



Siloam Baptist Church

PROVERBS 3:5-6

PASTORAL TRANSITION

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

**Sunday, February 12 to
Saturday, March 4
2023**

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Siloam Baptist Church
Pastoral Transition
21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Guide

Dear Siloam Baptist Church family,

Thank you for your willingness to commit to pray with us for the future of Siloam and the search for our new pastor. We give thanks to God for the past 29 years of faithful, dedicated leadership of our pastor, Rev. John H. West, III. His love for God and ministry of prayer has been a true blessing to Siloam and the greater Norristown community. Let us continue to pray for Pastor West, Sister West, and Sister Candace as we go through this time of transition.

We have the honor to come before God to seek His will and ask for His wisdom. We ask you, the congregation to utilize this prayer guide to pray for our search committee, our church family, and the future pastor of Siloam Baptist Church.

The purpose of our ***21 Days of Prayer and Fasting*** is to ask God to build church unity, and grant us a clear knowledge of His will for our church and our future pastor. We thank you for your support and your prayers as we seek wisdom and discernment.

In Christ Name,

SBC Deacon's Ministry

Purpose

During the ***next twenty-one days***, let us join in prayer, fasting and the study of God's word to seek God's will for Siloam Baptist Church.

1. **Prayer and fasting for our search committee.**
2. **Prayer and fasting for our next pastor.**
3. **Prayer and fasting for the pastor's family.**
4. **Prayer and fasting for Siloam Baptist Church.**

We know that God answers prayer. We have experienced God's grace and His mercy in our personal lives, our families and throughout the rich history of Siloam Baptist Church. In John's letter, we read "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

We know also that God has provided scripture to guide and develop us. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, it states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction , and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. "(2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV) Paul informs us in Romans 15:4 that we can find hope in the God's word.

Let us encourage one another over the next 21 days to pray to God, read His holy word and with confidence and hope, listen for His still quiet voice.

21 Day Prayer Focus

Day 1 - Psalm 66:18-19, John 15:5, Ephesians 5:18 — Pray for deep spiritual cleansing and fullness of the Holy Spirit in each selected search committee member. Colossians 1:9 — Pray for God to fill the committee with knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and for strength.

Day 2 - Amos 3:3, Matthew 18:19, Ephesians 4:2-3 — Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the committee. Isaiah 55:8-9 — Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined, and interviews conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.

Day 3 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 — Pray for the Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor. Spirit-led thoroughness is essential. - James 1:5-6 — Pray for the committee to have wisdom and discernment as to the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our church in a pastor.

Day 4 - Ephesians 5:17 — Pray for the committee to have no timetable but God's. They must be determined to find God's perfect will in God's perfect time. Ephesians 6:10-12 — Pray for the prevention of Satan's influence in misleading or rushing the search committee (one of Satan's tactics is deception). Pray for a powerful hedge of protection around the committee and their families.

Day 5 - 1 Corinthians 1:10, Acts 2:1 — Pray for God's guidance in how the future pastor is presented to the church. Pray that there would be no division among the committee or the congregation – only unity. Philippians 2:3-11 — Pray that the committee will seek God's will for the church above their own desires.

Day 6 - Jeremiah 29:13, James 4:8 — Pray that the pastoral search period will be a time in which the church learns to seek God Himself more than a new pastor. "Lord, teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the church and not in man."

Day 7 - Psalm 139:23-24 — Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal. “Father, please cause this to be a time of deep cleansing and renewal in our church. May we always be the church You have called us to be. It is all about You and not us.”

Day 8 - Revelation 2:1-4, Revelation 3:15 — Pray for strong consistency and focus on the present ministry of the church. “Please grant great power to our guest pastors and to our staff. Protect us from any spirit of being lukewarm or losing our first love. Protect us from the evil one and remind us that we serve Jesus, not a pastor.”

Day 9 - John 13:34, John 17:21 — Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all members of the church. “Help us surrender all bitterness, division, and anger within our church family. Lord, empower us to love one another with a patient, forgiving love.”

