

NEW MILLENNIUM EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Prayer & Fasting October 7 – 11, 2024

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:4-5



Prayer & Fasting

MEANING OF FASTING

It means to voluntarily reduce or eliminate your intake of food for a specific time and purpose, while focusing on prayer. This can mean refraining from snacks between meals, skipping one or two meals a day, abstaining only from certain foods, or a total fast from all food for an entire day or longer. For medical reasons, some people may not be able to fast from food altogether. They may choose to abstain from something other than food. The important thing is for us to redirect our focus from earthly things toward God.

PURPOSE OF FASTING

Fasting is not a way to earn God's favor by getting him to do something for us. The purpose of fasting is to produce a transformation in us a clearer, more focused attention and dependence upon God. So it requires self-control and discipline as we deny the natural desires of the flesh. During the fast, our focus is removed from the physical things of this world and intensely concentrated on God. Put differently, fasting directs our hunger toward God. It clears the mind and body of earthly attentions and draws us close to God. So, as we gain spiritual clarity of thought while fasting, it allows us to hear God more clearly.

GOAL OF FASTING

Why are you fasting? Is it for spiritual renewal, for guidance, for healing, for the resolution of problems, for special grace to handle a difficult situation? Keeping your goal in focus will help you sustain your fast when physical temptations and life's pressures tempt you to abandon it.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

True revival begins with "Deep Repentance". Examine your heart and detect any unconfessed sin. Scriptures record that God always requires His people to repent of their sins before He will hear their prayers.

PHYSICAL PREPARATION

Stay healthy. If you have health problem or taking regular medication, don't fast but you may spend the same amount of time praying.

DECIDING WHAT TO FAST

Does He want you to go completely without food, consuming only water? Or water and juices? Is He asking you to fast one meal a day, one day a week, or several days a week? Is God leading you to abstain from something other than food, such as social media, watching video? Inviting the Holy Spirit's guidance in this matter will make your time with God more meaningful.

PLANNING PRAYER TIME

Set aside ample time to be alone with the Lord, the more time you spend with Him in fellowship, worship, and adoration, and the more you read and meditate upon His Word during your fast, the more meaningful.

5 Days Devotional

The Whole Church

DAY 1
Oct. 7

The Body of Christ

DAY 2
Oct. 8

Finding Your Place

DAY 3
Oct. 9

Connecting with Others

DAY 4
Oct. 10

Building God's Kingdom

DAY 5
Oct. 11

Sustaining Our Mission

<https://intouch.cc/yv-the-whole-church>

The Body of Christ

Scripture: Matthew 20:25-27; Matthew 6:9-13; Philippians 2:3

We live in a world of scoreboards. And it's not just our athletic feats and failures that are being tallied—it's everything. Salaries, clothing, degrees, grades, body measurements—nearly every facet of who we are adds or detracts from our rank. Whether consciously or not, we're competing with most everyone in our lives from co-workers and family members to strangers and celebrities we'll never even meet. Why? Because we want to know how we measure up. And we want to come out on top.

In this culture of competition, the words surrender and submit may sound like the fancy versions of something we all dread: losing. After all, only conquered people surrender, and only the weak submit. But while the world may equate submission with defeat, God has an entirely different view.

Look at how Jesus addressed the disciples: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave" (Matt. 20:25-27).

It's an upside-down, inside-out way of thinking and living. But we have to reorient ourselves in His kingdom if we want to be His body. If we want to "win," we must first lose. Or put another way, we can't triumph together as the body of Christ and be His loving hands and feet on earth without submitting to one another. As unnatural as that might feel, it's simply not optional.

In the Lord's prayer—the one prayer we have record of Jesus teaching His disciples—He emphasized something that often gets overlooked. The entire petition focuses on we not me—it's our Father, our daily bread, our debts. (See Matt. 6:9-13). What does that tell us? That our relationship with God is personal, but it's not individual in nature. We're part of a family. And in the church, none of us benefits from operating like an only child.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we must take to heart Paul's words to the Philippians: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" (2:3). Without the foundation of mutual submission, everything we build as the church is but one disagreement away from disintegration.

Don't forget: Whole means "healthy." And being whole requires all of us submitting first to God and then to one another. If we want to build Christ's body in love, then we need to know how. And that's what we'll explore in the days to come.

