

A Call To Fast Today

by Malachi O'Brien

This sermon emphasizes the importance of hunger for God's presence through fasting, highlighting the need to carry the cross to carry God's glory. It stresses the significance of humility, willingness to be humiliated, and rejection of worldly desires in exchange for God's presence. The speaker encourages a hunger for God's glory above all else, emphasizing the power of fasting in deepening spiritual experiences and prayers.

Scripture: Matthew 6:16, Luke 9:23, 1 Corinthians 1:18, James 4:10, Psalm 42:1

Topics: "Hunger for God's Presence", "The Power of Fasting"

Description

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Transcript

Hey guys, happy Tuesday night, thought I would come to you tonight, I don't normally do a ton of lives, I should start doing some more here and probably YouTube, but wanted to take a quick moment and just kind of share briefly a little bit of what I shared last night at the Deliverance Conference, but just to share with you that we've been given a gift. We have been given an incredible gift, and that's the gift of fasting, which leads us into hunger, and hunger is an escort to the deeper things of God. David, good to see you.

Last night we were at the National Deliverance Conference and we saw, I promise you guys this, we saw thousands of people, 5,000 people under the main tent, DR Harrison, so good to see you bro. Man, DR, wasn't last night absolutely amazing. We saw people get out of wheelchairs, we saw people get out of wheelchairs, we saw people get rid of crutches, we saw people get rid of their addictions, we saw people, you know, be set free and saved, I mean we saw people hungry for Jesus Christ, there's nothing else worth being hungry for if we're just being honest, and so it was absolutely an encounter in the manifest presence of God, but it doesn't end just in one night.

We carry the presence of God with us, okay? We have to carry the glory, but you don't carry the glory any way that you want. You cannot do that. The reason why the ark of God, why God killed Uzzah, because he tried to stop the ark of God from touching the ground, was not because he tried to stop the ark.

It was because, it was simply because this, the ark had to be carried on these poles, these wooden poles that crossed each other, because the glory of God always has to be carried by people that carry the cross. You can't carry God's glory if you don't carry the cross, and you don't carry the cross if you don't, if you're not concerned at all with the death, the burial, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the average Christian alive knows very little about the crucified lamb or the risen Savior, because they're enamored with 25 other thousand things. And so, the Lord is raising up a remnant on the earth, a hungry remnant that does not want food, not that food is bad, doesn't care about sleep, although sleep's not bad, doesn't care about status, doesn't care about fame or celebrityism or success.

God is raising up a remnant of people like DR, okay? Like others of you right now on this live stream, that want God's glory more than you want to live. I promise you, deep in the heart of every single pastor is a hunger for the manifest presence of God in their ministry. In their ministry, they're starving for it, they're hungry for it, they're desperate for it.

We were made for the glory of God. It's the only thing that'll fulfill us. The only thing that'll fulfill us.

Why are we settling for the crumbs of yesteryear's revival glory, when we can have it now? Because Jesus is alive now. Jesus is the glory of God. And so, that being said, I just want to encourage you guys that we've been given an incredible gift and it's the gift of hunger.

Hunger is an escort to the deeper things of God, and if you want more of God in your life, I'm going to encourage you to consider, to consider going on a fast. I'm going to ask you to consider, for one meal, or one day, or one week, to consider saying no to food, in order to say yes to God. Now, there's a lot of ways to fast, and I can share more about those later on, but I am telling you, there is levels of the glory of God you will not experience unless you fast and pray.

Fasting is like nitroglycerin to your prayers. It becomes a hydrogen bomb, it becomes like an atomic bomb to your prayers. And so, I want to encourage you, DR, it's so good to see you, Joshua, good to see you.

I want to encourage you guys to just ask God to give you a hunger for His presence more than the presence of people. A hunger for Him more than a hunger to be on a stage, a hunger to be in a secret prayer closet more than it is to have an amazing Facebook live, whatever that really is. I want you, I want me, and I want me, and I want anything else, to be marked by the presence of God.

Nothing else matters. Nothing else matters. How do we get marked by the presence of God? We carry the cross.

Like that's our uniform. The cross. And if you're going to carry the cross, it demands humility.

It demands humiliation. If you want to carry God's glory, you will be, you will, there will be parts of your life that others might find embarrassing. You believe that? You actually think God can do that? What about that? You know? If you want to carry the, I mean, listen, I believe that the Holy Spirit can do anything He wants to do.

I believe in the power of tongues, I believe in the power of healing, I believe in dreams and visions, and I believe the greatest miracle of them all is somebody getting saved. Greater than the people that got out of the wheelchairs last night, it's somebody getting saved. Because now they're walking in the Spirit, they're walking in Jesus Christ.

And so if you want to carry the glory of God, you're going to have to be, to walk in humility and be willing to be humiliated, and willing to be rejected, and willing to be, you know, seen as weak, and seen as, like, the cross is not, like, in modern church today, not seen as the greatest thing that we can do in order to attract people. But it's the only thing that truly attracts people. It's the only thing.

The cross. The cross, okay? And so, don't be like Uzzah and try to, you don't just nonchalantly carry the glory. I think it creates a sense of reverence and a sense of sacredness to God that I think is sometimes lost, if I'm just being honest with you.

Then when we go into the sanctuary, we go in with an expectation, He's going to meet with us. He's going to meet with us. And I'm going to meet with Him.

And we've got to sense, because I want the Holy Spirit on my life. And I know you do too. I know all of you do.

