

# ASK ANYTHING

Week Four:  
FAST—40 Days to Breakthrough

March 3-4, 2018 ser#3712 Sat SunE SunL

## I. OUR TEXT

A. Let's begin with our text for tonight's/today's sermon—Number Four in the series *FAST - 40 Days to Breakthrough*.

*Luke 11: 1-13 PMI p1181; LAB p1693 (NASB)*

*Instructions about Prayer*

**1** It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

**NOTE!** Although this verse indicates that John the Baptist taught his disciples "how to pray," nowhere in the Holy Scriptures do we find these instructions. We do know that he preached a message of repentance (**Matthew 3:2**), and that Jesus preached the exact same message when He commenced His ministry (**Matthew 4:17**). We know that John, Jesus' cousin, also called men to repentance requiring that they be baptized as a sign of a sincere and willing heart to turn from their sins.

**2** And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

**AS WE NOTED IN WEEK TWO OF OUR STUDY, IT'S NOT:** “*If*” my disciples pray, but “*when.*” Genuine followers of Christ will pray. Prayer will be a discipline in the lives of those who follow and love Jesus. **(Let's continue.)**

'Father,

hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

4 'And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

**AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE** in December of 2017, Pope Francis created somewhat of a stir when he said that the words “lead us not into temptation” too strongly suggests that God leads people into sin and that a better wording would be “*do not let us fall into temptation.*” Reason being: God does not tempt anyone. James says,

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God;” for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires ... . 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. **James 1: 13-15 NKJV**

The Greek word is [1533. **Eispheró**] and it means to “bring into, lead, or announce.” The word “*temptation*” here is [3986. **Peirasmos**] and it has three meanings:

- 1) “trial, probation, testing, being tried,
- 2) temptation,
- 3) calamity, affliction.

It is true that God will not tempt anyone to do evil, but He will often lead us into times of “testing” to reveal our hearts to ourselves. Recall how he tested Abraham, Pharaoh and Hezekiah. And, in each case their hearts were revealed. Sadly, in more cases than not it is through affliction that we are spiritually matured.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** Years ago we had a person who attended GCCC who would say, “*When I pray the Lord’s Prayer I say, ‘Lord, let me learn without being tested.’*” I’m not so sure it works that way. Smile! Hey, if it works... .

**B. Let’s finish this \*shorter version of our Lord’s model prayer.**

4 ‘And forgive us our sins (trespasses),

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted (sins against) to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

**\* Matthew gives us a longer version.**

## II. FIVE BASIC INSTRUCTIONS IN OUR LORD’S MODEL PRAYER (p23 FAST Guide)

## A. Praise.

Why should we praise God at ALL times? Because even in our darkest hour God is working out all things for the good of those who love Him. ***Romans 8:28 & Genesis 50:20 (show tweet)***



## B. Feast.

Anyone who has not learned that “man does not live on bread alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” is missing the “feast.” The Psalmist said God’s word is:

1. A lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (***Psalm 119:105***)
2. More precious than silver (***Psalm 119:72***)
3. More valuable than gold (***Psalm 19:10***)
4. Sweeter than honey (***Psalm 19:10***)
5. Understanding to the simple (***Psalm 119:130***)

The New Testament tells us that God’s word:

6. Equips us for every good work (***2 Tim 3:17***)
7. Will last forever ... long after the Heavens and Earth have been exchanged like a garment (***Matthew 24:25***)

8. Is *alive* and *active* investigating our attitudes and thoughts. (**Hebrews 4:12**)

**I KNOW, THAT'S A LITTLE SCARY!** Ah, but it keeps us on the 'right' track.

9. My favorite is **Psalm 18:30**: As for God, His way is perfect. The word of the LORD is flawless; He is a shield to all who take refuge (shelter) in Him.

Feast on His word; you'll never get full and you'll never gain a physical pound. It will keep you in perfect 'spiritual' health and shape. Smile!

### C. Forgive.

'And forgive us our sins (trespasses),  
For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is  
indebted (sins against) to us.  
And lead us not into temptation.'"

Let's develop this life-infusing, life-giving, life-freeing thought.

1. Notice there is an understanding that, as believers, we know we are forgiven because we have forgiven others. The supposition is based on the character of God. Since He has offered us forgiveness, therefore we must do the same, and when we do, we live in freedom. Unforgiveness is incarceration.

**WHAT DOES FORGIVENESS MEAN?** Let's begin with what it doesn't mean. It doesn't mean:

- 1) You have to like the person or what they've done
- 2) The person has to be your best friend
- 3) You have to trust them

But, what it does mean is that you'll not hold his/her past "transgressions" against them.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** Years ago I had a person shaft me out of thousands of dollars. I held that person accountable to pay me back, or at least make an effort. One day God told me to forgive that person's debt--completely. (Every seven years cancel debt—**Deuteronomy 15:1**) I argued that "the wicked borrow and do not repay," and this man was "righteous," a believer; therefore he should pay me back. God said, ***"If you hold him responsible to pay you back, you'll never get it. But if you forgive him; I'll give it to you."*** And God did ... DOUBLE.

Today when I see that person I have ABSOLUTELY no animosity. We don't hang out, but we could—it wouldn't bother me. Now, if he asked me for money ... I would have to think twice and my wife wouldn't have to think but once. Smile!

***ILLUSTRATION #2:*** Because offering forgiveness is a *supernatural* gift and not a *natural* one, here's an illustration that explains forgiveness from the posture of Romans 5:5. The setting: Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch watchmaker, returned to Germany a place where she and her sister were imprisoned for helping Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust. After speaking before a church

group, she came face to face with one of the German guards in the Concentration Camp where her sister died.  
**(show video)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLRrNPCTdx0>

2. Where is it you can't forgive? Let the love of God permeate your heart; His love is greater than your hate.

Where is it you need to love when right now you hate? Maybe it's not quite hate, but you know what you feel and what you're holding on to is NOT FORGIVENESS. Let Him do a work in you that will set you free.

