

FOR ALL SEVEN PILLARS CHURCHES WORLDWIDE

SANCTIFY A FAST & CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

A call for a 21-day period of fasting and prayer – Jan. 10 – 31, 2024

By Apostle Paul M Hanssen

I have been seeking the LORD concerning the opening of the New Year, 2024. The Spirit of God has shown me various things that are coming upon the earth, some of which I have already shared with you, other things I may share with you at a later date. But it was not until early morning on Jan. 31, the final day of a year 2023, that the Spirit of God spoke into my Spirit with a thunderous voice (*the voice of the Spirit was not soft or gentle, rather it was forceful, authoritative, urgent, and demanding*).

The voice of God said: SANCTIFY A FAST AND CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY. I went immediately to my study and began to incline my ear to God's voice. It became very evident to me that I was receiving very specific instructions from the throne room of God concerning the family of Seven Pillars Church. I began to write down as I was instructed. I am forwarding these instructions on to you as a spiritual family. I realize that some of you may have already planned some type of fasting and prayer, but I urge you to lay down your own plans and join the entire family of SPC as we join together in a 21 day fast and solemn assembly.

Beginning Jan. 10 – Jan. 31, the SPC family will embark of this fast. Allow me to share with you what the Spirit spoke into my ears.

Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the Lord, (Joel 1:14)

The voice of the LORD led me to this verse: SANCTIFY A FAST AND CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY.

- **To sanctify:** means to dedicate, hallow, keep holy, pronounce, observe, proclaim and appoint.

- **Fasting:** in Hebrew is the word *tsome*. The root word is *tsoom* which actually means to cover the mouth.

When an opening is covered, *both entrance and exit is prevented*. Fasting is not just covering the mouth to prevent food from entering, but also covers the mouth preventing words from proceeding from the same mouth. During this fast I believe God is calling us to cover our mouths not only from food but also to prevent the filth, garbage, twisted ideas, worldly discussions, negative report, unholy conversations, false accusations, the anger, and all other communication that has and is negatively impacting the state of your spiritual life. ***There is a saying, “you are what you eat”, however, there is a another saying, “you are whatever you say”.*** In other words, whatever is within the heart comes out of the mouth. This is who you are! *(O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Matthew 12:34)*

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. (Proverbs 10:19)

Therefore, this fast is not just a food fast. It is also a fast of words, a fast of what comes out of your mouth, and as such is an examination of the fountain of your heart.

- **Call a solemn assembly:** A solemn assembly is a day of restraint. God called for solemn assemblies for various reasons and seasons such as for Passover, the feast of tabernacles, the dedication of the Temple of Solomon, and times of crisis. Solemn assemblies were a gathering of God’s people for dedicated, holy, and unique events that were sacred and ordained by God.

The portion of the Word that the Spirit of God directed me to concerning this fast and solemn assembly was the example in Joel.

Joel 1:1 – The word of the LORD came to Joel

(Please take note, that what I am sharing was not birthed in my carnal mind. Had I planned this time of fasting and gathering I would have organized this a while ago. However, I received no direction until today. You may do as you please. However, if you are following me as an apostle and leader of our church family, then I

encourage you to humble yourself and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. This is the Word of the LORD for us).

Verse 4. Here Joel prophetically declares what God's people have lost.

- The **palmerworm (to devour)**. It consumed that which God had given His people.
- What the palmerworm left the **locusts consumed (to increase)**. Locusts increased the devouring of the blessings of God.
- What the locusts left the **cankerworm consumed (to lick up and devour)**. The cankerworm took the devouring to a completely different level of consumption.
- What the cankerworm left the **caterpillar consumed (the ravager causing sever and extensive damage)**. Today, at this season, we are facing the ravager.

In Joel 2:23-25 God promises the former and latter rain upon the children of Zion. These rains will bring a restoration of that which these enemies of God's Word, Spirit, and blessings have devoured. However, restoration did not come without a cost to the people of God.

Today, we are facing the stage of the caterpillar devouring – a time of ravaging causing sever and extensive damage. We **MUST** wake up to this devouring spirit and take heed to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Joel 1:5-6

Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

The call to wake up was not a wakeup call from sleep, but rather a call to wake up from intoxication. This was a call to awaken from an intoxicated state of mind and spirit – intoxicated by the world, by pride, intoxicated by lust, intoxicated by social influences (including fake news, conspiracy theories, and the multitude online garbage that is deceiving and leading people astray).

WAKE UP YE DRUNKARDS. The word drunkard means to be satiated, (or satisfied), with a stimulating drink or influence, to be filled, and intoxicated.

THE NEW WINE (the breath, voice, influence, and power of the Spirit) is cut off from your mouth. Something else is satisfying you. Something else is influencing you. Something else is drawing your attention away from where God is leading His people.

(Please read and study verses 7-13 on your own).

Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord, Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come (Joel 1:14-15).

Now we come to where the Spirit of God is leading us for the beginning of the year. Sanctifying a fast and calling a solemn assembly.

I enquired of the LORD as to how He desired this fast and assembly to be conducted.

Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the Lord thy God: thou shalt do no work therein. (Deuteronomy 16:8)

We are going to fast for 21 days beginning Jan 10th. January 10th will be the first solemn assembly, or the first day or evening that SPC churches will gather to pray and open the following three weeks of fasting. I encourage all pastors to anoint your people for this fast in that service. Hence the fast actually begins on the 11th (this will be the first day of one meal – see below). Don't make this gathering simply another prayer meeting, but a prayer meeting with specific purpose. A time of awakening from intoxication and consecrating ourselves unto the LORD. This is to be a time of seeking God for the restoration promised in Joel 2:23-25.

For six days we will eat one meal per day (you can choose what time you eat that meal, but it needs to be the same time every day).

On the seventh day, the fast will be water only (for those who are able). In other words, the following two Wednesdays there is to be no food at all (until the following time for a meal on the following regular fast day).

This is to be done until the final gathering on the 31st of January. May God anoint you all as we unite during this time of seeking God. Time is short! The Day of the LORD, the day of Him executing His judgement, is at hand.