I know DR does. I know Joshua. You know you do.

I know our ministries mean nothing without the glory of God. The glory's not to make us famous. It's not to help us publish books or do videos.

None of those things are bad. I'm convinced a lot of pastors would be willing to settle without, to settle with a ministry that doesn't have the glory of God if they had a thousand people on Sunday. Or two thousand people on Sunday.

Or ten thousand people. How many people would be enough, right? Is it forty-four thousand, eight hundred and sixty-two? I mean, there is no single number that will ever satisfy you as a pastor, that will ever fulfill you as a pastor. There is not a number that you can give me right now that will satisfy you.

Because the moment you hit that number, you'll see somebody else has a greater number. I mean, I think if there was anything that could be put on a ship and sent to, like, to Hades, it would be every church growth book ever written. Alright? We don't need those.

It would be every marketing strategy, you know, move where the city's moving. How about move where God's moving? How about move where God's moving? Alright? I think every, you know, I mean, the church needs less carnivals and more prayer meetings. I mean, the church needs less youth areas that look like Disney World South and more youth areas that look like a Revival generation, a Jesus Revolution generation on their face before God.

Like, we're in the day in human history that we need deliverance. Yes, people need their demons cast out of them, okay? They need that. Tony.

Um, we need, yeah, you're right, we need to get rid of the gimmicks, without a doubt. We need, we need an army of Annas and Mary of Bethany's to rise up on the earth and say, you know what? Extravagant worship. Extravagant worship.

You know, there is part of, there is a part of God that you will not get with a 15 minute devotional in the morning. There's a part of God you will not get with just drive time, drive to work prayer, and I am for those things. There's going to come a moment when you're going to need to get alone in the woods, and uh, you know, staying up all night, hey, Tony, I stayed up all night, um, and I was a zombie.

I didn't feel anything when we were done that morning, but when I woke up, I sensed the glory of God. I did. I sensed it.

Um, you know, we're going to have to get to a point where it's just, it's now or never. I believe deliverance ministry is going to spread across the nations of the earth, and I believe the people that will hate it the most are the religious people. Now let me say two things here, and I will finish this up, so listen to what I'm about to tell you.

These are two very controversial things that I believe with all of my heart. Number one, the powerless gospel has done more damage than the prosperity gospel ever has or ever will do. Let me say that again.

The powerless gospel has done more damage than the prosperity gospel ever has. All right. Theology is not simply to be known.

It's to be experienced and it's to be applied. It's to be experienced and be applied. Okay.

The second controversial statement I'll say, and I said this last night in the camera was strange fire is not any sort of weird, eccentric things done in the name of the spirit that, you know, that you're just not quite sure of. Now there's, trust me, there's some things done in the name of the spirit that's more like Star Wars than it is the spirit. I get that, but let me tell you this, strange fire, biblically, biblically, biblically is fake intimacy.

It's fake intimacy. That's what it is. It's pretending to have a, have to have a real heart for God and not have it.

Judas offered fake intimacy. Judas offered strange fire. All right, um, Tony, I'm encouraged by you.

So I am here to tell you that, that I'm on your guys' team to pray for you, to encourage you, to lift you up, DR and everybody else and Joshua and my friends here. Like revival is family, deliverance is family because the glory of God is what unites us. And when you get in that, it doesn't matter who's on the stage.

If Jesus is on the stage, I've been in moments where the glory of God is like what we experienced last night into the tent. And I've been in the glory of God like I was at a meeting last year with Benny Hinn and Michael Koulianos and, and, and a bunch of worship leaders and a church in Florida for a pastor's conference. And we couldn't sing for 30 minutes.

We were weeping in the glory of God for 30 minutes. We couldn't, we couldn't even, there was just weeping going on because God's presence filled the house. So I'm here to tell you, live for his glory, live for his glory, love his glory.

All right. Hope this encourages you. I'm grateful for each and every one of you.

Go on a fast, say, God, show me your glory. Make that the desire of your fast. God show me your glory.

Show me your glory. And I promise you, he will. All right.

That being said, I love you guys. I will, I will start doing more of these live videos to offer some tips on fasting. I'm on day 14 right now of a liquid fast that'll probably come to an end soon.

But I just want God, that's it, that's it. I don't care about a big ministry. I don't care about a name.

I don't care about any of that. None of those things are bad and of himself, unless they become the idol, which I see and I want it. So I'll leave you with this.

I've got a book in my truck here. It's the biography of Leonard Ravenhill, Leonard Ravenhill. You want to be stirred, read the biography of Leonard Ravenhill, who spent nights upon nights upon nights upon nights in prayer.

And they asked, Leonard Ravenhill said this, if he had one regret in his life, this is what he said. Within the final year of his life, he said his biggest regret was he did not spend more time in prayer. What about Leonard Ravenhill who spent countless nights in prayer? He said, I would have spent more time in prayer.

So if he says that, then what about us? What about us? More time in his presence. Oh man, I can't say that enough. And you don't go into his presence with pride.

You go there with humility, hunger, holiness, hope. That's what takes us into his presence and we carry it because we carry the cross. You can't carry God's glory unless you carry a cross and when you carry a cross, you realize you're carrying the cross because of the one who died on the cross, Jesus, all right? I love you guys.

If I can help you in any way, reach out. I'm going to try to do more of these just to be a blessing and encouragement, but I'm honored to be your friend. I'm honored to serve Jesus with you.

We're in this together, all right? Revival is family. Take care and God bless.

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