#### **D. Admit.**

And lead us not into temptation.”

1. What are we doing when we say those words? Admitting we need help. Admitting that we need divine intervention, something supernatural to do what's not natural.
2. Understand ... There is no healing without admitting something is wrong.

**THAT'S WHY WE'RE FASTING!** It's an act of humility, admitting we are powerless to break strongholds/sins without God. Therefore, we refrain from certain *physical foods* for a *spiritual purpose*. What stronghold has you bound?

Do I need to name them? If I do, I might miss yours. Smile! And if I do name them the **visible** ones might seem bigger than the **internal ones**—but don't be deceived. The Pharisees looked like they had it all together, but Jesus said, *“Woe to you ... you are like whitewashed tombs, beautiful on the outside, but inside you are full of ... everything that is unclean.”* **Matthew 23:27**

**(Let's finish our text.)**

### **III. PERSIST!**

**5** Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; **6** for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; **7** and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ **8** “I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

**9** “So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **10** “For everyone who asks, **receives**; and he who seeks, **finds**; and to him who knocks, it will be **opened**. **11** “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ... **13** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”



**A. God honors persistence—because persistence is a demonstration of faith and faith pleases God.**

**NOTE:** Jesus closes by referencing the Holy Spirit. Why? Because it is the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to overcome—to breakthrough.

**(When you came in today you received a small card. Check the block appropriate to your “fast.” The ushers will collect them. Your Ministerial Team, and all who join us for Wednesday Prayer, will be praying over them every Wednesday through the last week in March standing on Luke 11:9-10)**

**B. I’d like to close with a personal illustration. Here’s the setting:**

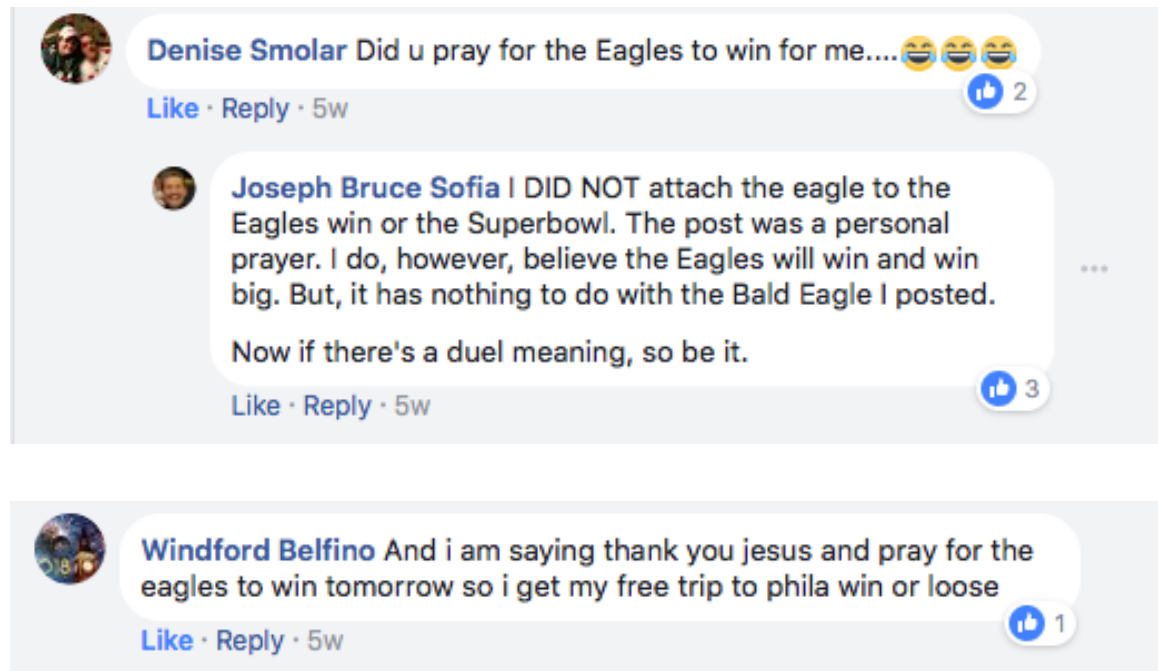
It was January 20<sup>th</sup>. I was taking down outdoor Christmas lights and a Bald Eagle flew by. I prayed that it would come back...but...**only if**—and sent my ‘wish’ to God. Let me explain the prayer. It was a plethora of things converging into one moment in time—primarily personal, family and church related.

I watched the eagle soar away into the distance. Then it turned and came back. Not only did it come back, but circled directly over me.

Here’s a 18 second video capturing the moment.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xk4mgn5DtDQ>**

Now people, scores of them, latched on to the video as a sign that the Eagles were going to win the Super Bowl. Here's a typical "comment." [\(show posts\)](#)



**C. The more I think about that moment the more I believe it should be entitled: *Miracle in the Sky.***

1. What is it you're fasting for?
2. What is it you're praying for?

Don't be afraid! Remember "*FAITH and FEAR often walk side by side only to merge in VICTORY when we TRUST in Him.*"

#### **IV. INVITATION**

But, there is NO greater miracle than when a *sinner* becomes a *saint*. It's called the "new birth."

**Admit**– your sins have separated you from God.  
*(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);*

**Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) *(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);*

**Commit** – yourself to His righteous by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. *(Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);*

**Do it today!** *(Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).*

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!