

# *Thoughts*

on a time to

# *Choose*

**CHOOSE WELL 2024**

A *14-Day* devotional guide  
to prayer and fasting for  
electing leaders



THE FAMILY LEADER

Dear Friends,

The election process of 2024 is another defining moment for our country. This fourteen-day prayer and fasting guide aims to call the believer to seek the Lord for wisdom and discernment concerning the privilege and responsibility to "Choose Well" the person who will lead our nation.

Our Sovereign Lord is the Creator of all things, including government, and throughout Scripture we see that government and its leaders clearly matter to God. As believers, we seek a balanced, biblical approach that allows us to participate in the electoral process and properly place our trust in the Lord (Psalm 20:7).

We are instructed in the Word to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1) and to ask (Matthew 7:7) for rulers who will maintain justice and do what is right (Isaiah 56:1). God ordained government (Romans 13:1), and we, as His people, are to steward this gift and lead the way in our nation as the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13) and children of light (John 12:36). We pray for good government that allows us to live "peaceful and quiet lives." We ask for godly leaders to be a source of blessing to our nation (Proverbs 14:34).

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

Yet, the divisiveness in our culture and the noise surrounding politics, and the lack of peace in people's lives make real discernment difficult. As believers, our goal in choosing the next presidential nominee is to look at the character and convictions of the candidates in the race.

In Samuel 16:7, we are reminded by the prophet, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature. . . Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart." As we consider our choice, may this hold true for each of us that we see not as man sees, but as God sees.

In the meditations to follow, we will take a glimpse at the lives of men and women of the Bible who were placed in authority. Our theme verse will be Exodus 18:21 that identifies for us the leadership qualifications of character, belief, and behavior rather than the worldly standards of wealth, political affiliation, or family position. Let each of us meditate on the Bible passages and let them teach us about leadership and most importantly about the Good Shepherd, the perfect example of a servant heart.

Exodus 18:21

But you should select from all the people  
able men, God-fearing, trustworthy,  
and hating dishonest profit.

# Fasting

Friends, the Bible presents fasting as a discipline that is something good, beneficial, and profitable (Luke 2:37, Acts 13:2). As we determine our steps for the next two weeks, let us remember, the purpose of fasting is to gain a new perspective and a renewed reliance on God.

Following is a brief description of several things that could help you step into a season of prayer and fasting more faithfully and effectively. Each of these fasts can be a valuable way of connecting with God more deeply. If you are physically able, though, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider one of the first three fasts. There is something about giving up food that physically and spiritually realigns you in ways nothing else can.

Luke 2:37

...and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

# Four Primary Ways to Fast

## MAJOR FAST

A major fast is when you abstain from food or drink for twenty-four consecutive hours or more. A major fast requires a certain level of physical health, and it is recommended that you check with your doctor if you're doing a major fast that lasts more than a few days in a row. Some examples from Scripture of a major fast can be found in Matthew 4:2, Acts 9:9, and Esther 4:15-16, just to name a few.

## MINOR FAST

In a minor fast, you choose to abstain from food for a certain period of time (i.e. 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. or sunup to sundown). This fast is sometimes called a "Jewish fast," and it can last for days at a time, eating only at a set time of the day. In a minor fast, most people will drink liquids during the day and have one small meal after sundown each evening.

## PARTIAL FAST

A partial fast is when you give up only certain foods during the course of your fast. This fast is seen most clearly in Daniel 1, where Daniel abstains from certain foods out of devotion to God for a period of time. During a partial fast, some people choose to give up certain foods they enjoy in an effort to turn their hearts more deeply toward God.

## SOUL FAST

Technically speaking, biblical fasting only refers to abstaining from food or drink (or both) for a spiritual purpose. However, some people choose to fast from things other than food. Some people will give up television, social media, or other activities for a soul fast to focus on prayer.

Acts 13:2

While they were worshipping  
the Lord and fasting,  
the Holy Spirit said,  
“Set apart for me Barnabas  
and Saul for the work to  
which I have called them.”

## Fasting — Getting Started

1. Begin by asking God to help you and allow the Lord to align your objectives with His objectives as you prepare to fast.
2. Choose your fast and determine how long you will be fasting.
3. Invite family or friends to share both the burden and the blessing of fasting with you. A small group of trusted believers can pursue God more deeply together.
4. Prepare yourself by giving your mind, body, heart, and community the adequate time needed to prepare for your fast.

It is important to make a plan to repurpose mealtimes as times of prayer, worship, and Bible study. Fasting is an exercise in grace - so make sure you give yourself some. When you're hungry, pray. If you break down and give in to hunger, pray. Either way, get back up and keep moving forward toward God.

(Excerpted/Adapted from Revival Starts Here by Dave Clayton, Copyright 2018, HIM Publications)

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Jeremiah 33:3

Call to Me,  
and I will answer you.  
And I will show you great and  
wonderful things which  
you do not know.

## Focus Prayer

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge Your majesty and ascribe to You all the glory and the honor due Your name. We thank You for loving the world so much that You gave Your only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks for Your unfailing love as we seek to grow in greater wisdom and knowledge of our eternal God and Savior.

