

## **Zion's Corporate Prayer**

Father God we come to you in humble submission confessing that we are nothing without you and we need your help. Your word says that if any lack wisdom to ask of you and you will give to all liberally without reproach. We ask for your wisdom in our devotion with you and that you would prompt us to set this time aside daily. We thank you that it will be a time of us denying ourselves and being led by your Precious Spirit. Please lead our prayers and studying of your Word so that we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Search us God, know our hearts and if you see any wicked or offensive way in us, lead us to the way everlasting according to Psalm 139:23-24.

Help us to keep our eyes on you and not on man. We declare that our feet will not stumble and our faith will not fail. When we are complacent arouse us. When we falter help us find truth. When we slip apart, remind us of what draws us together. Amidst all our introspection keep us mindful of the world around us and the work there is for Zion to accomplish. And through it all, help us feel your presence in our hearts and help us bring your presence to one another.

Thank you for giving us wisdom and discernment in our conversations with one another. We will be patient and understanding, forgiving each other and bear one another's burdens. We will pursue peace at all costs. No corrupt communication will come from our mouths, only that to build up and edify. We will not grieve the Holy Spirit. We declare no soul will be lost in this transition because we have the compassion of Christ.

Dear God, keep those in Zion who find change very difficult close to your heart. Surround them with the love that casts out fear and doubt. Have compassion on all of us, Lord, as we experience the moments of fear, and doubt that comes with change and transition.

We ask your guidance during this time of discernment. May Zion support and honor our Worship Leader, Pastor Mills and the chair of our Diaconate Ministry Deacon Herod and Deacon Mason. Keep us ever mindful that it is our responsibility to continue doing your work. We will put forth our best effort in all that we do because we are working for you and not man. Help us to stay faithful and committed members in giving of our time, talent and treasures. Give us joyful hearts Lord, as we complete each task before us.

God your word says in Psalm 133, that when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity it is like precious oil from Aaron's beard and descends upon the mountains of ZION. There you commanded the blessing! Zion walks and talks in harmony and in love. We praise you in advance for the blessings of healing, restoration, advancement and prosperity as we join together with one mind and one voice. In the powerful, matchless, holy, undefeated name of Jesus. Amen and it is so!!!!!!!

**2 Chronicles 1:10**

Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?"

**Psalm 51:6 Amplified**

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.

**Ephesians 1:17-18**

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints

**Psalm 37:30**

The mouth of the righteous proclaims wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice and truth.

**Proverbs 3:13 Amplified**

Happy [blessed, considered fortunate, to be admired] is the man who finds [skillful and godly] wisdom, And the man who gains understanding and insight [learning from God's word and life's experiences]

**Isaiah 58:11 NIV**

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV**

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**Proverbs 29:18 Message**

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

**John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**Proverbs 6:9 NIV**

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

**Romans 8:26-27**

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

**Colossians 3:15**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**Isaiah 26:3**

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

**Psalm 133**

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

**Ephesians 4:1-4**

I, therefore, the prisoner [a] of the Lord, [b]beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.

**John 17:11**

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep[a] through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

## Some Guidelines on Fasting

Fasting - to abstain as a religious sacrifice from solid food; it is about "giving up" something that we value to put our complete trust in God

Jesus set the example of fasting in Matthew 4:1- 2.

### Matthew 4:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

**4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.**

Don't get caught in "bondage" about the "40 days and 40 nights". Jesus was defeating the temptations of the devil for us.

Here are a few things to keep in mind about fasting:

- Christians should use fasting as a humbling discipline regularly.
- Our hearts and minds MUST be TOTALLY focused on God so that He may be the FULL SOURCE of our strength during the "fasting period."
- Fasting should come with humility. Others do NOT need to know that we are fasting.

### Matthew 6:17-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

**<sup>17</sup> But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

- Our motive for fasting should be to "help build up God's Kingdom."
- Prayer should go with fasting and have a targeted goal (specific purpose(s)).
- We should feed our spirit while depriving our flesh which draws us closer to God.

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

**<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

- Our spiritual man should be made stronger daily by prayer AND fasting.

### Acts 13:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

**13 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.**

Before/during fasting, Christians should ask God for the following:

- Ask God to take care of ANY and ALL health issues you may have, i.e. diabetes, organ issues, digestive issues.
- Ask for God's Healing and slowly, with Spiritual Discernment, move into fasting (start by fasting for 30 minutes a day, giving up one meal a day, or giving up one favorite food).

There is one more thing!

Remember, the focus of fasting is to get closer to God and have Him meet and exceed your wants and needs. Our desire should be that God's Will be done on earth - at Mt. Zion and in our personal lives. Our motivation should always be Love and our perspectives must be in the right place.

Christians are to hunger and thirst after righteousness, not the flesh.

**Matthew 5:6 New King James Version (NKJV)**

**<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

### **Corporate Fast and Prayer Time for Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

As the membership of Mt. Zion, let us strive to fast and pray as a community of believers together. From noon-5pm every Wednesday, regardless of where you are, include specifically the following requests and thanksgivings in your prayers, as you fast.

1. Wisdom for our Church leadership and for ourselves and our families
2. Peace in our relationships and throughout the world
3. Guidance to make God-ordained decisions and follow God's lead by focusing on Him
4. Unity for our Church family and strengthening our bond of fellowship and love

God will hear our corporate petitions for our Church and bless us mightily.