

BOOK OF  
ESTHER





# The Impact of One

## Esther Chapter 4



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.**

**2 He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.**

**3 And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.**



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**4 When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.**

**5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.**

**6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate,**



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.**

**8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.**

**9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.**



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say,**

**11 “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.”**

**12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.**



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.**

**14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”**



## **Esther 4:1-17 ESV**

**15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,**

**16 “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”**

**17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.**



## The Impact of One in History

“History is full of accounts of single individuals who have made a difference. Think of the military battles that have turned on the axis of one heroic person. Think of the artists and the contribution of their individual lives, from Michelangelo and da Vinci to Brahms and Beethoven. Think of the scientists, the inventors, the explorers, the technological experts who have literally changed the course of history. Think of the courageous preachers down through time who have stood alone in the gap and made a difference. The face of the church was changed by significant individuals—men like Augustine, Tyndale, Bunyan, Luther, Calvin, Whitefield, Wesley, Edwards, Spurgeon, Moody, and Graham, to name only a few. ”

Swindoll, Charles R.. Esther (Great Lives Series) (p. 90)



# **The Impact of One in History**

## **Impact of one vote**

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the United States presidency.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler control of the Nazi party.



## **The Impact of One Person in the Bible Who was Willing to Do the Right Thing**

**Throughout the Bible we see men and women like Esther who are willing to speak up and willing to take action for the Lord.**

**David's Example: Remember when David running an errand for his father to the front lines of the battle field where his brothers were. His brothers and the other soldiers cowered in fear but David's passion for the name of God gave Him courage to take on Goliath.**



**The Impact of One: Are YOU willing and available to be used by God to speak up? To right a wrong? To boldly share Christ and His gospel? To do the right thing?**

**2 Chronicles 16:9a ESV**

**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.**

**Ezekiel 22:30 ESV**

**And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.**





## **Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One**

**Fasting is mentioned a number of times throughout the Old and New Testament.**

**Esther asked Mordecai and the other Jews in the city to fast for her as she prepared to go into the king's presence without being summoned so she could speak up and try to save her people from this terrible injustice and law that would exterminate them.**



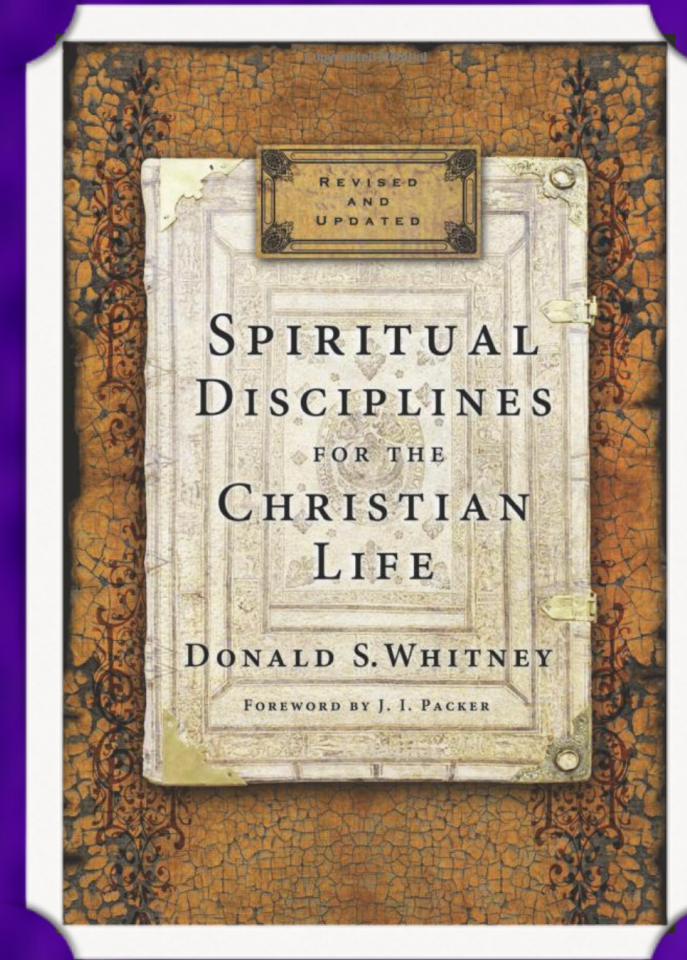
# **Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One**

## **What is Fasting?**

**Fasting is the voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual purposes. We do not fast to impress God or earn His acceptance. We are only made acceptable to God through the work of Jesus Christ.**



# Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One



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# **Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One**

## **What are the Purposes of Fasting?**

**1: To strengthen prayer (Ezra 8:23)**

**2: To seek God's guidance (Acts 14:23)**

**3: To express grief (Judges 20:26)**

**4: To seek deliverance & protection (Esther 4:16)**

**5: To express repentance and return to God (1 Samuel 7:6)**

[Donald Whitney - <https://www.christianity.com/bible/9-reasons-fast-other-than-swimsuit-season.html>]



# **Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One**

## **What are the Purposes of Fasting?**

**6: To humble yourself before God (1 Kings 21:27-29)**

**7: To express concern for the work of God (Nehemiah 1:4)**

**8: To overcome temptation and dedicate yourself to God (Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11)**

**9: To express love and worship to God (Luke 2:37)**

[Donald Whitney - <https://www.christianity.com/bible/9-reasons-fast-other-than-swimsuit-season.html>]





## **Prayer, Fasting, and the Impact of One**

**Is God moving in your heart to fast as you look over those reasons? Are you open to that?**

**Are you willing to not just fast and seek the Lord, but to act as His Spirit prompts and directs you?**



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