

Malaysia Day 10-Day Prayer & Fasting
7-16 September 2021

GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES



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We are living in challenging times and people are trying to make sense of their lives. In the midst of a pandemic, our nation has to grapple with political crisis, economic meltdown, and a devastating daily rise of the COVID-19. While many things are beyond our control, let us remember that God fights our battles. He is the one who constantly shields, protects and strengthens us. As a church, we need to rise up and be a united militant prayer warrior; fight against dark spiritual powers and strongholds in our nation. Our confidence is that God is our Chief Commander who fights for us. God alone is greater than all the challenges we face in this world. Our part is to believe that "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." – Exodus 14:14

Over the next 10 days, join us for a season of prayer and fasting towards Malaysia Day. Let the Holy Spirit assure us that "GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES".

TYPES OF FAST



TOTAL FAST

Abstain from solid food and water or any beverage.



NORMAL FAST

Abstain from solid food. Take only water.



PARTIAL FAST

Abstain from solid food. Take only water and liquid food such as soup, milk.



DANIEL'S FAST

Abstain from meat. Take only vegetables, fruits and juices.

LENGTH OF FAST

- **NORMAL FAST**

12 hours or, from sunrise to sundown.

- **SELECTIVE FAST**

Fast one full meal a day, e.g. lunch or dinner.

**Note: If you have a medical condition, do seek your doctor's advice on the type and duration of your fast.*

SUGGESTIONS

- **INDIVIDUAL**

Commit to pray for at least 15 minutes in the spirit every day, besides fasting.

- **FAMILY**

Fast and pray together as a family. Decide on one type of fast everyone in the family will commit to, and come together daily to pray for 15 minutes.

- **CONNECT GROUP**

During Connect Group meeting, use this booklet and spend time to pray as a group. Pray in the spirit for 15 minutes and allow the Holy Spirit to move in our midst.

"The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name" – Exodus 15:3

Things do not always turn out as expected. Suddenly the Israelites' lives were at stake as they were pursued by the Egyptian soldiers. Moses sought to reassure the Israelites of God's protection and defeat of the Egyptians. They did not need to fight but only stand firm and observe God's victory over the Egyptians. The Egyptians were overconfident, thinking they could recapture the Israelites and take them back to Egypt as their slaves. Confidently, they pursued them into the midst of the Red Sea and only to discover that God was fighting for Israel. Despite their best efforts to escape, the entire army was wiped out and drowned in the Red Sea.

After making it through the Red Sea unharmed, Moses and the Israelites celebrated God's great victory over Egypt with a song of praise (Exodus 14:1-15:21). In this song, the Lord is called a "warrior" — one who fights for the good of His people. God Almighty's nature is to wage war against those who rise against His name and His children. We can rejoice knowing that our covenant-keeping God will never leave us or forsake us, as His outstretched arm is ever-present to defeat the enemies of His kingdom. As a divine warrior, he displays his sovereignty over the cosmos and above all the deities whom the pagans worship. God is seen in His ability to prevail, like a mighty warrior wielding the sword, controlling elements of creation, or operating through a human agent to deliver His people. When Christians trust God to fight their battles, it enables them to circumvent what often accompanies conflict: panic, fear, and hopelessness. The blessed hope is that God will return at His second coming; rescue His people, defeat the enemies and restore His people.

Reflection: God as a divine warrior combats injustice and oppressive regime, and rescues His people from slavery.

Prayer

- Every believer to humble themselves and seek God during fasting and prayer.
- Declare God's Lordship over our nation.
- The Church of God to shine in the light of His Word.
- Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya: Godly wisdom and wise counsel on our King, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and all Members of Parliament. Also pray for the supremacy of the Federal Constitution and the upholding of equal rights for all citizens.

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." – Nehemiah 1:4

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were still broken down after his people had begun returning to the city and after their beloved temple was rebuilt, he "sat down and wept," fasting and praying before God (Nehemiah 1:4). He prayed "day and night" (Nehemiah 1:6) before he approached the king for permission. After much prayer he went to the king and asked for permission to take an extended vacation and for help in rebuilding the walls. Although the temple had been rebuilt, the walls were still in disrepair and left the city defenceless against its enemies. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was an important sign to the enemies of God's people.

Nehemiah recognized that "the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests" (Nehemiah 2:8b) in undertaking the rebuilding of the walls. Nehemiah instinctively prayed for protection against opposition. He also prayed a simple sentence of "now strengthen my hands", in preparation for any weakness that might come upon his body as he worked to rebuild the walls (Nehemiah 6:9). The project of rebuilding the walls was successful; he was in-tune with God through prayer and obedience. His prayer life and fear of God resulted in bold acts of faith which transformed those under his leadership.

Reflection: Nehemiah's relationship with God teaches us to walk and talk with God not just for the little things, but the big things as well. God wants us to bring our worries, anxieties, dreams, and hopes to Him.

