

## BIBLICAL WISDOM #6 - THE POWER OF FASTING

### GENESIS 25:27-34

Fasting defeats the birthright of the "eldest" child (the flesh) and puts the younger (the spirit) into the driver's seat.

#### I. THE STORY

##### A. The husband and father

1. Twenty years yet no children GEN. 25:20,26
  - a. But Isaac remembered God's promise GEN. 12:3
  - b. God also promised Isaac seed GEN. 17:9
2. Isaac took it to God in prayer GEN. 25:21
3. Prayer: (PSA. 102:17, ROM. 12:12, 1 THESS. 5:17)

##### B. The wife and mother

1. Couldn't understand what God was doing (vs. 22)
  - a. Best Option: Prayed for an answer
  - b. And GOD ANSWERED / Two sons (vs. 23)
  - c. The ELDER will serve the YOUNGER (strange)

##### C. The sons and brothers

1. Esau - red as clay / the carnal man / wild man
2. Jacob - a plain man / the spiritual man / saved

#### II. THE SALE

##### A. Esau despised the birthright (vs. 34)

1. Natural man and spiritual things (1 COR. 2:14)
2. Seeking instant gratification in physical world

##### B. Jacob sought the birthright (vs. 31)

1. He was not clever or cagey - spoke DIRECTLY
2. God ratified the transaction (HEB. 11:8-10)

##### C. Fasting ENABLED the sale of the birthright! (vs. 32)

#### III. THE SENSE

##### A. Two Natures: The Fleshly and the Spiritual

1. The two are distinct (JOHN 3:6b)
2. The two seek their own (ROMANS 8:5)

##### B. There are two "men" in ever believer COL. 3:9-10

#### IV. THE SUBJECT

##### A. It "turbo-charges" fervent prayer (DAN. 9:3)

1. HOW? The ruthless denial of the flesh
2. WHY? To achieve a spiritual gain (HOSEA 12:3)

##### B. It "magnifies" effectual prayer MATT. 17:14-21

##### C. Effectual and fervent prayer is a MUST (JAMES 5:16)

PSALMS 102:17 - "He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer."

ROMANS 12:12 - "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"

1 THESS. 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."

1 COR. 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

HEB. 11:8-10 - "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went. (9) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange county, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: (10) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

JOHN 3:6b - "That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"

ROMANS 8:5 - "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

DAN. 9:3 - "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

HOSEA 12:3 - "He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:"

JAMES 5:16 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."