



FACING YOUR
GIANTS

Malaysia Day Prayer & Fasting
6-15 September 2022

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MALAYSIA DAY PRAYER & FASTING

We all have giants: difficult circumstances, unresolved conflicts, great fears, unjust treatments, and uncertainty of the future. These giants can paralyse us individually and nationally. We need to look to God and rely on the Holy Spirit to move forward confidently and to triumph over our giants. Giants must be confronted and defeated so that we can be overcomers.

Over the next 10 (ten) days, join us for a season of prayer and fasting towards Malaysia Day. Let us intercede for the fulfilment of God's sovereign plan for Malaysia, His kingdom to come, and His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

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 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.

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." – 1 Samuel 17:32

There are things we need to conquer if we want to move on in life. When King Saul ruled Israel, the nation was daunted by the Philistines. King Saul offered a great reward to anyone who would step up and fight Goliath.

God raised David, a teenager. One day David visited the army at the battlefield and saw Israel's soldiers in fear because of the Philistine's warrior (1 Samuel 17:24).

Young David had a totally different spirit and asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17: 26). He was brave enough to encourage King Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." (1 Samuel 17:32) David displayed amazing passion, faith and courage as he went up and killed the giant. He could not allow the enemy of God to defy the armies of the living God. David boldly defeated the giant Goliath, armed only with a slingshot and five smooth stones.

"Prevailing over giants isn't accomplished by using their technique. David's greatest piece of armour was his inner shield of faith. It kept him from fear; it made him hard of listening; it gave him composure amid chaos." – Charles Swindoll

Reflection: God desires faith-filled courage when we fight personal and national "giants". When you have a personal relationship with God, it will build your self-esteem and you will stand out in confronting "giants".

Prayer

- Every believer to humble themselves and seek God with fasting and prayer.
- Every believer to be an overcomer and to rise victorious in Christ.
- Unity for all language churches of Glad Tidings.
- Godly wisdom and wise counsel on our King, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and all Members of Parliament. The Federal Constitution is supreme and all citizens have equal rights.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." - Judges 6:12

Sometimes the "giants" that we have could be a matter of perception and imaginary rather than real. We will not know our conquest of "giants" unless we confront and deal with it.

Every now and then Israel had been sold into the hands of their enemies. Groaning under the consequences of their sin, they had cried unto the Lord; and the Lord, ever faithful, had raised up someone to deliver them. However, the persons whom God chose were rather insignificant. Such was the case of Gideon who had a poor self-image. He saw himself as coming from the weakest clan and as the least among his family members (Judges 6: 15). Gideon resigned to the fate that he was powerless against the Midianites who had occupied his nation, Israel.

One day while Gideon was threshing wheat and hid himself from the Midianites, an angel of God gave him a tremendous boost to his morale: "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior" (Judges 6:12). What a remarkable salutation and encounter. There was nothing in Gideon's actions that showed courage. When God looked at Gideon, he didn't just see a person hiding out but rather what would ultimately become of him. God saw in Gideon a mighty man of great valour. The word gave him strength and he went on to lead an army to defeat Israel's enemies.

Likewise when God looks upon us, He doesn't see us as we see ourselves. He sees in us a reflection of His Son, the very righteousness of God.

Reflection: You may be going through your darkest valley and you see yourself amounting to nothing. The good news is, God sees much more in you. When no one else believes in you, God believes in you.

Prayer

- Our government to implement feasible strategies to help mitigate unemployment and to help businesses affected by the economic slowdown.
- Cabinet ministers to steer growth and recovery for every industry in our nation and to reduce national debt.
- Parliament to prioritize the well-being of all, to be proactive in stopping corruption and to put an end to racism.
- God's provision for individuals and businesses that are affected by the global crisis. Companies to be innovative and agile, and to embrace changes with speed.

“But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.” – Numbers 14:24

The majority of people see and measure their own struggles by their size and strength.

When the 12 spies returned after 40 days of surveying the land, 10 spies reported their observations through a lens of unbelief. Joshua and Caleb had a different report. The 10 spies said that they could not take the land because the people were bigger and stronger than them, and the land devoured its inhabitants. Their self-perception was that they were grasshoppers.

