

Why the 2023 Word of the Year is More Meaningful Than You Might Think

What if the key you need for your breakthrough is as simple as getting before the Lord in fasting and prayer? In her latest Charisma Magazine Online article, Tammy Hotsenpiller dives into the purpose behind fasting. While many might see fasting as just part of a New Year's resolution to lose weight or try to resolve issues on their own, it is by a Holy Spirit-led fast when we can experience true breakthrough that only God could provide.

"In Matthew 17:21, Jesus said to his disciples, some things only happen by prayer and fasting," Hotsenpiller writes. "Jesus simply gave them the key. Prayer and fasting."

Fasting is the discipline that, if we want to see God move across our world, our nation, our families and friends and our individual lives, we must take part in. Hotsenpiller points out that it is through fasting that even Queen Esther saw her people saved from destruction. It's the discipline that Jesus did for 40 days in the wilderness. Fasting is the way that God moves mountains into the sea.

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"If you're struggling with bad habits, negative thoughts, a lack of discipline or just feeling hopeless, fasting for personal change could be the answer," Hotsenpiller writes.

As a life coach, speaker and leader, Hotsenpiller has spent much time learning the biblical discipline of fasting and what

it can do for a life of abundance and joy. In her Beyond The Article interview with Charisma magazine, Hotsenpiller shared how the first thing that must be identified is what you are fasting for.

“Start by asking yourself what are you fasting for?” Hotsenpiller asks. “What is the thing in your life that you’re fasting for? What is that breakthrough? It could be a wayward child, it could be a marriage, it could be health, it could be financial. There’s something in your life that you’re coming saying, ‘God, I can’t do this on my own.’ You’re acknowledging you have a need.”

Hotsenpiller says that once you figure out what it is that you are fasting for, you have to determine the way in which you will fast. While many today want to fast from social media, shopping or other modern-day luxuries, Hotsenpiller notes that those things, while good to abstain from to get deeper into the presence of God, that is not what a true, biblical fast looks like. Instead, a true fast according to Scripture is about food.

“Whether it’s a Daniel fast, which is like a juice fast or abstaining from meat and alcohol and carbs, or it’s a sun up to sun down fast or it’s an absolute fast, whatever fast the Holy Spirit’s leading you, know what it is,” Hotsenpiller says.

One of the keys that Hotsenpiller wants people to know about fasting is that it is a time when the enemy will try to tempt them and get them to fold under the pressure of hunger and frustration. However, this is an opportunity for the Spirit to rise up above the flesh.

“We’re learning to not gratify the desires of our flesh and I tell people all the time if you can learn to say no to food, you can learn to say no to other things in your life, so you literally are learning to say no to the enemy when a

temptation comes along that you should not participate in," Hotsenpiller says. "When you learn to say no to your flesh and food, you will learn to say no in other areas. So fasting has so many different facets to really strengthen your spiritual life."

While fasting may be difficult in the natural, it is through this discipline that God often chooses to provide true breakthrough for our greatest needs.

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2023: The Year of the Digital Jehu

In a brand-new Charisma Magazine Online article, Renee DeLoriea shared how there is a hunger for revival and a greater outpouring of God's Spirit that will ignite hearts for God's great purposes.

"Communion with God is the life force of every believer," DeLoriea writes. "God is always present and those who are paying attention will recognize many of the ways He reveals Himself."

DeLoriea knows this to be true about God from her very own experiences of seeing revival break out. In fact, DeLoriea shared in her Beyond the Article interview with Charisma magazine that it was during the Brownsville Revival that she

experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in a greater measure.

After moving with her family because of a word that revival would break out in Pensacola, DeLoriea expected that the revival would happen immediately. They scouted out churches all over the area expecting to see a revival, but found none. Seven years later, she saw on the news Steve Hill and Pastor John Kilpatrick saying that revival had broken out. Knowing and trusting Kilpatrick, she believed that this was true.

"I just went to the altar and I said, 'Jesus, I'm going to get behind you,' and it wasn't dependent on if this was *the* revival," DeLoriea said.

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This bit of faith of completely trusting and depending on God instead of a move or an action is exactly what DeLoriea was in need of, something she believes others can benefit from too in our current day and age.