Day 10 - 1 Corinthians 1:10 — Pray for great unity in calling the new pastor. “Lord, help us to receive him and his family with deep love and renewed commitment. Grant us a powerful sense of revival and spiritual awakening as we move into the future.” Pray for grace, guidance, and strength for the church from which our new pastor comes.

Day 11 - Ephesians 4:1-6 — Pray that we be prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. “Lord, we understand that a new pastor always means change. Help us to be prepared to change, love and grow with graciousness and unity so we can be the church You have called us to be.”

Day 12 - Hebrews 6:12 — Pray that we will patiently await God’s timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. Ask God for His mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader.

Day 13 - Philippians 2:3-11 — Pray that all the church members will set aside individual expectations for the new pastor and decide in unity who God is calling to lead Siloam Baptist Church to be the church God has called us to be.

Day 14 - Isaiah 42:9 — Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their previous pastor. Others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God's doing a new thing in the congregation and accept His perfect will above our own desires.

Day 15 - 2 Timothy 4:1-5 — Pray that God would increase our next pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and he would boldly proclaim the truth. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church.

Day 16 - Philippians 1:3-11 — Pray that God would give our next pastor a love for our church and strength to leave his current position. Pray that God would make His will known to him and his family. Luke 12:22-31 — Pray that the new pastor and his family will be able to smoothly transition to our church. This would include the needs of his wife and children in making new friends. Also involved would be physical needs such as housing, schooling, etc. that must be settled upon moving to a new area. Pray that they will feel they have always been with us.

Day 17 - Colossians 1:9-12 — Pray for our next pastor's family. Pray that God, who knows who they are, would strengthen and guide the new pastor's family as they are led toward ministry at Siloam Baptist Church. Give them peace in knowing God's will.

Day 18 - Romans 12:9-13 — Pray that God would prepare our pastor to always have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in his ministry. Pray for God's strength in his weakness and may he be faithful in prayer.

Day 19 - Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 6:16 — Pray for the future pastor and his family to have absolute certainty in their sense of call to our church. He must know God's direction. Pray also for protection from the evil one him and his family.

Day 20 - Amos 4:13 — Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Siloam Baptist Church and the surrounding community. Psalm 133 — Pray that the new pastor would be able to work effectively with the church staff, ministers, and deacons/deaconesses that are already serving at Siloam Baptist Church.

Day 21 - Colossians 3:12-17 — Above all, pray that God's will would be done through the entire process of finding a new pastor for Siloam Baptist Church. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give everyone involved in this process peace, wisdom and love. Pray that God will show us whom He is calling to Siloam Baptist Church.

*Please continue to pray after the 21-day devotion is finished by starting again at the beginning of the prayer guide until we have heard the voice of God.

Additional Prayer Focus: Joshua 1:8-9 — Pray that God would protect the new pastor's heart as he prepares to leave his current ministry and move to a new ministry. Pray that the stresses of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships, etc. would not interfere with his need to continually develop his relationship with God. Pray that God would give him and his family peace knowing they are in God's will.

PRAYER AND FASTING GUIDELINES

1. Scripture References for Fasting

Matt. 6:16-18, Matt. 9:14-15, Luke 18:9-14, 1 Sam. 7:5-6, Ezra 8:21-23, Neh. 9:1-3, Joel 2:15-16, Jonah 3:5-10, Acts 27:33-37.

2. Start Where You Are

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 demands on our energy. Whether you've fasted before, or this is your first time the most important thing is to start where you are. Your personal fast should present a degree of challenge 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 go without food, but to draw nearer to God.**

3. Choose Your Type of Fast

While preparing for your fast, it is important to choose ahead of time what type or combination of fasting you will pursue. This will help you position yourself to finish strong. As you prepare to fast, it is important to choose a fasting plan that works for you. While this section provides some general information about different types of fasts, as well as some suggestions on how to create your own fasting plan, it is important to mention that there is nothing more inherently spiritual about one type of fast as opposed to another. These are simply guidelines and suggestions on different things you can do.