Application

- Redirect any competitiveness you might have into uplifting others and helping them serve well.
- Keep an eye out for any group or team of people who exemplify "working together seamlessly." Jot down observations about how they interact and communicate, then contemplate ways their practices could be implemented in your church.
- Refrain from saying anything negative about others. Don't feed anyone's insecurities. Instead, encourage acceptance of any perceived flaws and patience for God's process.

Praise and Thanksgiving

Psalm 100 (ESV)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

*Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with
thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his
name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Father in Heaven, You are truly worthy of all praise and thanksgiving!

1. We praise You for who You are - the God and Creator of the universe, the loving God who created each one of us and Who knows each one of us intimately.
2. We thank you for Your love, that You sent Your only Son to die as a sacrifice, to rescue us from eternal death and separation from You.
3. We thank You for our church and the vision that You had put in the hearts of our church leaders 24 years ago.
4. We thank and praise You for the many blessings You have poured out on this church in the past 24 years of our existence, and we pray for many more to come.

5. We thank You for Your grace and faithfulness in providing our church with the needed resources through the generous giving of our church family.
6. We thank You for the leadership of this church, both past and present, for the pastors, and the many co-workers who serve in the different ministries of our church, the staff and service crew.
7. We especially thank You that this church has remained faithful in teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
8. We thank You for the many things You have taught and conveyed to us through Your Word, and for the many answered prayers.
9. We thank You for the many people and relationships that You have brought us through the various ministries inside and outside of our church over the years.
10. We thank You for the missionaries and mission organizations that we have been supporting.
11. Father, we know that over the past 24 years You have indeed faithfully blessed this congregation in many ways, and for this we continually praise and thank You.



Finding Your Place

Scripture: *Galatians 5:24; Exodus 31:1-18; 1 Corinthians 7:7*

What kind of stories inspire you? Chances are, you respond to those where ordinary people discover latent abilities, powers, or lost identities that launch them into unexpected destinies. King Arthur, Anastasia, the entire canon of fairytale princesses, and too many comic book heroes to count—the fact that we relish these tales reveals something about human nature: We long to be special. We want to play a unique role in an important story.

On the surface, we might think our desire for “capas and crowns” is the type of egotistical ambition the Bible warns against. As Paul wrote to the Galatians, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (5:24). But that isn’t necessarily what’s really going on here. At the heart of this longing is something God wants us to experience: the feeling of being significant to Him and His world.

Even though together we make up the body of Christ, that doesn’t mean we’re all the same. On the contrary, God has equipped each of us to contribute to the health of His body in a way only we can. But how do we discover these gifts, and what does it look like to offer them for the good of the whole? As always, in the church our answers are found in community.

Spiritual gifts get a lot of attention in the New Testament—nearly every book references or illustrates them. It’s true that the Holy Spirit didn’t fully come until the day of Pentecost, but that doesn’t mean God completely withheld the Spirit from His people in the Old Testament. Let’s investigate a lesser-known passage.

In Exodus 31, Moses introduces us to Bezalel, the first person mentioned as being filled with the Spirit of God. Tasked with constructing the ark of the covenant and the tent of meeting, Bezalel teams up with Oholiab to handcraft every component from the scarlet curtains to the wooden altar and plenty of gold hardware. The end result? A resting place for God's glory where He met with His people.

Today, God's probably not going to call us to literally construct a new tabernacle with our bare hands. But still, our spiritual gifts, like Bezalel's, are building Christ's church. As you move forward, ask God to help you stay open to receiving from Him the strength and motivation to keep offering your gifts with a joyful heart. Remember, we can consciously look for opportunities to activate our gifts while taking a moment to center ourselves in humility and service.

As was true for Bezalel and so many other followers throughout history, our gifts find their fullest expression in community for community.

Application

- Recall the last time you watched a loved one open a present from you—that person's pleasure was your pleasure, right? Did you ever consider that, like you, God delights in giving you gifts?
- How could receiving your spiritual gifts with joy and gratitude help you develop a deeper intimacy with the Father?
- Be intentional in looking for opportunities to serve your church with your gifts. Pray for God to reveal which doors He's opened for you—whether that looks like starting something new and recruiting others or joining someone in an established ministry.

Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

1. Pray that our worship service will glorify and honor God's name, as an offering of praise and thanksgiving for His goodness and faithfulness to our church. May our focus be on Him, our great and awesome God who alone is worthy of the highest honor.
2. Pray for our speaker Dr. Desmond Soh, and interpreter Bro. Daniel Shangkuan. Pray that the message will challenge and impact the lives of the listeners.
3. Pray for the worship team and the band as they lead the congregation in a time of praise and adoration to our great God. May they be united in love and spirit.
4. Pray for the choir as they render anthems of praises in honor of the One True Head of the Church - Jesus Christ.
5. Pray for smooth internet connection, as well as the other technical aspects of the worship service, such as PowerPoint presentation, lights & sounds, and livestream broadcast.
6. Pray that the congregation will come prepared to meet God in worship, with their attention given to worshiping Him and learning from His Word. Pray for the commitment to walk consistently in God's truth.

Connecting with Others

**Scripture: Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25-27;
Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 22:37-39**

Throughout the world, friendships and connections grow out of shared interests. But when we're in community with other Christians, whether at church or outside of it, we have something more magnificent in common than any shared passion or hobby. Scripture tells us the church is the body and bride of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27), and we're created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). But to understand what it means to be in grace-filled, life-giving community with other believers, we should look to the Trinity.

God has presented a perfect model of fellowship in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, existing eternally as three distinct persons who relate to each other in love. And we're made in their likeness—sons and daughters built for relationship who reflect this divine community.

Think about the communion of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Is there something that keeps us from echoing this in our relationship with God and cultivating the connections we have with fellow believers? What does it look like to reflect and project the love that radiates from the Trinity?

For authentic Christian community to flourish, we have to shift the focus away from ourselves and toward loving each other the way Jesus loves us. Imagine what the world would be like if Christians used their lives to truly serve one another ... and if through this service we could express who God is—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to those who don't know Him. This isn't just a nice thought. It's the calling on the life of every believer. But it's easier said than done.

If we're being honest, many of us struggle with accepting or offering our love in our relationships with other people. Even before Jesus revealed the truth of Himself to humankind, we see that there was a need to be reminded constantly of God's unchanging love. In Psalm 136, for example, the psalmist reminds us 26 times that "His love endures forever" (NIV).

We can take comfort in knowing we don't have to figure out how to love like this on our own. God calls us into relationship with Him so we can understand His love and share it with fellow believers. Whether we're within the four walls of a church or on the streets of the neighborhoods around it, we have many opportunities to connect with one another in meaningful and even life-changing ways.

Today, we explored how our relationship with God informs the depth of our connection with other believers. As we shift our focus from relationships within our own communities to welcoming those who're new or not a part of our congregations, continue to ask God to show you more about what it means to be in Christian community. He's present in all of our interactions with one another—something we'll take a closer look at in tomorrow's devotion.

Application

- Christ gave us the commandment to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." He also said to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37, 39). How do you think your relationship with the Lord is expressed in the relationships you have with your "neighbors"—within and outside of church? Can you think of any examples?
- What does it look like to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds"?
- What does true fellowship look like? How does your life reflect this kind of community—in other words, this eternal, spiritual family?

God's Leading and Guidance

1. Pray for God to guide our church leadership in implementing effective strategies and initiatives that will lead to the growth and expansion of NMEC.
2. Pray for a new direction and renewed vision for the church. May God show us the way to go and the things to do.
3. Pray for our church in all decisions, plans and strategies. May God help us to align our steps with His perfect will, and to follow His leading.
4. Pray for God's continuous provision for the financial needs of our church so that we may continue to support ministry efforts, meet practical needs, and be a blessing to others.
5. Pray for God to anoint and empower our church for effective ministry, preaching, teaching, worship, and all endeavors done in His name.
6. Pray for God's favor to be upon our church. May God open doors for ministry opportunities, partnerships, and resources that will advance His kingdom purposes.
7. Pray for hearts that hunger and thirst for God's presence and His Word within our church. May He draw us closer to Him to deepen our intimacy with Him.
8. Pray for God's power to be manifested and demonstrated in the church. That lives would be transformed; that pain and sicknesses would leave; and emotional healing take place; broken relationships restored, and more testimonies of God's power and faithfulness would take place.

Building God's Kingdom

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

One of the most striking parts of C.S. Lewis' famous book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is the liberation of Narnia. Long held under the curse of being frozen, it begins to show signs of freedom—ice melts, trees lift their weary branches, flowers bloom. And throughout this imaginary country, whenever these small reminders surface, someone says five simple words: "Aslan is on the move!" The Narnians knew that Aslan—the story's Christ figure—was near, reclaiming his rightful place as the ruler of Narnia. A quiet excitement stirred within his people every time his name left their lips.

