

JAN
2-22



CORPORATE

CLARITY
VICTORY
STABILITY

2023

BEGINNING
OF THE YEAR
FAST



'CLARITY WEEK'

WEEK 1: DAY 1 - 6

FASTING FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (NKJV)

14 If My people who are called by My name will **humble** themselves, and **pray** and **seek** My face, and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

FASTING DIRECTIVE WEEK #1 HUMBLE YOURSELF

"True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less." - Rick Warren

SUPPORTING STORY: *In football the linemen are usually really big guys. Many of them are above six feet tall and can weigh well over 300 pounds. They tell the offensive line, no matter how big you are, stay low. So that you can have the leverage, stay low. No matter how big you get in life, stay low. No matter what title you have in front of your name, stay low. Never use your knowledge, prestige, power, or resources to Lord over others. Stay Humble. Stay Low.*

DAY 1 - BIBLE READING 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Today begins our corporate fast as a church body. Whether you fast regularly or this is your first time, I can guarantee that if you do this from your heart, you will experience God in a fresh new way. Remember that you are not alone. You have many brothers and sisters who are praying and fasting with you; myself included. Stay focused. Stay excited. Stay the Course. A great experience is just ahead.

BIBLE READING FOR MONDAY: *Take out your Bible. Read and meditate on these scriptures. Read a few verses before and after the suggested passage for clarity and context. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. **The verse on which to meditate will be underlined.***

- **Luke 18:9-14 (NLT). Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector**

9 Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: 10 "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income. 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

- **1 Peter 5:5-9 (NKJV) Submit to God, Resist the Devil**

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

DAY 1 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Several years ago the Billy Graham Association printed an article entitled "12 Ways to Humble Yourself". The teaching really helped make a change in my life. I pray that it does the same for you. Each day this week, we will practice two of the twelve ways. I am convinced that by the end of the week, you will be a changed person and have a deeper respect for God and a new relationship with humility.

1. Confess your sins to God today.

All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous, self-honest examination. Weekly, even daily review of our hearts and behaviors, coupled with confession to God, is an essential practice of humility.

Meditate on the entire chapter of Psalm 51. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. Grab a pen and paper to write down anything God speaks to you.

2. Acknowledge your sins today to someone you can trust.

Humility before God is not complete unless there is also humility before man. A true test of our willingness to humble ourselves is willingness to share with others the weaknesses we confess to God. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others whom we trust.

Meditate on James 3:2 and James 5:16. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. Grab a pen and paper to write down anything God speaks to you.

DAY 1 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now it's time to pray. Lay your hands on the following parts of your body and pray over yourself. Pray with confidence knowing that God hears you.

- I give my heart to You, Lord.
- Please teach me how to be humble .
- I give you my feet, Lord.
- Please help me not to stumble.
- My eyes belong to You, Lord.
- Help me to see your Holy way.
- Help me to look straight ahead and seek You everyday.
- My ears belong to You, Lord.
- Help me to hear every time You call.
- Lord I give myself to You.
- I will obey Your Word.
- I give my hands to You, Lord.
- I will use them to praise You.
- I will worship You, Lord.
- All of my days will be blessed.
- I give my mouth to You, Lord.
- I will use it to build up and not tear down.
- I will use it to bless and not curse.
- Thank You Lord for having mercy on me.

DAY 2 - BIBLE READING "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Today is the second day of your fast. You are off to a great start. Continue to meditate on the scriptures I've given you. You may even want to go back and read over the previous ones. Just let God lead you. If a scripture stands out to you, try to memorize it. That's how you hide it in your heart.

BIBLE READING FOR TUESDAY: *Take out your Bible. Read and meditate on these scriptures. Read a few verses before and after the suggested passage for clarity and context. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. **The verse on which to meditate will be underlined.***

- **James 4:6-10 (NKJV)**

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- **Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)**

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

DAY 2 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: The practical applications can be difficult and challenging. They are designed to push you into your God purpose and to help you develop a closer relationship with Him. Make sure that you take each application seriously. Apply them to your life everyday. The two applications below will help you continue on your humbling journey. Read and meditate on the scriptures connected to each application. For this fast to have the desired effect, you must do the work.

1. Take wrong patiently.

When something is unjust we want to react and rectify it. However, patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of others demonstrates our strength of godly character and provides an opportunity to put on humility.

