

I Believe in Prayer & Fasting

(Pastor Stephen Sneed)

In 2015 our church joined in the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. During that time we saw some people saved. We experienced a little church growth. God also healed a couple of individuals in our church during that time.

In February of 2015 after the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting had ended I began to ask God what He wanted us to do next. During my time of prayer I heard the Lord say "Keep doing what you've been doing and I will keep doing what I have been doing." I began to seek the Lord for a course of action. The Lord directed me to divide each month into ten sets of three days each. Then He told me to ask the congregation to sign up for a three day period to Fast & Pray. I introduced this plan to the congregation the last week of February and we set our kickoff for March 1st. The congregation immediately got on board and now this has become a regular part of our ministry vision.

The result of implementing Prayer and Fasting as a discipline in the lives of our church family has been amazing. God has worked in the individual lives of our people as well as the corporate body. Here are just a few of the things that God did for some individuals as a result of Prayer and Fasting. We have a baby in our church that was born with a hole in her heart. The doctors said that the size of the hole would require surgery and would not close on its own. We began to Pray and Fast for this baby. In just a few weeks we got word that the hole was closing on its own. Now, Praise the Lord, the hole is closed and there is no need for surgery. There was one individual who was told by the doctors that they had cancer and that the prognosis was not good. We began to Pray and Fast for them. They had to have surgery but the surgery revealed very little cancer and they were able to get it all during the surgery. There was an individual who had a very bad addiction. It was about to completely ruin their lives. Through Prayer and Fasting they are now delivered and God is putting all the pieces back together.

On a corporate level God has bless the church in incredible ways. As we prayed for our church we asked God for Spiritual Growth, Numerical Growth, and Financial Growth. As a result we have seen the church grow in the Lord in a number of ways. There is a great desire for the Word and for Prayer. New ministries have been started as people begin to step into the plan the God has for their lives. In 2014 our normal Sunday attendance was running from the 60's to low 80's. Now we have grown and our normal attendance is mid 80's to low 100's. In 2013 and 2014 our annual tithes was below &100,000 each year. In 2015 our tithes topped \$114,000. From 2014 to 2015 we saw a tithe increase of \$26,000.

I have been asked many times what is God doing in your church. Over and over again I have been able to share the amazing things the Lord has done. Then I am asked what I think has been the contributing factor to what God has been doing. My answer is always the same. It is because of Prayer and Fasting! I look forward to see what God does in 2016!

By Pastor Stephen Sneed