Aslan, of course, is modeled after the one true King who came to restore His people and establish His kingdom on earth. And we're called to join Him in that great work—supporting, loving, encouraging, praying, and advocating for those Jesus seeks.

For some Christians, this will mean giving time and money. Or it could mean directly serving and volunteering in our communities. For others, it means answering a call to reach a specific group of people with God's love—whether in our own cities or around the world. Or it might be any number of things in between, from fostering and adopting children to simply showing a genuine interest in another person's welfare.

As you think about your own life, can you see any signs of the work God is doing and how He's asking you to participate? Can you tell where He is calling you to come closer and remind others that they, too, are made in His image?

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He didn't send them alone—He had them go in pairs to preach the gospel and minister to the people they encountered. And remember, even in His call to “go and make disciples of all nations,” He's speaking to us as individuals and as a church community, promising that He's with us “always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20). We don't have to do anything alone. Instead, we can choose to follow His lead, knowing that as we go about participating in the work Jesus came here to do, He's with us every step of the way.

Our mission is to join in Christ's vision as an outpouring of His love—uplifting, engaging, and supporting the people we encounter. And just as Jesus left His seat next to the Father to go out into a cold world and rescue those who needed it most, we have the opportunity to share the loving message of the gospel in everyday ways.

Application

- Try to put yourself in the shoes of the first disciples. Imagine Jesus calling you to drop what you're doing and follow Him, inviting you to join Him in His work. Take note of how you're feeling and write down any thoughts you have.
- What are some of your favorite memories of serving others? Why are you grateful for those opportunities? As you pray this week, take time to thank the Lord for them. Think about how to be more intentional in representing Jesus.
- Think about Christ's commands to “love your neighbor” and “go therefore and make disciples.” How do these directives work together? What are some ways we can show Christ's love in day-to-day life?

Pastors & Church Leaders

“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;¹ not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:2-3

1. Pray for God’s loving guidance and counsel upon our church leaders as they lead the flock. May they always humbly seek the will of God and have the courage to boldly pursue God’s vision, even in the face of opposition. May God provide them with spiritual guidance and wisdom to lead the church in the right direction, in a manner that is pleasing to Him.
2. Pray that God will fill them with the Holy Spirit and bestow upon them wisdom to know His will and the discernment to follow it. Pray that their every decision would please God and glorify His name.
3. Pray that our church leaders may live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence, abiding by the will of God at all times, so that they can lead by example and model what it means to be a disciple of Christ Jesus. Pray for the desire within their hearts to seek after God—to diligently study His Word and be faithful in prayer. May God equip them with strength in their faith, so that they may not be swayed by temptation nor compromise the truth for personal gain.

4. Pray that God may grant our church leaders the strength and courage in their leadership, the strength to carry out their divine purpose, and the courage to stand firm in their faith. May they stay committed and persevere in continuing the task that God has entrusted them. May God grant them patience and endurance to remain strong in times of difficulty and uncertainty.
5. Pray for our leaders to work harmoniously together in unity, with respect and humility towards each other. May the Holy Spirit help them to be mindful of their words and actions, so that they may lead with a spirit of understanding and compassion. May their hearts be filled with compassion and understanding as they seek to serve God's flock.
6. Pray that God will guard and protect our church leaders from temptation and falsehood. May they be surrounded by God's protection to consistently stay on the right path. Pray that God will keep them from any temptations that may cloud their judgment and distract them from God's will and plan. May God give them the courage to do what is right, and not to compromise even when the situation is challenging. May God surround them with His favor.
7. Pray that our church leaders will use God's resources wisely in the furtherance of His kingdom. May they faithfully manage the finances in a way that honors God. Help them recognize when they need to be generous and when to be frugal. May they be wise and accountable stewards of God's possessions.



Sustaining Our Mission

Scripture: *1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 10:31; James 1:17*

Water flows down over rocks to streams, then to rivers, and ultimately into vast oceans. In a similar way, everything flows out of God's provision for us. When the Father gives us abilities or other blessings, it's not an accident, a product of our own hard work, or the result of good genes. Our God is a God who knows what He's doing—and He specifically and intentionally gives each of us different gifts, at times just for the benefit of others.

If you have particular skills, strengths, or financial blessings, give Him thanks. The purpose of our gifts isn't to make us feel better about ourselves or improve the way other people see us. God's gifts are an opportunity for us to know Him better and participate in building His kingdom. Through them, and in obedience to Him, we fulfill His mission.

