

[HOW TO GET STARTED ON YOUR FAST]

Having a successful fast starts with the right preparation. It is important to choose ahead of time what type of fast, or what combination you will pursue. Not only will this help with making the necessary preparations to implement your plan, but as you commit to a specific fast ahead of time and know how you're going to do it, you will position yourself to finish strong.

Here are a few Easy Steps to Get Started:

1) Set Your Objective

Begin by deciding why you are fasting. Is it for spiritual renewal, for healing, for wisdom in a particular area, or the resolution of a specific issue? Pick the top 1-3 prayer requests or things you would like to seek God on. Don't overwhelm yourself and make a laundry list of items. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead in deciding and clarifying your goals for fasting.

2) Choose Your Plan

We are all at different places in our walk with God. Likewise our jobs, daily schedules, and health conditions are all different and place various levels of demand on our energy. So most importantly, whether you've fasted before, or this will be your first time, prayerfully consider what your fast will look like. Your personal fast should have a high level of challenge to it, but it's very important to know your own body, know your options, and most importantly, seek God in prayer and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do. Remember, the goal of fasting is not just to do without food. The goal is draw nearer to God.

3) Choose Your Fasting Schedule

You may choose to fast all or several days of the 21 days, such as, 3 or 4 days a week or specifically on Sundays and Wednesdays. Maybe you will do that, and end with 3 to 7 consecutive days at the end. This is your personal decision, and again should be prayerfully considered as it applies to your circumstances. Just plan ahead.

4) Begin and Break the Fast Well

Depending on the type of fast you choose, it is very important to prepare your body ahead of time before beginning the fast. Take a week or so to transition into your fast; otherwise, you could get sick. For example, if you would like to go on fruits and vegetables or juice fast, start eliminating meat, white grains, and refined sugars from

your diet the week before. Also start to cut back quite a bit on dairy products and some of your caffeine intake.

This same principle applies to breaking your fast. When your fast is over, add foods back very gradually. Your body will be so cleansed and detoxified. You will most likely get sick if you add too much rich foods, etc. all at once.

There are also several websites and books that offer additional resources for spiritual growth, recipes and nutritional information to help you along the way. Here are a few that we recommend.

Websites for Fasting Info

DanielPlan.com

RebootwithJoe.com

Juicerecipes.com

All-about-juicing.com

JuicingwithG.com

Books for Spiritual Growth:

If you would like to grow in your understanding of how spiritual disciplines like fasting and prayer can help you grow spiritually, check out the following resources:

Beginner

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People by John Ortberg ([Purchase here](#))

Intermediate

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth by Richard Foster ([Purchase here](#))

Advanced

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives by Dallas Willard ([Purchase here](#))

Most Practical

Fasting: Opening the Door to a Deeper, More intimate, More Powerful Relationship with God by Jentezen Franklin ([Purchase here](#))

*** *Important Note: Fasting requires reasonable precautions. If you have any health concerns, please consult your physician prior to beginning your fast, especially if you are taking medications, have a chronic condition or are pregnant or nursing a baby.*