

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 21

Connection

“In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You don’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.”

Matthew 6:14-15 MSG

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

There goes the alarm. Not mine, but it still beckons. I don’t have a job to rush off to this morning, but I have a to-do list a mile long; some of it left from yesterday, even last week. Crawling out of bed I glance at my Bible and devotional materials stacked on the nightstand. THAT’S what I need to do first; instinctively I know that, but there’s just too much to do.

Maybe I can sit for a minute later...after I make it to the grocery store during “senior hour,” run by the pharmacy when it opens at 9, make a phone call early before “all associates are busy helping other customers,” and then I’ll write those notes that should’ve been written last week.

Again I’ve set myself up to be a victim of captivity by activity. Instead of choosing to obey my Heavenly Father who wants me to “Be still and know,” immediately I launch to complete those items of worldly importance. Prayer is undeniably the most important communication of the day, and I postpone it. Our Universal God, who created me and this earth I call home, wants to sit, commune, and connect with me, and I don’t have time.

Connection is key. If we don’t connect with God by communing with Him, we

can't know Him. And if we can't know and love God, we can't know and love ourselves. If we can't love ourselves and know His love, we can't possibly show His love to others.

Jesus instructed us not only to love but to forgive. The only way to truly forgive is by tapping into God's grace, available only by being connected with Him. And the best way to do that is through prayer. God is Love and He established the perfect example of forgiveness. Thankfully God's forgiveness is bold, broad, and all encompassing. Like Him, we are to love and forgive one another—simply stated. This is what is expected.

During this Lenten Season I hope to keep the appointment for my prayer connection every morning. I want to prayerfully do my part, opening my heart to enable God to do His part. And for fellow travelers on this Lenten Journey I pray that you will be able to do the same.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributors

Stephanie and Jones Hooks, Jekyll Island, Georgia, have strong ties to South Georgia and are fortunate enough to live, work, and play on Jekyll Island. They exhibit generational support to their Children and Grandchildren, and now extend it to the Children of Morningstar.

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