Have you ever tithed, volunteered at church, attended a Sunday service, or spent time in prayer? Of course, I have, you're probably thinking. But did you think of such activities as kingdom-building, mission-sustaining work?

It's easy to accept these regular practices as essential to the formula of Christian life. You might even think they're basic. But in those small acts, you're actually doing something great: You're demonstrating that you treasure everything God's provided you. Through generous giving, service, and worship, you're not simply being a good steward—you're offering these gifts back to Him in love.

In every part of life, there are opportunities to demonstrate our love for God and our desire to glorify Him. Think about your daily habits and interactions, from the food you eat to the people you meet. What are you doing to show how important His glory is to you?

From the Old Testament to Jesus' ministry on earth and into the life of the church today, we see evidence of God's provision. And responsibly using and sharing His gifts involves looking ahead, preparing the way for future generations of the faithful. At the same time, God also wants us to focus on today: to love our neighbors, come alongside our communities, and answer His call to make disciples here and now. Both of these perspectives can feel urgent—we want to make a way for future generations while also living in a manner that shows we're preparing ourselves, anticipating the Lord's return. What does it mean to love the people around us as Jesus loves, while leaving a legacy for those who haven't yet been born or reborn?

God offers His blessings of grace and peace to all who believe in Him. And we have an opportunity to reflect this in our own lives by joining God in His work. As we use His gifts to make disciples, we're humbly inviting the world to experience His grace and peace for themselves.

Application

- In your life, what does it look like to bring God glory by using the things He's given you?
- Throughout Scripture, we're called to responsibly care for the gifts we receive from God. As you read in 1 Peter 4:10, we're instructed to use our gifts so we can be "good stewards of God's varied grace." What do you think that means in today's culture?
- In what areas of your life are you offering God's gifts back to Him? How?

Prayer Focus of the Day

Church Family

1. Pray that God will protect each member from evil and temptation and grant them courage to stand firm in their faith.
2. Pray for a deep desire to grow spiritually, spending time with God daily in prayer and in His Word.
3. Pray that they would always seek the counsel of God in all things, and to put God first in their decisions.
4. Pray that God will continue to equip His body, both individually and corporately with the talents and gifts that may be used to His praise and glory and for the edification of His saints.
5. Pray for spiritual awakening and transformation. Pray for God to mold us into a body that He can powerfully use, with good living testimony that can influence and impact people's lives.
6. Pray for burden to reach out to the spiritually-lost. Pray for boldness and courage to share the gospel.

The Church
We are family



Church Ministries

1. Bong Un Seniors' Ministry

- Pray for their physical and spiritual health. May they live out the fragrance of Christ and leave a legacy of positive spiritual influence to the next generation.
- Pray for non-believers to understand about salvation and accept God's gift of love.

2. Children's Ministry

- Pray for the personal spiritual growth of all teachers.
- Pray for the children to know and experience the Lord in a deeper way through the weekly truths imparted to them.

3. Young Pro & Youth Ministry

- Pray that they will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to grow in their holiness and depth in the Gospel.
- Pray for boldness to be faithful witnesses either in the school or in the workplace.

4. Sanctuary Choir; Cherubim Children Choir; Worship Team

- Pray for the weekly preparations for Sunday services – wisdom in choosing songs and the sensitivity to respond to the Spirit's leading.
- Pray for the preparations for the Christmas service on Dec. 22.

5. Weekly discipleship & Bible study groups

- May God use the weekly meetings to reach out and minister to the spiritual needs of each person attending.

Fasting Schedule & Options

DAY 1
Oct. 7

- ☐ Water/Juice Fast
- ☐ One Meal Fast
- ☐ Complete Fast
- ☐ Others: _____

DAY 2
Oct. 8

- ☐ Water/Juice Fast
- ☐ One Meal Fast
- ☐ Complete Fast
- ☐ Others: _____

DAY 3
Oct. 9

- ☐ Water/Juice Fast
- ☐ One Meal Fast
- ☐ Complete Fast
- ☐ Others: _____

DAY 4
Oct. 10

- ☐ Water/Juice Fast
- ☐ One Meal Fast
- ☐ Complete Fast
- ☐ Others: _____

DAY 5
Oct. 11

- ☐ Water/Juice Fast
- ☐ One Meal Fast
- ☐ Complete Fast
- ☐ Others: _____

NEW MILLENNIUM EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Culminating Prayer Meeting

OCTOBER 11, 2024

FRIDAY @ 7:30 P.M.

Lower Chapel