



A FASTING ADVENTURE

I was never one who sought the Lord through fasting in any consistent way. There had been times of fasting for particular needs and desires, a general searching for God's will but nothing that seemed big.

The presidential election of 2000 was coming up with candidates George Bush and Al Gore running hard against each other. There was the usual mud slinging and terrible statements being made about each other, with the nation (and us) wondering how it would all play out. But of course, most important of all, God knew how it would end, and He simply asked his people to seek Him.

During this time, Tricia was in contact with a prayer ministry that was promoting what was to me a very bold action. They were looking for prayer and fasting partners who would fast for the three weeks up until the election. I can remember when Tricia suggested that we fast for 21 days. I said I'd think about it. In my heart I knew it was a good idea, but my mind and body said no way.

We eventually agreed to join this effort. I had quietly told myself, there is no way I can go for 21 days without eating. As we moved into this fast, we agreed to allow ourselves juices and coffee to drink, and maybe a little milk, but that was all. We pressed on that way, moving a little slower and getting a little thinner, but staying true to our modified conditions.

I remember during our fasting time that I was looking for a new employee where I worked. We had interviewed her that morning, and then the three of us and our candidate went out to lunch. This was a strange lunch for me. Everyone ordered a nice meal, and I ordered two glasses of tomato juice. I know the person fasting is encouraged to fast in secret, but it is not always easy to do over 21 days. So, I explained to those at lunch what I was doing and why, and it did provide an opportunity to share a little bit about my faith, but still it seemed awkward.

The plan was to break our nationwide fast on election night. This we did, and Tricia and I sat down to watch the election results. As the night went on, to our surprise, the election was too close to call. In fact, we went to bed not knowing who would be president. The next day the election was still too close to call, and it appeared that the candidate that won Florida would win the election. It was at this point we were introduced to the phrase "hanging chads". This referred to the Floridian voting process of using punch cards. Apparently, the election was so close in Florida, and they used punch cards that had some reading problems due to the cards being poorly punched.



A FASTING ADVENTURE (CONT'D)

Well, you know the rest of the story. After several weeks it was determined that George Bush won the state of Florida and the national election by the thinnest of margins with the Supreme Court finally weighing in that the election was over. Following this, the nation moved on with the policies of a more conservative, Christian man, even though flawed in many ways.

We have never forgotten how God responded to our prayers and fasting, even in our weak, modified way. God honors those who sincerely seek Him. We saw first-hand that our God cares about His people, hears our prayers and answers in His own way and time despite the heightened drama that surrounds His answer. We must never forget to seek Him in the big and small things of our lives. He indeed cares for us every day.