

Happy New Year!

We are so expectant for all that God has in 2023 and truly believe that this year will be defining for CTI and the future that God has promised us. As we move forward together, preparation is paramount as our desire is to walk in the fullness of God's will. For many years now, we have committed to taking the beginning of a new year and devoting ourselves to fasting and prayer. Through this, we have seen God do incredible things - and this year will be no different.

In Joshua chapter 3, we see the Israelites after a long season of wilderness, preparing for the entrance into the Promised Land. It was a new season - it was a new assignment - it was a new day. Joshua knew that preparation was an important component to possessing the promise, so he gives this command to the people of Israel:

"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."
Joshua 3:5

Consecration is a measure of spiritual preparation - and a huge part of consecration is separation. Joshua was urging the people to prepare for what God was about to do by coming away from the common things - the everyday things - the distracting things - and instead focus EVERYTHING on the Lord.

This is what fasting is all about... fully focusing on the Lord. It's crucifying our flesh - by going without - in order to feast on God's Word, which Jesus called our daily bread. It's not so much about what we give up, it's more about how much more we can get into His presence. Fasting and prayer is a posture - that says, "Jesus, I need YOU more than I need anything else - so I am giving these things up so I can engage fully with your Holy Spirit." As we reduce distractions and excess in our lives, suddenly our sensitivity to His Spirit is heightened - we begin to see and hear God clearer. This is what we need in 2023.

We are asking that everyone who calls CTI home and considers this your church family to participate in this season of spiritual discipline and preparation for what God has for us in this new year. We have prepared this 21-Day Prayer Guide to help you along - we hope that you will join us for the Week of Prayer every night beginning Sunday, January 8th and concluding Friday, January 13th.

Looking forward to all that God has for our church - and we are so thankful that we get to embark on this adventure with you and your family.

Blessings,

Pastors Matt & Holly Battista
Lead Pastors