We confess our sin and the transgressions of our nation. Our hearts are broken over the pride, the indifference and the rebellion that marks your Church and our nation.

We approach You in these next two weeks with a humble and submissive attitude. God, we ask that You reveal Your truth and lead us in wholehearted devotion to You as we cry out for healing in our lives and on our land. May we be refreshed by Your Spirit and let every dimension in our lives seek to bring You glory and advance Your kingdom.

Father, our nation needs a shepherd who will lead this country in the way of truth and justice and righteousness according to biblical principles. Your word says that a good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, so we ask for a governing authority who will do what is best for the people of our nation regardless of what it costs them. We also ask for shepherds who will lead in the Church and in the home. As we call unto You, we ask for understanding so that our heart aligns with Your purposes, and we pray that You will raise up a shepherd who will lead in the White House.

In Jesus' name, Amen













# Day 7 ~ SOLOMON

## Proverbs 28:1-2

The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion. When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

## Insight

Solomon was considered by many the wisest man on earth. While he had many faults, the greatest was not listening to God. When he did pray, listen to God and remain obedient to God's word he had unparalleled leadership qualities. Those qualities included wisdom, discernment between right and wrong, passion for justice, concern for people, inspirational motivation for others, inspiration for the future, and many more. When he listened to God, Solomon was able to listen to and consider the perspectives of others, learn from experience and mistakes, and adjust plans in response to changing circumstances.

A great leader is not concerned about building an empire through conquest, but uses his wisdom, understanding and knowledge to maintain order and bring peace. With our country in the condition it is today, basically in rebellion, we need a person with the leadership qualities of Solomon, when he was obedient to God's word, to lead, be righteous and be bold as a lion.

## Prayer

Lord God, we pray that our next president would ask God for wisdom and would exemplify leadership qualities like Solomon. We ask that this leader exhibit humility and obedience to God's word, not straying from it. In Jesus' name, Amen

Handwriting lines for prayer response.

# Day 8 ~ KING JEHOSHAPHAT

## 2 Chronicles 17:3-4

Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments.”

## 2 Chronicles 20:3-4

And Jehoshaphat . . . set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

### Insight

The 2 Chronicles record of King Jehoshaphat makes it clear that he had a knowledge of the God of Israel. He had a relationship with God before the battle began.

He was a king noted for seeking the Lord. Seeking God’s face means desiring to know His character and wanting Him—His presence—more than any other thing He can give us. It requires intimacy to look intently into someone’s face. This intentional seeking of the Lord develops into the fear of the Lord. When we get to know God’s character, we will have a reverential awe of God.

So when the enemies came against Judah from every side, King Jehoshaphat understood God’s character and sovereignty.

I imagine that he recalled the psalms of David that recounted the mighty deeds and victories of God for His people.

King Jehosophat remembered the promise of blessings and vindication to those who seek the face of the Lord (Psalm 24:5-6). Psalm 9 recounts King David’s words, “those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.” Confident trust filled the king who believed the Lord who says, “Because he loves me, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name” (Psalm 91:14).

Knowing the character of God encourages the heart of a leader to fear the Lord, seeking Him for direction in each leadership decision and leading others to do the same

### Prayer

Everlasting Father, we ask that You will raise up governing officials who will seek the face of the Lord and place their trust in You. We pray that no fear of man will be a snare to them and that they will accomplish their God-given purpose. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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# Day 9 ~ ESTHER

## Esther 4:13-17

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, ‘Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ‘Go, hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.’ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

## Insight

Esther found herself at a rather difficult time during the reign of Ahasuerus. Grief and mourning due to Haman’s evil plan enveloped the Jews. Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, appealed to Esther to go before the King and seek the deliverance of the Jews. Esther had to decide. Would she risk her life and go before the king on behalf of her people, or would she stay silent in the face of overwhelming odds?

Mordecai encourages her that God had placed her there “for such a time as this” to bring about the salvation of the Jews

and that she must act. Esther’s response to his plea shows great leadership. At great cost, Esther trusted that God is sovereign over her future and decided to speak to the king for her people, while simultaneously calling the Jews to three days of fasting and praying.

Esther’s decision could not have been easy. In fact, speaking the truth when great personal harm is at stake rarely is. But Esther knew that there are some things in life that are more important than her own personal safety and prosperity, and she trusted that God would take care of her. All she needed was to do the right thing.

## Prayer

Father, we pray today that You would arm each of us with the knowledge that we are placed here, at this time, to speak out boldly and to pray and fast fervently for our country as we enter another election season. We pray that Christians would be bold to speak the truth, no matter the personal cost, and that You would help us all to choose well! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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# CHOOSE WELL 2024

**Choose Well 2024** is an initiative of The FAMiLY Leader designed to cultivate informed awareness so voters may embrace Christian values and a God-honoring vision for America, culminating in the General Election of 2024.

The FAMiLY Leader wants to see a revived America that honors God and blesses people. We work toward this by inspiring the Church to engage Government for the advance of God's Kingdom and the strengthening of Family.

To learn more about The FAMiLY Leader, please email us at [info@thefamilyleader.com](mailto:info@thefamilyleader.com) or visit [www.thefamilyleader.com](http://www.thefamilyleader.com).

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