fulfilled during this final, holy week of Jesus' life on earth. Each Gospel has a narrative of the last week of Jesus' life (Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19-24; John 12-21).



# What is Holy Week?

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday. During this one week, many biblical prophesies were fulfilled. Jesus came to earth to save humanity by dying on the cross on Good Friday and resurrecting on Easter Sunday. By enduring and defeating death sacrificially for us, He swung open the gates of heaven making a way for our sin to be forgiven and usher us into the presence of God (Romans 5:8).

"It is during Holy Week that we see most profoundly how deep the Father's love is for us."

Due to the sinful nature of humanity as a result of Adam and Eve's fall in the garden of Eden, it's impossible for us to be "good enough" to be in the presence of God and forgiven for our sins. Jesus died to make the way for salvation. The Old Testament Law offered many sacrifices to God, but Jesus was the perfect atoning sacrifice once and for all. He endured the cross out of His great love for us. Holy Week is a sacred opportunity to study the foundation of Christianity. Our God is not one of coincidence. Every step toward the cross was intentional, every lesson laced with His personal love for all of us.

## PLEAD THE BLOOD OF IESUS OVER

**Pastors -** Our pastors operate in integrity according to the Word of God and submit themselves completely to God's word and leadings.

**Churches -** Our churches grow and are effective for the kingdom of God and we call every person to our church that belongs to our church.

**Country and Leaders** - Our President, Vice President, all elected and appointed officials, mayors and governors, police officers, firefighters, teachers and our supervisors and business partners, bind the Spirit of Compromise, Deception and Un-repentance from their lives.

**Families** - Our families are free from offense, poverty, lack, unforgiveness and satanic attack.

**Children** - Our children are godly children and we raise them in the honor of the Lord and His principles. We declare they are safe and secure and bind the devil from their minds, bodies, and souls. No weapon formed against them will prosper.

**Husbands and Wives** - We walk in unconditional love towards our husbands and wives and plant seeds of honor, respect, affection and consideration and receive a 100-fold harvest on all the good seeds sown in their lives.

**Relationships** - Our relationships are whole, and we walk in unconditional love towards all those that we are in relationship with.

**Bodies** - Our bodies are whole by the stripes of Jesus and no sickness or disease has the right to touch our bodies.

**Finances** - We prosper in all we do, and money comes to us freely because we are blessed.

Businesses & Jobs - We prosper in our jobs and businesses and are blessed to be a blessing.

**Possessions** - Everything we own functions in the perfection in which it was created to function in.

# Download our church app for additional resources!

DAILY DEVOTIONALS, WORSHIP PLAYLIST, AND MORE!



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