

*UNTO THE LORD FAST**SEVEN DAY FAST**APRIL 16TH, 2024**DAY 3**KATHY GODLEWSKI*

Hello Victory Family!

Hope you are all doing well on our Unto the Lord Fast!

The theme of our Fast is "PURITY AND INTEGRITY."

My devotional is on PURITY.

Let's look at the definition of purity (Merriam-Webster). PURITY is:

- * the quality or state of being pure
- * freedom from impurities
- * freedom from guilt or sin
- * the quality or state of being morally pure
- * freedom from immorality, especially of a sexual nature

Some synonyms and similar words include:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| * innocence | * goodness | * righteousness | * decency |
| * morality | * chasteness | * virtuousness | |

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF SOMEONE IS PURE?

- * PURITY MEANS TO BE CLEAN, SPOTLESS OR UNSULLIED

Ephesians 5:25-27 (TPT)

"And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, His bride. For He died for us, sacrificing Himself to make us holy and PURE, cleansing us through the showering of the PURE water of the Word of God. All that He does in us is designed to make us a mature church for His pleasure, until we become a source of praise to Him - glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw."

Jesus is coming back for a PURE church, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

- * PURITY MEANS TO BE UNTAINTED WITH EVIL

James 1:27

NKJV: “...to keep oneself unspotted from the world

TPT: “True spirituality that is **PURE** in the eyes of Father God is ...
... to refuse to be corrupted by the world’s values”

PURITY MEANS TO BE INNOCENT (innocent as a child)

Matthew 18:3 (NIV)

Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

* **PURITY MEANS TO BE PHYSICALLY CHASTE; VIRGIN**
Men and women, keep yourself physically pure

* **PURITY MEANS TO BE FREE OF OR WITHOUT GUILT, GUILTLSS**

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **PURIFY** us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalms 34:5 (TPT)

“Gaze upon Him, join your life with His, and joy will come!
Your faces will glisten with glory.
You’ll never wear that shame-face again.”

Jesus paid the price to free us from guilt and shame.

* **PURITY IS A MATTER OF THE HEART**

A pure heart is free from deceit, hypocrisy, and evil intentions. It seeks to honor God in all things.

Matthew 5:8

NKJV: Jesus said, “Blessed are the **PURE** in heart, For they shall see God.”

TPT: “What bliss you experience when your heart is **PURE!**
For then your eyes will open to see more and more of God.”

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

Psalms 24:3-6 (TPT)

“Who then ascends into the presence of the Lord?
And who has the privilege of entering into God’s Holy Place?
Those who are clean - whose works and ways are **PURE**;
Whose hearts are true and sealed by the truth
(**NKJV:** “clean hands and a **PURE** heart”)
Those who never deceive, and whose words are sure.
They will receive the Lord’s blessing,
And righteousness given by Savior God.”

There is a song we sing:

Keep my heart tender
Keep my heart PURE
I want to be like Mary with that alabaster jar
Pouring out everything...

Another song is:

PURIFY my heart
Let me be as gold
and precious silver
PURIFY my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will

PURIFY our hearts, Lord. Refine us and make us holy instruments in Your hand, ready to do Your will.

YOUNG PEOPLE, KEEP YOURSELVES PURE BEFORE THE LORD

Psalm 119:9 (NIV)

“How can a young person stay on the path of PURITY?
By living according to Your word.”

Psalm 119:9,10 (TPT)

“How can a young man (or woman) stay PURE?
Only by living in the Word of God and walking in its truth;
I have longed for You with the passion of my heart,
Don't let me stray from Your directions!”

Psalm 119:10 (KJV)

“With my whole heart have I sought thee:
O let me not wander from Thy commandments.”

Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV)

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in PURITY.”

In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul told Timothy to:

NKJV: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a PURE heart.”

TPT: “Run as fast as you can from all the ambitions and lust of your youth; and chase after all that is PURE.

Whatever builds up your faith and deepens your love must become your holy pursuit. And live in peace with all those who worship our Lord Jesus with PURE hearts.”

James 1:27

NKJV: “.....and keep yourself unspotted from the world.”

TPT: “.....refuse to be corrupted by the world’s values.”

Many young Christian men and women wear PURITY rings, a symbol of their commitment to the Lord to keep themselves sexually PURE until marriage.

There are so many Scriptures in the Bible about PURITY:

Philippians 2:14-16 (TPT)

“Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. for then you will be seen as innocent, faultless, and PURE children of God, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture. For you will appear among them as shining lights in the universe, offering them words of eternal life.”

NKJV:”in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.”

NIV:”in a warped and crooked generation”

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is PURE, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.”

Philippians 1:9-11 (TPT)

“I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. This will enable you to choose the most excellent way of all - becoming PURE and without offense until the unveiling of Christ. And you will be filled completely with the fruits of righteousness that are found in Jesus, the Anointed One - bringing great praise and glory to God!”

In the words of Victoria Gibbs concerning Victory - A Church of His Presence:

**We're not trying to build big.
We're not trying to build fast.
We're trying to build PURE.**

I will end with this Scripture:

1 John 3:1-3 (TPT)

“Look with wonder at the depth of the Father’s marvelous love that He has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own beloved children. The reason the world doesn’t recognize who we are is that they didn’t recognize Him. Beloved, we are God’s children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be just like Him, for we will see Him as He truly is. And all who focus their hope on him will always be purifying themselves, just as Jesus is PURE.”

Because we as believers have hope, and anticipate being with Jesus for eternity, we pursue a PURE life.

As we continue on this fast, let us draw closer to the Lord, seek His face, and allow Him to PURIFY our hearts. Let’s draw near with a PURE heart. During this fast, let’s pursue PURITY in every area of our lives.

I’ve shared a lot of Scriptures in this devotional, but God’s word speaks.

Stay strong on our fast and consecrate yourselves unto the Lord....

God bless you, Victory Family!