Prayer

- God to raise up watchmen and intercessors who will stand in the gap for our nation.
- Parliament: to prioritize the well-being of all, to be proactive in stopping corruption and putting an end to racism.
- Economic growth in every industry, new business opportunities and increased investment in our nation. Wisdom for our government to reduce the national debt.
- Selangor: Economic growth and God's blessing.

"When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. – 2 Samuel 5:17

God knows our dilemmas and has compassion on our problems. He is always available, we just have to seek Him. When David became king over all Israel, the Philistines realized that David had become too powerful and he posed a substantial threat to them. The Philistines understood perfectly well that the united northern and southern Israel would be a formidable force to the surrounding nations. The Philistines gathered armies of the five Philistine states, to destroy David at once. Probably, David's army was outnumbered by the determined Philistines. The Philistine armies had assembled in the Valley of Rephaim, an agricultural plain just southwest of Jerusalem.

David did not stay within Jerusalem to wait for a Philistine siege, but He "went down to the stronghold." (2 Samuel 5:17) He did not hide or escape. Instead, David inquired of God on his movement against the Philistines. The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." (2 Samuel 5:19) God helped David defeat the Philistines with an overwhelming force. The Philistines initially brought their idols to the battle believing that it would defeat the Israelites. When the Philistines were defeated, they fled and left their idols in the battlefield. The success of the Israelites' military strategy was after they had sought God. We too can have this assurance that God will act for our nation when we seek Him.

Reflection: God guides us by His Spirit, and He works through our circumstances by opening or closing doors, or waiting to show us the way. God knows, He sees, and He deeply desires to answer us when we seek him.

Prayer

- All churches in Malaysia to stand united as one and contend as "one man" to contend the spiritually wicked in high places. The body of Christ: continue to be united in prayer, work with one heart and fervently love one another.
- God's intervention against every form of corruption in our nation. There will be good stewardship, accountability, integrity and transparency in all levels of society.
- Declare God's glory, protection and power over the community you live in.
- Penang, Johor and Melaka: Economic growth and tourism.

"And I myself will be a wall of fire around it," declares the Lord, "and I will be its glory within."
– Zechariah 2:5

Throughout history, walls that have protected cities or nations have been burned with fire. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem after their exile from Babylon, the temple was ruined and needed rebuilding. Jerusalem would not be able to be contained within its walls because of the many people and animals. In the midst, God sent a message to the Israelites through the prophet Zechariah saying, "I myself will be a wall of fire" around Jerusalem. The "wall of fire" around Jerusalem in Zechariah's vision illustrated God's protective presence.

Today we can believe in the Lord's supernatural protection because, the fullness of His life and power dwells within us. By His power, He accomplishes infinitely more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:19–20). God's people must put their trust in Yahweh Himself and not in physical walls. The New Jerusalem does not need walls. God will be our glory and He will be our wall of fire. God's pledge to be a wall of fire around Jerusalem makes us look forward with hope to a glorious future city.

Reflection: God wants to be a wall of fire around His children. He wants to protect us, guide us and show us how His heart burns for us. He wants to be the glory in our lives.

Prayer

- Protection for all MOH front-liners and those who are infected with Covid-19. Declare Psalm 91.
- Sufficient vaccine supply across our nation and efficient coordination of National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme. Declare Psalm 121 on those who have yet to receive, and those who have received vaccination.
- Protection against terrorism and extremism that undermine the security and stability of our nation, and the ASEAN region. Pray for God's protection on all our Angkatan Tentera Malaysia, Polis Di Raja Malaysia, Agensi Penguatkuasa Maritim Malaysia, Malaysian Royal Customs Department, Border and Infrastructure Security and the Civil Defence in our country.
- Kelantan and Terengganu: Light of Christ to remove the darkness.

"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you." – 2 Chronicles 20:17

What will you do if you hear some threatening news that affects your future and the nation? One day Jehoshaphat was shaken when some men came running in with the horrifying news, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (2 Chronicles 20: 2). The invasion of the enemy coalition was only about 15 miles south of Jerusalem. Jehoshaphat and his entire kingdom were on the brink of extinction. This godly king called for a national prayer to seek God's face. In his prayer, he publicly admitted his lack of strength and called upon God for help.

In 2 Chronicles 20:4-5, "to seek help from the Lord" indicated that everyone from Judah was determined to seek the Lord's face. King Jehoshaphat's prayer of "God of our fathers ... God who is in heaven... rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might ..." led God's people to fully trust in His greatness.

God assured His people not to fear, He would fight on their behalf. He wanted His people to trust Him, take up their positions, stand firm and watch God's deliverance. King Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing praises of God's splendour and holiness as they went out at the head of the army. God set an ambush against the invading army of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir and they were defeated.

