

STARVING

We are presently in the first week of our 21 day fast ahead of our prophetic meetings, and we are encouraging everyone in the church to be involved in whatever way you can.

As we begin I want to make something very clear... **Fasting is not about the food. Fasting is about getting close to Jesus.**

Philippians 3:10 – That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;” (KJV)

Hebrews 10:22 – “...Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart. (NIV)

TCC- lets draw near to Jesus

The book of Ruth is not about fasting... but it is a book that has a lot to say about how to prepare ourselves for the bridegroom. And this is our quest, to know our bridegroom Jesus more intimately every day.

Ruth 3:1-5 – Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you that it may be well with you? ² Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Therefore **wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your **best garment** and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, **uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.**”⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.” (NKJV)**

Freshly Wash

2 Corinthians 7:1 ... dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (NIV)

Song of Solomon 2:15 ...Little foxes that spoil the vine...

Ephesians 4:21-22 ... ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you **put off, concerning your former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. (NKJV)

Isaiah 1:16 - Wash and make yourselves clean take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. (NIV)

- Please understand fasting is not only our pursuit of Jesus... **but His pursuit of us...He wants more of us as well**

Ephesians 5:26-27 – ²⁶ that **He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (NKJV)

Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, **it penetrates** even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (NIV)

TCC –when we wash there is a freshness from the trappings of the world

Freshly Anoint

Ephesians 4:24 – and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 2:15- **For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (NIV)

Q. What do our lives look like (smell like) to others? There is always a redemptive thread in everything He does.

2 Peter 1:5-8... giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things **are yours and abound**, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

TCC- When we **put on forgiveness** we smell like Jesus... when we **put on unity** we smell like Jesus... when we put away negative speech... we smell like Jesus... when we ...Bless and do not curse

Fresh Clothing

Isaiah 61:1,3 – ¹The Spirit of the Lord is on me...³to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” (NKJV)

Psalm 45:7 – Your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness... (NKJV)

TCC- Time to **put on the garment of praise** for the spirit of Heaviness **Time to turn the page.** Time to **forgive and heal**.... Fasting will show you clearly how to do this...

Fresh Submission

Ruth 3:4 – Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.” (NKJV)

Jewish culture this was a sign of submission... I fully commit my life to you in a fresh way

Faithfully Compliant

Ruth 3:4-5 – Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and **he will tell you what you should do.**”⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.” (NKJV)

Fasting is saying yes to Him...