****Do not let what you eat or do not eat become your focus, but focus on drawing closer to God. Remember, this is a time to disconnect enough from your regular patterns and habits to connect more closely to God.**

a. Specific Food Fast

In this type of fast you omit a specific item(s) from your meal plans. For example, you may choose to eliminate all red meat, processed or fast foods, or sweets. Most people can incorporate this type of fast relatively easily. It can also be a great solution for people with specific dietary needs or medical conditions that create certain limitations.

b. Daniel Fast

The foundation of the Daniel fast is fruits and vegetables. Some starchy vegetables and dairy could be included, depending on the individual. The Daniel fast is a

great model and can be extremely effective for spiritual focus, bodily discipline, and purification of the body and soul. In the book of Daniel we find two different times where the prophet Daniel fasted. In Daniel 1:12 he only ate vegetables and water and in Daniel 10, while the passage does not give a specific list of foods that Daniel ate, it does state that he ate no rich (or choice) foods, as well as no meat or wine. Based on these two verses we can see that either type of fast or a combination of the two constitutes a Daniel fast.

c. Juice Fast

A juice fast is simply consuming vegetable and fruit juices and water instead of solid food. Many people include whey protein in their liquid plan as well. This is one of the most popular and effective fasts. Even if you choose not to make your entire fast liquids-only, substituting one or two meals for liquids is a great alternative.

d. Water Fast

A water-only fast is the normal fast referred to in the Bible. This is how Jesus and the New Testament church fasted. A water fast requires that no food or drink other than water is consumed. Periodic water fasts can be very beneficial, but extreme precautions should be taken. For some people it is hard to perform effectively at their jobs and have energy for their families while drinking only water. We recommend consulting your physician first and water fasting only for a day or two unless you can get away or your job allows you to really disconnect so you can give your best energy to the fast. Remember, when Jesus went on His forty-day fast He went by Himself out into the wilderness. Having said all that there are some people who can water fast and work and function well without much fatigue. You are blessed if you are one of these people.

e. Media Fast

While fasting typically refers to refraining from specific food items you may also find it extremely beneficial to fast from a regular activity or habit. This might include things such as television, social media, and the like. Prayer and fasting are not just about connecting to God but also about disconnecting from the world. Try to tune out some of the regular distractions of your day as much as possible. Replace that time with things that will nourish you spiritually.

f. Total Fast

A total fast is where nothing (liquid, solid food, or water) is consumed for a very short period. There are examples of this type of fast in the Bible. It was an Old Covenant type of fast associated with mourning, such as after the death of

David and Bathsheba's baby. After that sad event David engaged in a total fast for a week (2 Samuel 12). Under the New Covenant we do not fast to mourn or to seek forgiveness. God has already forgiven us and we are commanded to celebrate Jesus because He is alive. Plus, complete abstinence of food and water can be very dangerous to our health. Attempting to go without water for any period of time can be extremely harmful to the body.

4. Start and End 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 do a fruits and vegetables or juice fast start eliminating meat, white grains, and refined sugars from your diet the week before. Also cut back on your dairy and caffeine intake. The same principle applies to breaking your fast. When your fast is over add foods back in very gradually and don't break your fast with a greasy cheeseburger! Because your body is cleansed and detoxified you will most likely get sick if you do that. There are also several supplements that can help support the detox process during your fast. Ask your health food store for recommendations.

5. How to get the most out of your devotional time with God:

- Take time to worship your Heavenly Father and give thanks and praise for who He is and all that He has done and is going to do in your life and the lives of others.
- Read and meditate on God's word (as above).
- Bring your prayers and petitions to your Heavenly Father. He may lay people on your heart that are not on your list. Pray for them when the Holy Spirit quickens you.
- Pray in your heavenly prayer language because this is when the Holy Spirit can pray on your behalf.
- Talk to God and take time to listen. He wants to give you wisdom, knowledge, revelation and the power to overcome the enemy.
- Keep a journal during your prayer times. It will encourage you when you look back and see what God is doing and has done in your life.

Let the enemy be defeated through your complete surrender to God through His Son Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Allow God to move in and through you! Don't give up and expect great things!

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