"We don't really have to be able to see way in the future, just get behind Jesus and align ourselves with His Word and His ways and His Spirit, making Him our first priority and everything else will move in the direction of God's calling on our lives on a day-by-day basis," DeLoriea said. "Anything else that's out of that is a distraction and it's a swaying and discouragement."

DeLoriea said that when she was first introduced to the revival, there were only about 200 people. A few months later when she brought some family members to the revival, the line to get in was about three blocks long.

"I'm not saying that I knew that it was going to be people lined up out the door in a couple of the Lord revealed it to me it was not about numbers, it was about influence in the

church and in the world,” DeLoriea said.

One thing DeLoriea can vouch for is that revival really is something special and divinely given to us from the Lord.

“There’s nothing more fun than revival and the presence of God just showing up,” DeLoriea said.

DeLoriea also shared that as the world is hungering and thirsting for more of God, he is in the business right now of reactivating His people and bringing together a marriage of Word and Spirit in this day and age.

“At the end of the Brownsville Revival so many people . I was one of those people who was sad, and the Lord I believe spoke to me and said, ‘you will see a revival much greater than this when there is a marriage between the Word and the Spirit.’”

Let us, as God’s people, not miss out on what He is doing across the world today.

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Update: T.D. Jakes Denies Recent Allegations, Talks About the Power of Repentance

in Christmas Eve Service

In a new feature article in the December issue of Charisma Magazine Online, I had the opportunity to write about the question of what is the Christmas spirit all about? The truth is, underneath all the festivities, all of the glamor of the lights and music, if Christmas doesn't point us back to the Holy Spirit and to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then our efforts are wasted because Christmas is ultimately all about Jesus as the Savior of the world.

It was by the Holy Spirit that Mary was able to conceive Jesus and it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb in Mary's presence because Jesus was already with her. If we ignore this original point that without Jesus, without the Holy Spirit's divine intervention into our human affairs, there would be no such thing as Christmas.

Even more than this, the Holy Spirit, unlike other holiday celebrations, is in the middle of Christmas because it is about Him, not just some manmade day to commemorate our own plans and history. The difference with Christmas is that it was divinely appointed by God, and so we should seek Him in the middle of it.

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Because Christmas has His Spirit written all over it, we should use it as an opportunity to share who God is with the world. Whether that's spending time volunteering, giving gifts and contributions to Christian organizations, spreading the gospel through evangelistic measures, sending cards of hope or by another means, this is the perfect time to share the message of God's goodness and truth.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when Christmas has become less about the cross and more about ourselves. This however, is contrary to Scripture. Even John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease," (John 3:30). Until Christmas is more about Jesus and less about us, it will never live up to the fullness that we need it to on a spiritual level. Until Christmas is pointing us to the person of the Holy Spirit, we will be utterly and completely misaligned with the potential that the season has for us.

When we think about all the hundreds of years of waiting, of attempts to follow the Law, of the trials and years of captivity that the Jewish people experienced before Jesus came, it puts the miracle of Christmas in perspective. God had finally answered their cry for a Savior. This should be a time that we can stand in awe and look at what God had done and His faithfulness to answer us in our time of need with so much more and above all that we could ever ask for or imagine. It's a time to be in the presence of His Holy Spirit to say, "thank you, Abba, for all that You've done, are doing, and will do."

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Rabbi Schneider Reveals Supernatural Encounter With

Angel

In his latest feature article in Charisma Magazine Online, Jentezen Franklin is breaking down the barriers and misconceptions about fasting and who is called to fast.

While some may believe that fasting is only for those who already have reached great spiritual heights, Franklin says that this isn't the case. Instead, he shares that fasting is for all who genuinely desire an encounter with the Lord and are seeking refreshment in His presence.

"Victories are not won in public, but in private," Franklin writes. "If you want a stronger relationship with God, you have to seek it. There is a secret source to our power, and it always accompanies the discipline of fasting and prayer. Fasting is not for the strong. Fasting is for the weak. Fasting is for the common. Fasting is for the frail and for the ordinary."

In an exclusive Beyond the Article interview with Charisma magazine based on this article, Franklin further emphasized that fasting is more than just something to do to lose weight and abstain from food. He says that as a young man it was after fasting when God gave him clear direction about what he was supposed to do with his life.

