

FASTING FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY

“THE CALL TO FAST”

**JOEL 1:14; 2:12-13
FBBC
DEC. 10, 2014**

THE CALL TO FAST

INTRODUCTION

In the book of Joel, “the call to fast” was a call to cry to God. Cry to God for mercy and deliverance from His Judgment. Divine Judgment had been pronounced on the sins of Israel against God and men. Sanctify a fast. Set apart a period of time for sacred use. Voluntarily abstain from eating, drinking, pleasures, other activities and/or involvements for Spiritual Purposes.

Divine Judgment was brought about because of the sin of backsliding on the part of the people of God. Backsliding refers to departing from God in heart. It is to go off from obedience to God’s Word. It is to draw back and away from the righteousness, holiness and sincere Worship of God. The consequence was the Punishment of God on the nation and the people.

I THE SIN OF BACKSLIDING - backsliding causes

- A. Separation the disuniting from God**
- B. Stumbling the fall into sinful activities, walking in weakness**
- C. Suffering to undergo or experience affliction, pain, injury, heartache, etc.**

II THE CALL TO FAST - this call to fast is a call to do the following:

- A. Repent to change one’s mind or purpose.**
- B. Return to turn back; come again; turn back and abide in permanently.**
- C. Recover return to soberness; awake.**

III THE FAST - the sincere fast will involve,

- A. Prayer**
- B. Praise**
- C. Patience**

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