

## Devotional: The Power of Prayer and Fasting

"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." — Matthew 17:21 (NKJV)

In Matthew 17, Jesus addresses a challenging situation—a boy possessed by a demon that His disciples could not cast out. Jesus reveals an essential truth: there are battles in life that require more than ordinary prayer. They demand the focused, intentional spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting.

Fasting aligns us with God's will, sharpening our spiritual senses and increasing our dependence on Him. It humbles us before the Lord, allowing Him to work powerfully in areas where we may feel powerless. Similarly, prayer connects us to God's heart, bringing His strength and wisdom into our lives.

During this corporate fast, reflect on the challenges or "impossible situations" you may be facing. Consider what strongholds or obstacles require more than routine prayer—what requires the spiritual discipline of fasting? Let this season be an opportunity to seek God with greater intensity, trusting Him to break chains and bring transformation.

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of prayer and fasting. Your Word reminds me that some victories require a deeper connection to You and greater dependence on Your power. I come humbly before You, acknowledging my need for Your strength in areas I cannot overcome on my own. During this fast, I ask for clarity, courage, and unwavering faith to trust You for breakthroughs.

Lord, I bring before You my sickness, my poverty, and my impossible situations that are too big for me. You alone are my healer, my provider, and my deliverer. Break every chain, cast out every stronghold, and release Your power in my life and the lives of those around me. Help me stay steadfast, seeking Your presence and aligning my will with Yours. I trust in Your promises and declare Your victory. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Pastor Cheryl Andrews