Meditate on 1 Peter 3:8-17. You were called to blessing but sometimes we have to suffer. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. Grab a pen and paper to write down any verse that stands out to you.

2. Actively submit to authority... the good and the bad.

Our culture does not value submission. Rather it promotes individualism. How purposely and actively do you work on submission to those whom God has placed as authorities in your life? Doing so is a good way to humble yourself.

Read 1 Peter 2:18. Consider the example Peter makes about Jesus' ability to submit. You were called to blessing but sometimes we have to suffer. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. Grab a pen and paper to write down the understanding that God gives you.

DAY 2 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Welcome to day two of your prayer time. The prayer I have below is designed to give you some direction during your prayer time. Pray this prayer over yourself. As you pray according to what I have suggested below, open your heart and allow God to reveal other areas in your life that also need prayer.

DEAR LORD,

In Micah 6:8 you say, "O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Today I choose to walk humbly with You. I choose to live by Your Holy Spirit and to follow Your lead. Help me to hear You clearly, for I do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency. We want to walk with You.

I ask for Your help to walk humbly with my brothers and sisters. It is easy for me to fall prey to my flesh and to walk in arrogance but pride causes division and I desire peace. Lord, help me to humble myself in order that I do not let the lies of the enemy overtake me. Instead, help me to count myself as equal with others. It is then that I will stop attempting to be better than others and I can love their hearts for the unique person You made them to be. Help me to value others in this humble spirit so that I may live to the fullest.

Lord, forgive me for my rebellious spirit. Teach me to be submissive and respectful to those in authority over me. Help me be a light in our dark world. Let Christ shine through me. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear those around me who need Your gospel truth. Thank You for Your great love and tender mercy toward me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Now, take a moment and pray about what God places on your heart.)

DAY 3 - BIBLE READING "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Welcome to day three of your fast. I pray it is going well. Below you will find a list of scriptures that I want you to meditate and focus on throughout the day. Whenever you have time, take out your Bible and read over the Scriptures. Read over them as many times during the day as you can. Reading God's word will help to strengthen you for the journey ahead.

BIBLE READING FOR WEDNESDAY: *Take out your Bible. Read and meditate on these scriptures. Read a few verses before and after the suggested passage for clarity and context. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. **The verse on which to meditate will be underlined.***

- **James 4:6-10 (NKJV)**

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- **Matthew 18:21-22 (NKJV)**

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

DAY 3 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: The process of humbling yourself is not always easy. The practical applications are designed to give you the opportunity to practice your ability to be humble. Below are your next two assignments. Take them seriously and add them to your life. Look for opportunities to do each of them. They will help you on this journey.

1. **Receive correction and feedback from others graciously.**

In the Phoenix area, a local East Valley pastor was noted for graciously receiving any negative feedback or correction offered. He would simply say, "Thank you for caring enough to share that with me. I will pray about it and get back to you." Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you; even if it comes from a dubious source. Always pray, "Lord, what are You trying to show me through this?"

Meditate on Proverbs 10:17 and 12:1. Commit these two verses to memory if you can. Proverbs is the book of wisdom. Ask God to give you a deeper insight and write down what He says.

2. **Accept a lowly place.**

If you find yourself wanting to sit at the head table, wanting others to recognize your contribution or if you become offended when others are honored or chosen, then pride is present. Purpose to support others being recognized, rather than you. Accept and look for the lowly place. It is the place of humility.

Read and meditate on Proverbs 25:6-7. These verses will help you be okay with not having to always be first. Ask God to show you areas in your life where pride has set in. Write down what He says. Stay Low.

DAY 3 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Below you will find a model prayer. The prayer directive is designed to give you a format with which to pray. Do not simply read what is written and stop. Once you have gone through the model below, take some time to pray to God yourself. He is looking forward to hearing from you.

PRAY THIS:

DEAR LORD,

Search my heart. Forgive me for the times I rejected constructive criticism or feedback that was negative. I realize that in order for me to grow spiritually, I must be able to receive truth about myself. Lord, You desire truth in your innermost being (Psalm 51:6). Teach me to love truth. Even the truth that hurts. Help me to reject the spirit of offense that comes when I am corrected, rebuked or chastened. I know that You discipline me because You love me (Hebrews 12:6). Teach me to embrace correction, to love truth, and to walk humbly before God and man. Thank You for the people in my life who love me enough to tell me the truth.