When Caleb was faced with negativities, he declared the following: “If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”(Number 14:8-9)

Caleb had “a different spirit”. He believed God’s promises that Israel would conquer the land. He saw the land as the inheritance of God’s people. The other 10 spies saw in the natural while Caleb saw in the spiritual. Moreover, Caleb followed the Lord with his whole heart and aligned himself with God’s victorious nature. This different spirit was a spirit of faith. Faith means not looking at what is visible, but believing that God is Almighty. Faith means being obedient in action even when we cannot see the results. Faith does not minimize the difficulties of our circumstances, but refuses to focus on them. Faith focuses on God, who is mighty in battle and always causes us to triumph.

Like Caleb, we too face giants daily - both internally and externally. However if we look forward with faith, God will promise an “inheritance” for us and our generation. We do not quit but persevere till we see the promises of God come to pass.

Reflection: In reality, those giants who stand before us were disarmed at the Cross and in the Resurrection. True faith in God rests on the promises of God’s word. Caleb had trusted in God as a young man and he continued trusting in God throughout his whole life. Has your faith deepened in God or is it the reverse?

Prayer

- Declare and pray this verse over your life - “We live by faith, not by sight. ”(2 Corinthians 5:7)
- All churches in Malaysia to stand united; fulfil God’s Great Commission in every city, town, and village.
- A successful Charity Bazaar 2022 in aid of Rumah Juara this coming 17 September, and it will impact our community.

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" – Amos 5:24

Every day the cries for social justice echo loudly in various social platforms. It was the same in the days of Prophet Amos. He challenged the social and political establishment, and fought for social justice all his life. It was not normal for one to challenge the hierarchy. Amos did not back down even though the people shunned and accused him of treason.

The Israelites were comfortable with their own wealth and did not recognize the importance of helping the poor. Things seemingly looked good at the externals. However, Amos spoke vehemently against the increased disparity between the very wealthy and the extremely poor. He condemns Israel for their social injustices: trampling on the poor like they were dirt, exploiting the weak and crushing the needy, extorting unfair taxes from the poor, taking bribes and denying justice to the poor, stealing from the people in the marketplace, and the court providing the setting for much of the unjust activity. Amos was not afraid to expose these sins that oppressed the poor and needy. We should do likewise.

He also proclaimed God's judgment on the nations that failed to do what was right; violence and robbery should expect the wrath of God.

True justice to roll out in all areas like a river will only occur when, God's people have true repentance and have a relationship with God (Amos 5:4-23). The Israelites abandoned social justice because they abandoned God. We must cry out the full message seen in the Book of Amos.

Reflection: The justice of God may demand judgment for wrongdoing, but his mercy searches for every conceivable way to bring about a stay of execution. He sends his prophets and his punishments to stimulate repentance. The Lord holds out hope for any who will forsake evil and do good.

Prayer

- All judges to make objective rulings free from political interference, prejudice and corruption. Justice to prevail in all cases.
- 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 defence and security personnel.
- The government to increase enforcement and to collaborate with other nations on human trafficking.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" -Matthew 4:7

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" - Matthew 4:10

Battlefields are all around us. Sometimes in the middle of a happy day, we are called to the "front lines"; fighting for our joy, and standing in faith against the enemy. It was the same when Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

Jesus could have struck down Satan any way He chose. After all, He was the Son of God with an endless power. Instead, He engaged the enemy with the only weapon that guaranteed victory: the sword of the Spirit, or the word of God (Ephesians 6:17); to knock Satan out with a humiliating defeat.

Satan attacked Jesus three times from three different angles. Jesus was tempted to turn the stones into bread. Next, Jesus was tempted to do something spectacular by throwing himself down the temple and having His angels rescue Him. Finally, Jesus was tempted to receive all the kingdoms of the world if he worshipped Satan (Matthew 4:3-10).

Each time, Jesus countered the assaults of hell with "it is written" and it became a powerful weapon to beat back the enemy's attack. Jesus was tempted in every way and did not sin. We can overcome temptation with the word of God, the most powerful weapon in the world.

Reflection: "If the Son of God and the Word incarnate aligned Himself with God's Word to overcome His adversary and choose the path of righteousness and life, how much more we should engage with God's Word in the most reverent manner." – Daniel Lim
Pray that the Spirit will give us sensitive hearts to discern His leading and know clearly what He wants us to do.

