

DAY 4: THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

LET ME BE PUT TO WORK FOR YOU OR SET ASIDE FOR YOU

I've long had a love/hate relationship with work. I love work! I do it too much, though. I need more sabbath in my weeks. Seasons of fasting help solve this problem. Jesus said in Matthew 6:18: "When you fast..." His expectation is that his followers fast! And pray!

When I fast, I have to set work aside and focus on God. In longer fasts of three to five days, I have to really slow down. Resting before the Lord becomes delight and yet purposeful. And the closer I get to that inner sanctuary in communion with Him, the less I want to leave. Fasting is being set aside for God.

But I've also had seasons in my life where I so desperately wanted to be employed for God, but was seemingly set aside. In Wesley's Covenant Prayer, he reminds us there are seasons for both. Working for God is meaningful, invigorating, purposeful! Could being set aside possibly garner the same results?

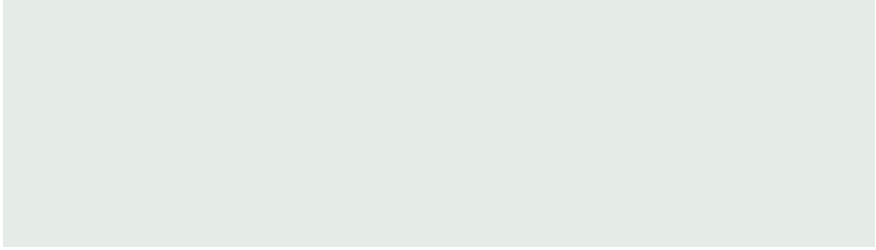
Now that I can look back at those set-aside seasons, I realize they had great purpose in my life. During those times, I grew closer to Jesus, I grew a greater understanding of my calling. I recognized weaknesses and even sins that I had to shore up before God could more fully use me. The set-aside chapters of our lives are for a reason, for a purpose! God is working! And if we willingly say "yes" in whichever season we find ourselves in, God can work with that!

As we fast and pray today, consider yourself set aside for His glory so we can continue to Awaken the Church to Awaken the world.

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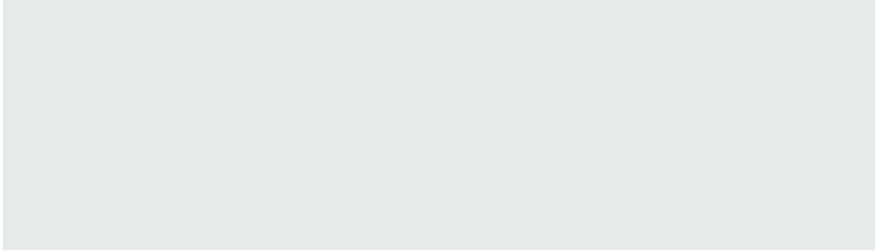
PAUSE

Can you remember a set-aside season in your life? How did God use it to grow or deepen you? Do you need to plan a season to step back, reflect, reconnect? How can this 10-day fast be that for you?



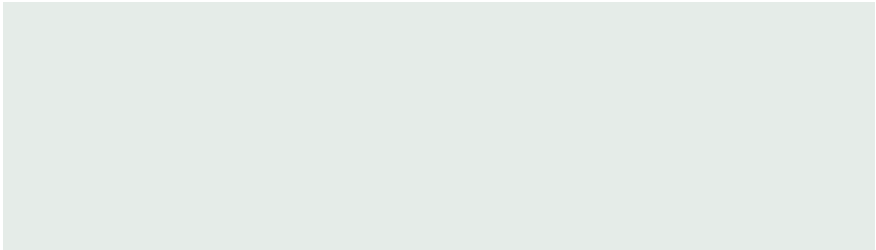
REJOICE

Thank God for calling you into working/serving Him. Thank Him for those set-side times, too. What value came from those?



ASK

Is there a place or ministry God is calling you to work/serve in that you have been resisting? Ask God to show you if you need a season of rest. If so, how, when and where?



YIELD

Write a prayer thanking God for your seasons of employment for Him and the seasons of waiting on Him. Let your prayer include yielding right now to his wishes, whatever they are and however they unfold in your life. Additional Prayer Pages start on page 26.