

21

DAYS

PRAYER AND FASTING

PRAYER GUIDE



**LETCHWORTH
GARDEN CITY
CHURCH**

21 Days Prayer & Fasting

Enlarge Tents | Strengthen Stakes | Lengthen Cords

Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

Isaiah 54:2

On a Sunday morning in 2022 during our 'Teach me how to pray' sermon series I spoke about the life and prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). There was a real sense that as I preached that God wanted to enlarge our borders and as we come into our Centenary year and embark on 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting I sense again the Lord wants to enlarge our borders.

However, there are some requirements for anyone desiring to have their territory enlarged. I have found some specific requirements related to this in Isaiah 54:2.

01 WE MUST REJECT SMALLNESS

Enlargement requires us to get out of our small boxes, our small routines, our small thinking, and our limited view of God. Caleb and Joshua saw a place of enlargement before them, but the rest shrunk back and stayed small. Caleb and Joshua believed it could be done, but the rest said they were afraid to try and remained small-minded.

02 WE MUST MAKE MORE ROOM FOR OTHERS

People will s-t-r-e-t-c-h you! Relationships with people will stretch your nerves, stretch your patience and stretch your prayer life. If you want more, if you're tired of an unfulfilled, unfruitful, barren life, then God is saying "enlarge your stretch". You will not see miracles until you stretch your faith. When God tells you to lengthen your cords, it means lengthen your reach. Wider tents require longer cords to keep them securely held in place.

03 WE MUST GROW DEEP

Once you lengthen the cords you must strengthen the stakes, driving them deeper into the bedrock of God's truth. Life is like a huge tree. The more the branches spread, the deeper the roots must grow.

Over 100 years the Lord has stretched this local church in many ways. The physical place we gather has enlarged again and again and we thank God for the many who now call LGCC their home church. Every time LGCC has gone to another level, God has done it. But God had to take us as a people and put us through the expanding and the stretching, the lengthening, and the strengthening.

As we take these next 21 Days to pray and fast, I believe the Lord will continue to enlarge our borders and there is both reward and wisdom to be found when we tune out the noise of the world and come away to hear God's heart through prayer and fasting. That is when you can hear the simple word that can take you from glory unto glory, from faith unto faith.

Over these 21 Days may He prepare us for all that He wants to do.

Carl

Week One | Enlarge the place of your tent

Sunday 15th - Saturday 21st January

PRAYER FOCUS

This week, we're going to focus on our faith and mindset asking the Lord to expand our view of Him and what we see.

01 SHAKE OFF SMALL MINDSET AND SMALL WAYS

Things may start small, and we must not despise small beginnings (Zechariah 4: 10). But everything is meant to grow – seeds, babies, churches, faith, vision, the Kingdom is advancing, growing. Pray that God will show you small mindsets and ask him to enlarge you spirit and mind to see greater things and especially how the Kingdom in advancing.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end...”
Isaiah 9:7

‘In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever.’ Daniel 2: 44

Prayer of Jabez - O that you would bless me and enlarge my territory...
And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4: 10

02 EXPAND OUR VIEW OF GOD

God is bigger, mightier, more gracious, kinder, more merciful than we can imagine. Meditate on this and let our spirits rise to the challenge of imagining just what amazing things God can do.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3: 20 -21

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.
Jeremiah 32:17

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”
Jeremiah 32: 27

Week One | Enlarge the place of your tent

Sunday 15th - Saturday 21st January

03 GROW FAITH AND VISION

Faith and vision grow as we focus not on our abilities, but on who God is. Let our imaginations soar on the goodness, kindness, mercy, and grace of God and how that will influence our prayers.

“He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”
Matthew 17: 20

“Everything is possible for him who believes. Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’”
Mark 9: 23 - 24

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1: 3

04 PAYING OFF THE CHURCH LOAN

In 2005, the leaders of the church literally expanded the place of our tent by purchasing our current church home. This purchase required great faith and a big financial loan. In our centenary year, we believe its time to clear the loan. Spend time giving thanks for our church building, the people who find Jesus there and for the way it serves our community. Allow God to stir your faith to clear the financial loan.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7: 6 –7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 11

Week Two | Lengthen your cords

Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th January

PRAYER FOCUS

This week, we're going to focus on others that the Lord wants us to reach with the good news of the gospel.