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"You know, what am I going to do; it's time to really focus on my major. I had to decide you know, am I going to go this way in education as a musician or performer, and it was time to make major decisions and so something in me, thanks be to God, said, 'just go on a fast; seek Me. Why don't you ask Me?'" Franklin says.

It was during the end of this fast that the Lord gave Franklin a clear answer on the direction for his life.

“The third day of that just had the Lord show me in so many ways that He had called me to preach,” Franklin explains. “It was time to accept that call. I was terrified. I felt totally unqualified. I felt so intimidated.”

This experience completely redirected Franklin’s life as he went on the path to ministry. He says that there is something completely special about fasting and the way it makes you attuned to what the Holy Spirit wants to speak to you and show you.

“There’s something about fasting that just makes you sensitive,” Franklin said. “It makes you open; it makes you broken, it makes you [have] anointed ears to hear, your spiritual ears get bigger.”

Fasting is more than a mere discipline to be followed, but it is a discipline that reaps spiritual rewards. Just as the apostle Paul wrote “when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10), fasting makes us rely on God to see, do, and become what He desires for us.

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Church of England Decides to

Perform Blessings for Same-Sex Couples

Christmastime brings up all kinds of emotions for different people. For many, it is the happiest time of the year as they celebrate with family and friends, partaking in all kinds of festivities all around them. However, for others, Christmas isn't the most wonderful time of the year. It can mean an especially dark season, whether it brings up the reminders of a loved one who has since passed, or is a time when the enemy has decided to attack with financial, relational, health or other troubling issues. So how do we navigate such a time of year when we're feeling completely attacked and down?

The first thing to remember is that no matter what you're facing, no matter what things look like, God is working in the middle of the storm.

Just as the first Christmas made absolutely no sense in the natural, God was working the greatest miracle ever in the most peculiar way possible. The Jewish people were expecting a Messiah who was going to be a mighty warrior that would take down the Roman Empire, and instead, a baby born in a stable is what they got. The deliverance they thought they needed isn't what they got, but God gave them something even better. The chance to be fully set free from all bondages came in the form of this most humble gift of a child in a manger. While God can be hard to see in the middle of the storm, and the way He chooses to fix, heal or bring deliverance may not make any sense, He will bring about a plan that is even greater than anything we could have expected. The storm may be rocky, but when your eyes are locked on Jesus, He will guide you down the exact path you need to be on, even if it doesn't make sense or align with your own vision. He can be trusted.

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The second thing to remember is that God is in the middle of hard things.

One of the most common misconceptions about Christianity is that once you commit your life to Jesus suddenly everything will become easier and life will be a complete breeze. This could not be further from the truth. Once you decide to give your life to Him, He will ask hard things of you. He will ask that you give up some things to chase after His righteousness. There's a reason that Jesus said, "If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me," (Matt. 16:24). Life will not become easier with Jesus, but rather more difficult. However, it will all be worth it. Whether He's asking hard things of you this Christmas, nudging you to share your faith, remember that He's in these situations. Jesus did the hardest thing that anyone could ever imagine—He was beaten and stricken for our transgressions. He was pierced with nails in His hands and His feet to a cross to die a death that He did not deserve, completely innocent—all for the sake of you and I.

The third thing to remember is that no one understands our pain better than Jesus does.

There is no one that we can turn to who understands our pain better than Jesus does. He fully experienced the things that we experience. If you're experiencing grief this Christmas, remember that the shortest verse in Scripture is "Jesus wept," which came from when He saw that His dear friend Lazarus had died. If you're feeling heartbroken and rejected, remember that Jesus was not even accepted in His hometown. Even more, He was abandoned by His disciples, including being denied by Peter three times. If you're feeling tested and tried by the enemy, remember that Jesus was tempted by Satan in the

wilderness after fasting for 40 days and nights. There is nothing that we experience that He cannot relate to. What's more is that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God praying for us right now. Jesus is praying for you (Rom. 8:34). There is no better intercessor who could be praying for you than the perfect Lamb of God Himself.

So remember, if you're feeling spiritually attacked, down, depressed or are experiencing grief and turmoil, Jesus is able to help you not only resist temptation, but He is capable of healing the deepest wounds and turning everything around for the good of those who love Him.

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