Prayer

- Believers to be faithful in reading God's word and to be rooted in it.
- The Government to improve health care system, provide free access to health care, and make health care available to every citizen and foreign worker.
- God's power to fight the rise of HIV epidemic in Malaysia.
- The authorities to rescue trafficked children from the hands of predators. Law enforcement to track, arrest and prosecute child predators. The children to receive justice, and to safely return to their families.

Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." - Judges 16:28

Samson didn't start out in bondage, but he did end up in bondage. It did not happen overnight as there was an enslaving process. Samson led a powerful life as a Judge of Israel and was blessed by the Lord. He was a Nazirite, and was given immense strength to aid him against his enemies. He certainly used his God-given abilities, especially his strength and his bravery: slaying a lion with his bare hands and massacring an entire army of Philistines using only the jawbone of a donkey. However, he messed up his life with many women. He gullibly trusted Delilah who sold him out to the Philistines. In the end, he even lost his eyesight. He started as a man full of the Spirit but tragically, he did not even realize that the Lord had left him (Judges 16:20). After his hair was cut, Samson's strength left him. He was locked in prison, blind and humiliated. Yet there was hope as Judges 16:22 tells us, "the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved." In other words, the Spirit of God began to stir within Samson again.

Samson was not going to fade away quietly. He sought the Lord, for one last victory over the Philistines. Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." (Judges 16:28) The prayer was an acknowledgment of God's sovereignty. God remembers His children when they face difficulties; and for the first time Samson began to let the Lord take charge of his life. God heard Samson's prayer and strengthened him. With the last words "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson pushed against the pillars and the roof caved in. On that day Samson killed more Philistines in his death than he did in his life; the temple collapsed on the whole crowd who were gathered there (Judges 16:23-30). Samson showed that it is never too late to pray. God can still use you, but it starts with prayer.

Reflection: Even if you've made a thousand mistakes and you're standing on your last leg, you can still give your life to God and finish strong. It is not too late.

Prayer

- 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.
- Harmony and unity, success and stability of our country. The Government to implement policies that build and foster unity.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."- Genesis 50:20.

How would you respond if your family members betray, conspire and lie about your good standing, and plot for your imprisonment? Joseph experienced such a situation.

Joseph believed God had destined him for greatness. God assured him through dreams that, he would rise to a position of leadership over his parents and brothers (Genesis 37:5-11). However from his brothers' perspective, his dreams were his arrogance. His brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery in Egypt. As a result, Joseph encountered many hardships. While working in Potiphar's house, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. Joseph wrenched himself loose from her, left his garment in her hand, and ran away. Joseph was unjustly accused and imprisoned. Although Joseph's physical environment changed for the worse in jail, his spiritual conviction did not. God even gave Joseph wisdom to interpret both the butler and the baker's dreams. When Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, Pharaoh promoted Joseph; put him in charge of the affairs of government, and made him the person responsible for the coming seven years of famine.

In spite of trials, Joseph never wavered in his commitment to God. Even when his brothers came to Egypt to seek food during the famine, Joseph did not seek revenge on them. Instead, he forgave them and welcomed them with an open heart. Joseph recognized that all the suffering he had undergone was orchestrated by God to ensure the survival of Egypt and the surrounding countries. Joseph himself testified that the sufferings (physical, mental, and emotional agonies) had been allowed by God so that Joseph could fulfil God's plan; to save many lives. In the end, he gave God all the glory. Difficult times help us to see God's love, provision and compassion.

Reflection: Joseph realized that times of adversity and trouble are temporary. Healing takes time. With God's help, Joseph was able to leave his troubles behind and live with what God had provided for him in every situation.

Prayer

- The church to be resilient and courageous during challenging times; rise up to be a beacon of light to those who live in darkness.
- GTians to be prayerful and spirit-filled.
- A just society where the prosperity of our country can be enjoyed in a fair and equitable manner.
- The many refugees and asylum seekers in our country will experience God's love, hope and comfort. Pray for God's comfort on orphaned children whose parents have been taken away from them.

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." – Exodus 14:14

We do experience anxiety and discouragement when a situation seems hopeless or the matter at hand is too overwhelming. Sometimes God asks us to be still and allow Him to fight our battles.