01 MAKING ROOM FOR OTHERS

God calls us to walk in unity and love, not considering ourselves better than others but making every effort to serve others. God will give us grace for the people and situations we find difficult if we ask Him. During this week, let's make space and time to ask God to lengthen our cords and make room for others in our lives.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2: 3 – 4

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4: 2 – 3

"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
John 15: 12 – 13

02 ENLARGE OUR WORLD

God is a big God and He desire us to live in an enlarged life that blesses and influences others. As God has brought change and transformation to our lives may we be conduits for change and transformation in the lives of others by the power of the Holy Spirit at work. Pray that God will help us see beyond our own world and desire to be involved in what God is doing elsewhere.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1: 8

Pray for those suffering for their faith that they will be strengthened and stand firm.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."
Ephesians 6: 19 – 20

Week Two | Lengthen your cords

Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th January

03 MISSION FOCUS

The Church was never intended to be small and local but to have a mindset that looked outwards, beyond its own natural and local borders. The early church didn't settle in Jerusalem, it stretched, expanded and intentionally went to new places in order to share the good news of Jesus and make a difference.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28: 19 – 20

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1: 8

04 COMMUNITY IMPACT

God has given us purpose and part of that purpose is to make a difference both individually and corporately as a church. Let's pray that as both individual Christians and as a church we will make a difference to our communities. Pray for our community outreaches such as Letchworth Foodbank, Uniform Bank, Community Café, Adventure Tots as well as other projects we're part of and support like Make Lunch, Choice Pregnancy, Phase Trust and others.

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2: 47

“A whole village was saved because of the Samaritan woman's testimony” John 4: 39 – 42.

Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. Romans 15: 2

05 STRETCH US

We must guard ourselves against becoming too comfortable in our faith and plodding along. It's a dangerous and bold prayer to ask God to stretch us but an important and valuable prayer as we allow the Lord to expand our hearts for others, for those He loves and sent His son, Jesus. Let's pray that we will have greater boldness to declare the Gospel and greater faith that God will move in our midst.

Week Two | Lengthen your cords

Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th January

“... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4: 29 – 30

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1: 8

Week Three | Strengthen your stakes

Sunday 29th - Saturday 4th February

PRAYER FOCUS

This week, we're going to focus on our discipleship journey and how we grow in our daily walk with Jesus.

01 Strong, resilient disciples of Jesus

To be effective, we need to ensure that our own faith in Jesus is strong and resilient. More than ever, we need strong and resilient disciples of Jesus who stand first, stand strong and know the Lord has called them to be overcomers. God has given us everything we need to be strong.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”. Ephesians 6: 10

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.” Romans 15: 1

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

1 John 5: 4 – 5

02 DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD

There are two patterns: the pattern of this world and the pattern of the Kingdom of God and we have to make a choice which pattern we will choose to live by. In 2023 we believe God wants to strengthen the stakes but it requires us to make a choice today how we will live and what pattern will influence us.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” Romans 12: 2

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:7-8

Week Three | Strengthen your stakes

Sunday 29th - Saturday 4th February

03 DEEP ROOTS IN GOD

A healthy tree has deep roots, and our desire is to grow healthy disciples with deep roots in the Lord. As we develop deep roots, we receive all the nutrients we need to thrive in our spiritual journey with the Lord. We grow deep roots when we keep our eyes on Jesus and are thankful.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught... Colossians 1: 7

04 STRONG ON GODS WORD

There is a powerful key we have in order for us to hold onto the promises of God — believe God's word and stand on it. There are so many promises God has declared over our lives, the problem is that we forget that God is bound by His word. Whatever He has said in His word, He cannot go back on. In order to know God's promises, we need to know the word of God and stand in it. When we stand on the word of God, we must: believe, confess and declare it. There is no substitute for reading, meditating, and memorizing the Bible.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and will He not make it good and fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19 Amplified Bible Version)

"So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11 Amplified Bible Version)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" Colossians 3: 16

"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." Hebrews 4: 12