Reflection: "Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17). God's deliverance is a picture of our salvation. In salvation, we cannot do anything; God does it all. Salvation through faith is the gift of God so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Prayer

- Churches in our nation to return to God in humility and repentance. His people will remember God's mercy, compassion and salvation.
- Religious freedom for all people. Pray against all racial and religious intolerance. Pray against all kinds of spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12) that sow discord within the MM.
- More healthcare professionals and volunteers will serve the interiors which have no access to hospitals or clinics.
- Negeri Sembilan: God's leadership and guidance.

"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset." – Exodus 17:12

Sometimes a prolonged challenging situation can be overwhelming and zap us out of our energy. During such times of limited strength, we need the support of others.

There was a time when the Israelites were attacked by the Amalekites. The battle took place at Rephidim, the last stopping-place of the Israelites from Egypt before reaching Mt. Sinai. The Amalekites were a fierce desert tribe and were unhappy with the Israelites coming into their territory. Moses instructed his military leader, Joshua to choose able Israelites to attack the Amalekites the very next morning. Moses would be at the hilltop holding his staff. The staff represented God's power and presence. As long as Moses held up his arms and his staff, the Israelites were winning. Whenever Moses lowered his arms, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses was tired, both Aaron and Hur got a rock for him to sit on. They stood beside him and supported his arms in the same position until sunset. In the end, Joshua defeated the Amalekites. Later, Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is my Banner.

What we can learn from this passage is that godly leaders have a great responsibility, and they are not called to do it alone. The victory and success of that battle was the team effort of Moses, Joshua, Aaron, Hur and all the soldiers at the battlefield. Prayer and encouragement are great supports we can offer to those who lead us. Therefore let us "lift the arms" of our leaders to support them and with God's help, we will win battles.

Reflection: God's loving support was displayed when Jesus had his arms lifted and nailed to a cross, so that we might be free to use our arms to love and support others in His name.

Prayer

- Strategic partnership between East and West Malaysian churches to fulfil the Great Commission in our nation.
- The church to rise strong and courageous, and to speak God's word.
- The church to repent and seek God's forgiveness for causing division in the body of Christ. God to remove every bitterness, pride, hurt and conflict in the body of Christ; God's forgiveness, healing and restoration to be upon every believer.
- National reconciliation among all the races.
- Perak and Pahang: God's justice and wisdom as they govern the state.

"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" – Joshua 5:14

In every battle of life, we need to recognize that there is a divine leader who leads us to victory. Before Israel conquered Jericho, Joshua had an extraordinary encounter with a "man" holding a sword in his hand. Immediately, Joshua questioned if the "man" was an ally or an enemy. The man said he was on neither side; rather, he was "commander of the army of the Lord" (Joshua 5:14).

He was there not to join Joshua's forces but to lead them. In response to this extraordinary answer, Joshua fell facedown to the ground (as a subordinate soldier). Although Joshua was the commander of Israel's troops, he recognized the superior rank of this other military officer; he called this man "my lord" and he himself "his servant."

Just before this surprised encounter, Joshua had led the nation of Israel in spiritual preparation for battle (Joshua 5:2-11). Following this encounter, Joshua would lead the nation of Israel into battle with God-given plans (Joshua 6:2-5). In the end, Israel won a decisive victory; it was not due to any sophisticated plans drawn up by Joshua. They won because the Lord gave them the city (Joshua. 6:16) and because "the LORD was with Joshua" (Joshua 6:27). There are still many cities and towns that need to hear God's word, and only our divine commander can lead the church to break spiritual strongholds in our nation.

Reflection: We need to obey God when we fight spiritual battles commissioned by God. As we trust Him and follow His ways, bondages will be broken and lives will be set free. We can be sure that we will share in His final victory.

Prayer

- Declare that our Lord Jesus Christ is leading His Church as commander-in-chief of heaven's armies; He will lead His church to victory and triumph.
- Declare that Commander of the Army of the Lord and His heavenly hosts defend and protect all His people against the relentless attacks and plans of the enemy.
- Declare that the King of Glory, Mighty in Battle will save Malaysia. Jesus Christ is the King who reigns in Malaysia.
- Perlis: The churches to be a lighthouse in the community.

"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt." – Exodus 12:13

The Passover story began when Pharaoh the ruler of Egypt, worried that the Israelites living in Egypt would outnumber his own people. So he forced them into slavery and refused to set them free. God decided to punish him and the nation by sending ten plagues to Egypt. However, Pharaoh hardened his heart in the first nine plagues and prevented the Israelites from leaving. In Exodus 12, God commanded the Israelites to keep the first Passover in preparation for the tenth and final plague (the death of firstborn males), plus the exodus from Egypt. Moses told the Israelites that each household was to kill a lamb and place the lamb's blood on their doors. During this tenth and final plague, God passed through the land of Egypt and struck down the firstborn of every household. However, the Israelites had marked their doors with the blood of a lamb they had sacrificed — the Passover offering — and so God "passed over" their homes.