Also, forgive me if there have been times that I became upset when I was not recognized, honored or treated with high esteem. Your Word says, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12 NKJV) Teach me to always walk humbly and not become attention seeking or disgruntled when I don't receive the recognition I may deserve. I know that in Your time, You will do the exalting. Teach me to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You, Oh Lord. (Micah 6:8) In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 4 - BIBLE READING "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Welcome to Thursday. By now you should have a pretty good grasp on how the format works. Today I will give you a few more scriptures to read. As God leads, read as much as you can. You are drawing closer to God and He is drawing closer to you.

BIBLE READING FOR THURSDAY: *Take out your Bible. Read and meditate on these scriptures. Read the surrounding verses for clarity and context. Some of you may want to read the chapter. Ask God to give you revelation and understanding. **The verse on which to meditate will be underlined.***

- **1 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

- **2 Chronicles 34:27 (ESV)**

because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the Lord.

- **Ephesians 4:2 (ESV)**

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

- **John 3:30 (ESV)**

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

DAY 4 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now it is time to practice. The below exercises will help you to continue in your walk toward humility. Find opportunities to exercise each one of these applications in your life this week. Be intentional and Stay Low.

1. Purposely associate with people of lower state than you.

Jesus was derided by the Pharisees for socializing with the poor and those of lowly state. Our culture is very status conscious and people naturally want to socialize upward. Resist the temptation of being partial to those with status or wealth.

Read the story found in Luke 7:36-50. Consider how Jesus associated with people of lower state. Has there ever been a time in your life where you have overlooked someone thought to be "lower" than you? If so, how can you better associate with them next time?

2. Choose to serve others.

When we serve others, we are serving God's purposes in their lives. Doing so reduces our focus on ourselves and builds the Kingdom of God. When serving another costs us nothing, we should question whether it is really servanthood.

Read the following scriptures on serving: Philippians 2:4, 2 Corinthians 4:5, and Matthew 23:11. After you have read them, ask God to give you a heart to serve others and then look for opportunities to serve this month.

DAY 4 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now it's time to pray. Spend time focusing on the scriptures you've read today. Now let's spend some time talking to God and asking Him to strengthen us in the area of service to others.

PRAY THIS:

FATHER,

Thank You for exposing areas in my life where I have overlooked people who could have used my help. Give me the desire to be an extension of who You are in the earth. Give me a heart to serve You and to serve others. Make my eyes more attentive to the sufferings of the people around me. Keep me focused so that no matter what I am blessed with, I will always have a heart to serve those less fortunate. Forgive me for any times that I have been so self focused that I forgot to be people focused. Forgive me for the spirit of pride. Whenever You bless me, teach me to bless others.

Lord God, You came to give honor to the least, those forgotten, overlooked, and misjudged. You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood, and undervalued. You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned, and destitute. Help me to be your ears to listen to their cries. Help me to be your voice speaking out love and acceptance. Help me to be your feet walking beside those in need. Help me to be your hands to clothe, feed, and shelter them. You came for the least, the lost, and the last of this world. Lord, hear my prayer. Amen.

(Now take some time and pray by yourself. Ask God to reveal areas in your life where self-centeredness may have crept in. If God reveals anything to you, confess it and forsake it.)

DAY 5 - BIBLE READING

"CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: You are now five days into your fast. Keep your momentum high during the weekend. The enemy will try to trick you into cheating on your fast. Continue to honor God. It will be worth it in the end. Remember, you are doing this to get closer to God. Below are some scriptures that will help take you into the weekend. Read the chapter for context if needed. Be encouraged and remember to stay humble and Stay Low.

- **Mark 11:24-26 (NKJV)**

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. 25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

- **Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- **Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV)**

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

DAY 5 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Here is your practical application for Friday. By now you know that they are to be applied to your life. Study the two applications below along with the scripture references. Open your heart and allow God to create change from the inside.

1. Be quick to forgive.

Forgiveness is possibly one of the greatest acts of humility we can do. To forgive is to acknowledge a wrong that has been done us and also to further release our right to repayment for the wrong. Forgiveness is denial of self. Forgiveness is not insisting on our way and our justice.

Read Matthew 18:21-35. This is a parable of the unforgiving servant. Take note of Jesus' words to His disciples about forgiveness. Use a pen and paper to write down people in your life that you need to forgive. Then pray over those names asking God to release you from the offense. Ask God to give you the grace to forgive and let go. Once you've prayed and forgiven, shred the paper and thank God for deliverance.

