

The Divine Experiment -an introduction for HealingPointe

"In January 2007 the N. Omaha leaders decided to participate in the "Divine Experiment" that God had suddenly given Fusion Ministries. Without much information (because the Lord had so recently spoken to us about this), they abandoned themselves to a 21-day fast, a time of consecration and separation from the spirit of the world. They turned off their cell phones, stopped most regular church activities, added early morning, daily prayer meetings, turned off their televisions, stopped non-essential shopping and indulging in entertainment and other forms of idolatry. They fasted food and many other things to make themselves irresistible to God's presence!"

What is it? Approximately 800 people, from at least 14 different local churches, from at least 8 different denominations, intensely seeking God for 21 days: WOW!!!

When is it? January 24 thru February 14; There will be a corporate kick off service on Monday January 25 @ Mount Pleasant UMC

What do I do?

- **We "invite" you to participate in this endeavor with us.**
You cannot be made to do this; we will not attempt to force you.
- **Cease from ALL "busyness"**
 - Stop all unnecessary activity - Examples: building projects, non-essential shopping, worldly entertainment, hobbies, etc. WHY???
 - Intentionally create opportunities for "Divine Boredom." We are eliminating the interference; when was the last time you were "divinely bored?"
 - REST!!! Stop the madness!!! -Get enough sleep. -Learn to say "No" to people. *Let the world go on without you for 21 days.*
 - (Mary and Martha III) **-STOP**, and **SIT** at Jesus' feet for 21 days
- **We are asking you to do your best to keep your schedule open and flexible during the 21 days. -Not open and flexible for us, but to God.**
 - For corporate prayer meetings and other gatherings -TBA
 - WVIHOP will be open daily from 7pm to 9pm the entire 21 days
 - However, remember our goal is NOT busyness.
- **Make a commitment to focus on personal time with God.**
 - Worship
 - Prayer; -you will be given a prayer guide for the 21 days.
 - Study
 - NOT LEGALISM!!! -but a definite commitment
- **Make a commitment to focus on Family Time with God**
 - Family Devotions
 - Family Prayer Time (Wii III)
 - Divinely inspired family boredom *-do not cheat yourself or your family*
- **Be Quick to Repent**

- Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and listen for His voice
- Be quick to be obedient to Him
- Be humble and be willing to confess and repent of ANYTHING! (Do not miss a divine opportunity.)
- **Fast from the World**
 - It is recommended that we fast from all secular media and entertainment. –stop and discuss...
 - Consider fasting from food in some way, at least part of the time.
 - Do your best to limit “distractions” from the World. –email, texting, unnecessary phone calls, etc.
 - REMEMBER, this is not about being “Legalistic” but “having hearts that are desperately seeking God.”
- **REMEMBER, our goal is HIM! (His presence)**

Daniel 1 (NLT) Daniel in Nebuchadnezzar’s Court; -A word about fasting from the world.

¹ During the third year of King Jehoiakim’s reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² The LORD gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. ⁴ “Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.” ⁵ The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.

⁶ Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. ⁷ The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Beltshazzar, Hananiah was called Shadrach, Mishael was called Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego.

⁸ But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. ⁹ Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. ¹⁰ But he responded, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.”

¹¹ Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ¹² “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. ¹³ “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” ¹⁴ The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. ¹⁶ So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others.

¹⁷ God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.

¹⁸ When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. ²⁰ Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom. ²¹ Daniel remained in the royal service until the first year of the reign of King Cyrus.