What is so significant about the blood of the lamb? The deliverance indicated by the blood of the lamb reveals the glorious redemption of Jesus, the Redeemer of Israel and Saviour of the world. He was willing to be the unblemished "lamb of God" who sacrificed for our sins. His sacrifice turned away God's wrath and anger against sin. It satisfied His justice. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life and shed his blood (Romans 3:25).

Reflection: Spiritual battle can be wearisome, and at times a believer can feel powerless. Today, we triumph over our spiritual enemies by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony.

Prayer

- Decree the blood of Jesus to expose and destroy the spirit of death in our nation.
- The judiciary to be independent and upright; make objective rulings free from political interference, prejudice and corruption. Justice to prevail in all cases.
- Education: every child in our nation can have education up to tertiary level. The Ministry of Education to provide an excellent education system for all students.
- God to raise a new generation of leaders with the fear and wisdom of God.
- Sabah and Labuan: Divine encounter with God and harmony in its diverse society.

So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." – Joshua 6:6

Sometimes we think it is impossible to tear down the strongholds in our nation. Joshua too, was faced with the formidable challenge of taking down an almost impregnable wall before he could conquer the city of Jericho. However, God gave Joshua a set of divine instructions for the conquest. It was a precise march order: first with armed guard, then seven priests carrying trumpets, followed by the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant, and finally a rear guard of soldiers, and all the people behind. It was not a fighting array but a sort of parade. Joshua, the army of Israel and the accompanying priests acted accordingly. For six days, they circled Jericho's walls once without speaking; only the priests blew the trumpets. On the seventh day they circled the city wall seven times, trumpets sounding, and shouted after the priests sounded the trumpet blast (Joshua 6:1-11).

The fortified wall collapsed with a loud shout of faith and God's presence. The battle was won by their obeying God's instructions and having the Ark carried into battle. The Ark represented God's tangible power and presence; it was God's throne on earth. The fact that the Ark was the place of the Lord's presence brought great assurance to the people of God.

The Ark was only God's temporary dwelling place. Today the promise to the new-covenant believers is that, the Lord is near to us by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us (1 Corinthians 6:19). The presence of God that brought down the Jericho wall is the same presence that lives in us, and is powerful enough to bring down every stronghold in our lives.

Reflection: The Ark of God was not just an ordinary box; it had extraordinary power. God does not live in a box anymore; He lives in us.

Prayer

- A supernatural presence and visitation of God in all our churches.
- God to raise up many prophetic voices to keep the community focused on God's word and plan.
- God to pour out His spirit in our churches with signs and wonders plus a great harvest of souls.
- Sarawak: the reign of God over those in authority and good stewardship in managing resources.

"Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem." – Ezra 1:5

It must have felt like a dream. After so many years in a foreign land, the Jewish people could finally go home. When Emperor Cyrus the Great issued a decree allowing them to return to Jerusalem, Judah and Benjamin were among the first to uproot themselves; they had been in exile for 70 years. The first return had 50,000 people under the leadership of Zerubbabel to build the second temple (Ezra 2:1-2, 64-67). The first return did not cause a massive exodus from Babylon. Probably, the other tribes had been in exile for almost 200 years; many had enjoyed prosperity and blended into the local culture. It is easy to imagine the subsequent generations had no interest in leaving.

About 80 years later a second group under the priestly leadership of Ezra, returned to the land. Ezra brought spiritual and religious reformation to the first returnees who assimilated with the heathen through intermarriage (Ezra 9:1-2). On the third return, Nehemiah had to challenge the people to repair Jerusalem's walls and gates (Nehemiah 6:15-16). Returning to normalcy had its challenges for the three groups.

Today the pandemic has changed our lives; to be detached and live remotely to stay safe. The church of God created for community life has been severely disrupted and is now connected virtually. Although virtual services have reached masses of people, we can see that there is a flip side. Believers can enter and exit as and when convenient to them. There is a tendency to form habits which are without boundaries and are free from accountability. Just like the returnees from exile, there will be a need for renewal, restoration, uprooting of habits and rebuilding of lives. When restrictions are lifted after the pandemic, let us return to church which houses God's presence and which displays His glory and power. While in "exile", let us continue to share God's love to all and to live a life worthy of Him.

Reflection: It is a reminder that post normalcy should not dictate our lives but should prepare and position us for greater things ahead.

Prayer

- Members' faith to be strengthened and rooted in God.
- The church of God to unite as one in faith, in voice and in vision to reach the lost.
- Migrant workers in Malaysia adversely affected by the pandemic. Churches and communities to help them out. They will experience God's love, comfort and strength.
- Kedah: God's compassion on those who walk in darkness.



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