



Go Nuclear—Part 1

Mark 9:23-29 Matthew 17:20

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Objective Sentence and Aim: *Everyone should fast because of the obstacles that stand as barriers and hindrances to our faith in God.*

Introduction; Pastor Dan: You must strike the enemy and respond to his attack with a force that exceeds the might of his attack against you. There are some problems that prayer alone will not resolve. **Matthew 17:19-20** Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief;^[d] for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Have you heard and are you familiar with the expression, “The Battle is not yours but the Lord’s?” Have you ever heard anyone say, “I’m not going to worry about this problem because the battle is God’s?” But did you know “*the battle is the Lord’s statement of faith*” was birthed in the midst of worry and fear. Jehosaphat the 6th king in the dynasty of David faced a horrible ordeal. A great multitude of Judah’s enemies had gathered, the Moabites, the Ammonites and a great army from Syria invaded Judah with the intention of destroying the land and slaughtering every person in the nation. **2 Chronicles 20:3-4** says, “Jehosaphat feared ... set himself to seek the Lord ... proclaimed a fast Israel gathered to ask help ... and came to seek the Lord.”

#1. *Intensify* (**Mark 9:29** *So He said to them, “This kind or [these kind] can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.*)

A. *Mahesh Chavda:* *Fasting boosts the intensity and effectiveness of your prayer at least tenfold, and often a hundredfold. This is why the hidden power of fasting has become such an imperative from the Lord. It’s a crucial end-time tool for proclaiming the gospel to the nations with signs and*

wonders confirming the Word we preach. Pastor Dan: This week I found myself wondering why, with all the medial technology we have today, our bodies are wearing out before our lives have ended. Two things came to me that may be relevant for us as believers: the first being that we need to honor the Sabbath--also that we should fast, giving our whole being (body, soul, spirit) a rest and refreshing.

1. **Fasting boosts the intensity and effectiveness of prayer** (*Mark 9:29* So Jesus said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”) (*Franklin Hall: Spiritual forces vary in power and require that we engage them with the appropriate weapons.*) (***This Kind—These Kind***)
 - a. *Franklin Hall:* Christians with everyday cares of business, job and home are usually so out of tune with the spiritual realm, that it seems practically impossible to get into communion with God. Therefore they are not in a position to contact God about the major problems of their lives, without fasting and prayer
 - b. *Mark 6:7-12-13* And He called the twelve to *Himself*, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits ... ¹² So they went out and preached that *people* should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.
 - c. *Pastor Dan:* Jesus had given the disciples power to cast out demons before this encounter and they had been successful in doing so. Now they failed to get results. Why???. *Ephesians 6:10-12* There are different levels of demonic forces that vary in power, requiring different levels of faith to conquer. ***There are some problems that will never be solved by prayer alone.***
 - d. *Mahesh Chavda:* The disciples failed because there are certain obstructions, challenges, and demonically induced possessions and diseases that will not yield to secondhand authority. The solution for both is found in the final comment Jesus made about the situation—This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.
 - e. *Ted Roberts:* Jesus spoke of fasting (*Matthew 6:16*) with the same finality and expectation He used when speaking about prayer. He said, “When you pray,” not if you pray; and He said, “When you fast,” not “if” you fast. Jesus expected His followers to fast as well as to pray.
 - f. *Joel 1:14; 2:12* Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.
 - g. *Mahesh Chavda:* Many forms of demonic oppression and influence will yield to the anointing of the word of command spoken by Spirit-filled believers. However, there are certain demonic obstacles or strongholds that won’t break until combine prayer and fasting and tap into the power of the Spirit as Jesus did.

- #2 **Increase** (*Mark 9:23* Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”)

- A. **Watchman Nee:** *Fasting is an announcement the soul makes that the body will not rule over it, and it declares there will be no relief until the issues set before God are resolved in spirit. Fasting does not signal sincerity but rather humbles the soul with dependence upon God (Ezra 8:21)*

1. ***Fasting increases your ability to believe*** (*Psalms 35:13 AMP*. *But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth (mourning garment); I humbled my soul with fasting, and I prayed with my head bowed on my chest.*
 - a. *Pastor Dan*: God allows us to face things in our lives that exceed our present levels of faith so we will be challenged to reach beyond ourselves and grow in Him.
 - b. **Mark 9:18** I spoke to your disciples that they should cast out this demon and they could not. *Pastor Dan*: From time to time we encounter adversity beyond the level of the faith we are living at the moment so that we would be encouraged to take positive steps towards increasing our ability to believe.
 - c. *Mahatma Gandhi*: My religion teaches me that whenever there is a distress, which one cannot remove, one must fast and pray.
 - d. **Esther 4:16** Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against the law; and if I perish, I perish
 - e. **Matthew 17:20** The disciples failed because of unbelief
 - f. *Matthew Henry*: Fasting secures God's power to assist us, it sharpens prayer, it demonstrates humility before God, it controls the body.
 - g. *Gilbert Tennet; 1703-1764*: A religious fast, suitably observed, is a means appointed by God for the removal of present calamities and the prevention of them in the future.

Closing and invitation: Bad Tulsa Attitude Fast (23 days juice) Ann Gardner, "Daddy Dan, what's wrong with you? You're not the same person you were back in Jacksonville."