2. Cultivate a grateful heart.

The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of salvation and life He has given us, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.

Meditate on 1 Thessalonians 5:18. After you've taken some time to meditate, I want you to start a "Grateful Journal". Start writing down the things in your life that you are grateful for. Add to it every day. You can use paper and pen or a notes app on your phone. This is going to give you plenty to smile about. :-)

DAY 5 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: It's time to pray. Many of you have successfully prayed for five days straight. Prayer brings the unseen kingdom of God onto the scene or into our lives where we and other people need it. In 1 Samuel 1:23, David clearly states that it would be a sin not to pray for Israel. Continuing in prayer will help to improve your prayer life. At the end of 21 days you will be praying like a real prayer warrior. Feel free to look back over some of the previous prayers and add them into your personal prayer time. Read the prayer below out loud. Let it get into your heart. You may want to read it several times out loud. Feel free to continue in prayer even after you have finished reading. Stay humble and Stay Low.

PRAY THIS OUT LOUD:

HEAVENLY FATHER,

I forgive anyone who has ever wronged me, hurt me, cursed me, lied to me or prayed witchcraft prayers over me, and I'll bless them in the name of Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father, I ask You to forgive me for any unforgiveness, any bitterness, any anger, any strife, any animosity, and any resentment that I have in my heart toward anyone at this time, in Jesus' name. Lord, I ask You to forgive me for the sin of grumbling and complaining and for not walking in faith and living to the destiny that I have. Lord, forgive me for gossiping about those who hurt me and spreading the reality of the heart to others. My whining attitude is a thing of the past. I am going to rejoice in the Lord. I'm going to accept the mind of Christ. I'm going to talk about good things, glorious things, and God's things. I'm going to live with joy unspeakable and full of glory and it is going to begin today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 6 - BIBLE READING "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: You made it all the way to the end of the week. I am so proud of you! Today could potentially be a day of struggle for you. Your body will want to have it's normal comforts. Stay focused and remember why you are fasting. God's Word is sharper than any two edged sword. His Word is alive and it never fails. Enjoy the scriptures I have below. They will help to encourage and strengthen you.

- **1 Kings 8:46-48 (ESV)**

46 If they sin against you - for there is no one who does not sin - and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, 47 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,' 48 if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name,

- **Joel 2:13 (ESV)**

13 And rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

- **1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)**

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

DAY 6 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION 'CLARITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: This will be your last practical application for this week. After completing the two below, take some time to review all of the other practical applications for humility week. Add them to your life and remember the lessons God has taught you. Be sure to take plenty of notes as you work through these applications daily. Stay focused and Stay Low.

1. Purpose to speak well of others.

Saying negative things about others puts them "one down" and us "one up." Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up. Make sure, however, that what you say is not intended as flattery.

Read Ephesians 4:31-32. This may be a familiar passage so you may want to start at verse number 25. Be sure to read it in context. Use a pen or notepad to capture your thoughts and what God speaks to you.

2. Treat pride as a condition that always necessitates embracing the cross.

It is our nature to be proud and it is God's nature in us that brings humility. Committing to a lifestyle of daily dying to ourselves and living through Him is the foundation for true humility.

Read Luke 9:23-26. Consider the words of Jesus as He speaks to His disciples about taking up their cross. What does it mean to deny yourself? What does it mean to take up your cross daily? What does it mean to follow Jesus? Take some time to answer these important questions. Write down what God speaks to you.

DAY 6 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE "CLARITY WEEK"

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Let's pray together. Remember prayer gives earthly license for heavenly intervention. Prayer is inviting God to operate on your behalf. Use this time to go before God and have quiet time with Him.

PRAY THIS:

DEAR LORD,

I am coming to realize how dangerous pride is in the life of a believer and how important true, godly humility is to the heart of God. I read in Your Word that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. And I am beginning to see the devastating and destructive nature of pride and the true blessing that comes from a heart that is humble and contrite in spirit. Keep me from falling prey to the many temptations that pride seems to scatter in my path where I want to be the center of attention and desire to receive all the acclaim and glory that rightly belongs to You.

Teach me Your ways and show me how I may clothe myself in godly humility, for Peter teaches that, "God opposes the proud but shows grace to the humble." Thank You for opening up Your Word to me and helping me to see the beautiful truth about humility. I ask that You would work a good work in my life, day by day, until I am more like Christ and less like me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Humility>