

## CLASS 8

# Using the Tools of a Leader: Prayer and Fasting

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### **CLASS OVERVIEW**

In this class we will review:

- The critical need for a very regular schedule of prayer and fasting.
- The importance of being "ready" with a thorough and sound answer and/or the ability to identify the appropriate answer.
- Characteristics and actions of leaders who fail to use these spiritual tools regularly.

### **Opening Group Questions:**

- What can godly leaders do to help ensure they remain strong spiritual instruments in God's hands?
- What can you do as a leader, to grow into a more powerful instrument of God?

## **I. Introduction**

In Romans 6:12-14, Paul admonishes us *not* to present ourselves as instruments/weapons of unrighteousness to sin, but to present ourselves as instruments/weapons of righteousness to God. As we live, immersed in many ways in a world ruled by Satan the Devil (John 12:31; 2 Cor 4:4), we need God's constant help to remain "unspotted" from the world (James 1:27).

***Prayer, Bible study, meditation and fasting are four tools that God gave us in order to draw closer to Him and become more effective tools in His hands. In this class we will focus on prayer and fasting. Bible study and meditation will be covered in detail in the next class.***

James 1:16-17—Do NOT be deceived. Every good and perfect gift comes from God! (Never of ourselves.)

Eph 6:10-20—Put on the armor of God.

Psalms 73:27-28—"...those who are far from You shall perish... but it is good for me to draw near to God."

Matt 17:21—This kind [of demon] goes out ONLY with prayer and fasting.

Phil 4:13—I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Psalms 18:1—David knew that God was his strength.

We MUST draw close to God to be successful leaders in His Church. Without a close relationship with God, we CANNOT successfully lead for long.

***Regular*** prayer, Bible study, meditation and fasting are *the* primary tools of godly leaders.