The dramatic story played out as the Israelites were escaping from slavery in Egypt. Their escape from Egypt it seemed, would be short-lived. The Israelites were standing at the edge of the Red Sea, surrounded by the huge sea before them and the Egyptian army was advancing behind them. Seemingly the Israelites were in an impossible situation; they were pursued by Pharaoh's chariots. The Israelites were incapable of escaping on their own. They needed to wait for God to move on their behalf. None of the Israelites ever imagined that the massive sea was going to split in the middle, providing a way of escape by walking on dry ground, crossing the sea, and drowning the Egyptians.

It appears not to make sense when, "So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea" (Exodus 13:18). Why would God do such a thing? The Bible gives some of the reasons: "I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." (Exodus 14:4) The battle that appeared to be between the Egyptians and the Israelites was, between the Egyptians and the Lord. God also wanted to teach the Israelites that He is their deliverer (Exodus 6:6, 14:13). God did not just deliver His people; He destroyed their enemy too.

Reflection: It can be powerful and life-changing when Christians trust God to fight their battles. Sometimes we must just stand still, and learn that no battle is impossible for God to handle.

Prayer

- God to open a way in your challenging situation.
- God to break every form of bondage such as addiction, debt bonds, child slavery, forced marriage, domestic servitude and forced labour.
- God to raise up god-fearing politicians to serve our nation.

Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept. – Mark 14:72

Many battles are won when we are willing to get up again. Peter is known as a man who was loud, impulsive, self-assertive, and quick to commit without fully understanding what it meant to follow Jesus.

He was impulsive and was willing to try walking on water. He was the first to call Jesus "the Christ" and "son of God". When Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him, Peter proudly denied it (Matthew 26:34-35). On the night after Jesus was arrested, there were three instances where Peter was asked about his being a follower of Christ. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied him three times. At the last denial, Peter lost all composure and put a curse on himself if he had lied. When he realized what he had done, he broke down and wept (Mark 14:66-72). In spite of Peter's mistakes, Jesus' love and forgiveness changed the course of Peter's life.

Peter's failure did not exclude him from God's purpose and plan. On the contrary, Peter was the first of the twelve that Jesus appeared to (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5). Jesus graciously restored Peter on the shore of Galilee (John 21:15-17). Not only that, Peter became the leader of the disciples; stood up and preached a powerful message, after which about 3,000 people were saved (Acts 2:14-36).

Reflection: Failure is not fatal but rather an opportunity to build our inner strength and faith. When you fail, fall on Him at His throne of mercy. His power and grace will enable you to get up again and to be victorious.

Prayer

- Spiritual revival to sweep through Malaysia beginning with us, impacting our community and our nation's leaders.
- God to raise Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher to equip believers for service and to build the body of Christ.
- 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.
- The Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department to clamp down drug trafficking.

"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." – Ephesians 6: 11

One of the greatest revivals in the history of the early church took place in Ephesus. The Gospel went to the entire region of Asia Minor within two years, followed by many unusual miracles that took place. The message of Jesus transformed the culture of the region without any direct political involvement. Instead, it was simply the power of the gospel and using the "armour of God".

Apostle Paul listed several pieces of armour worn by the Roman soldiers of his day, and made an analogy about the spiritual armour Christians need to wear to battle effectively. The full armour of God that Christians are called to put on comprises the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:14-17).

He wanted them to understand how they could use each piece of the armour of God to protect themselves against every strategy of Satan. When you put on the armour, it is also the expression of your full trust in God: what He has done for you through Jesus Christ. Your victory in spiritual warfare was secured at the cross of Christ and the blood that was shed (Revelation 12:11).

Reflection: Although prayer is not one of the pieces of the whole armour of God, Paul closed his list by saying, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:18). Prayer keeps us in communion with God; its power makes the armour effective.

Prayer

- God to strengthen our "spiritual armour pieces". (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- The church of God to unite as one in faith, in voice and in vision to reach the lost.
- Prayer momentum for the next General Election (GE15). Pray for upright and dedicated representatives in all the constituencies.
- Employers to ensure health and insurance programmes for migrant workers. God's presence, peace and protection on the migrant workers as they work in Malaysia.



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