We Have Before Us an Unique Opportunity

Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you (Lev. 26:8)

What we are about to do together, has profound practical and spiritual implications on personal, marital, family, church and international levels. We are about to experience the power and simplicity of doing exactly what Christ told us to do as His disciples.

The church exists to "make disciples of all nations" with and under the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). Simply said, a disciple engages in three activities that are rooted in a heart of love. A disciple gives anonymously, prays anonymously and fasts anonymously (Matt.6:1-18). We have given to one another in many ways, let us now go deep in prayer and fasting.

Let us silence the voices of the world and be still. Let us purge ourselves of toxins and toxic thinking. Let us seize the sabbath rest for our bodies and souls as we center into Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we fast and pray our perspectives will shift and become more divine and clear. As we fast and pray our hunger for scripture will increase. We will mature. We will learn. We will be still and know in a new way that He is God. The greatest goal of a fast is not the destination but the journey. Embrace the process and expect opposition. Those who fast and pray in earnest walk in effectiveness and authority.

Somewhere in your life is a closet, a prayer closet, calling you to enter anew and shut the door only to be embraced, encouraged and equipped to be who you are divinely called to be. Let us be that person first. Our ministries will soon follow. During the next seven days we will be the church in action. Heaven will take notice of our selflessness and desire for more of the Person and fruit of the Spirit. Let's make a move as individuals that is also a collaborative initiative among ministries profoundly building the kingdom of God among unreached peoples all over the world. You will be fasting and praying for persecuted believers, zealous believers and lukewarm believers. Whatever the case, pray!

You may not be able to see it, but there is a ceiling on your personal life and ministry. Whether you realize it or not, you put it there through action or inaction. This week that ceiling gets moved. Some limitations continue to exist only through an absence of prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29).

I have invited you to join in this sacred time of fasting for one reason. Synergistic power to build the kingdom is available to those who think synergistically. Separate we can do well. Together we can build the kingdom exponentially. Not because I say so but because the Lord says so. *Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you* (Lev. 26:8). Let us

soberly seize this opportunity to enter our prayer closets afresh and anew for His glory.

Prayer: Lord, find us "close" in the closet this week. Raise our thinking, raise our faith and raise our desire for you and your kingdom. Amen.

Dr. Gary Hewins is the Pastor of Community Bible Church/ Highlands, NC.