

UNTO THE LORD FAST 7 DAY FAST JANUARY 9TH, 2023



DAY 3

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Hey Victory Fam! I hope all is well while you are fasting and drawing near to Father. For me personally, this is always a time of discovery. In this time of fasting I discover what the Lord wants to remove from my life and what He wants to impart. I have discovered a principle with Him. The areas that He prunes are the areas that He wants to see fruit bloom. With that being said, the cutting away can be an uncomfortable and even painful process yet, in the end, what doesn't belong, or what was dead, has been removed, opening us up to the opportunity for fruit to be produced in our lives.

Now, many of us are aware of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. But this quarter's fast we are focusing on the fruit of holiness and humility.

Let's take a look at Hebrews 12:14: "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:".

The Greek word for pursue in verse fourteen is dioko, Strongs G1377, and it means "to pursue with haste, or to earnestly desire to possess." An illustration that can be used for this is when a hunter is pursuing its catch. Now imagine if you had the skills of an experienced hunter, and the only means you had to feed yourself and your family was hunting. There is no grocery store or Uber eats, but just your hunting skills. You notice some dinner in the distance, in a field, and you had to pursue it. You would be actively pursuing that game with all the knowledge and know-how you had. That is how the Lord wants us to pursue peace with all people and holiness. He wants us to actively possess peace and holiness in our lives that bear fruit and bear witness of His Eternal Kingdom.

There is a plethora of things we can associate to "peace with all people." One thing that is certainly fitting for this quarter's fast is humility. Oxford Languages' definition of humility is "a modest view of one's own importance." Biblical humility is considering other people's needs above your own with a humbleness of mind. I believe true humility is not the neglecting of the well being of ourselves, but putting the wellbeing of others before our own interest and opinions. It is hypocritical to say you love God, but then you mistreat people.

I am reminded of what is recorded in Mark 12:28-31, "Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, 'Which is the first commandment of all?' Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is, "Hear O Israel, the Lord Our God, the Lord is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'"

To love God is to love people, and humility with God is to have humility with people. When we are modest and humble in our minds, it opens the door to peace with God and with all people.

Let's move on to holiness. The biblical definition of holiness means to be separated or set apart. The Greek word for holiness here is *hagiasmos*, Strong's G38, which means purity. This is something that my heart burns for, to see in the Bride of Christ: purity. There is power in purity. Oh let it be said that we are a church that moves in the power of God, and we have the moral integrity to go with it. Father calls us to be a holy people; He calls us to be different. This is such an important principle that many so called leaders are failing to grasp. We are NOT called to conform into the culture, but to transform the culture. People are supposed to recognize the Light of God on your life by the way you live. Lost people are desperately crying out for something different than the world is offering. Being holy is not simply following a list of rules. Being holy is agreeing that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus, and you simply will not live less than that which you were created for.

Let me explain:

We have the privilege of having electricity in this nation. It is very common to have it at our finger tips. We use it to charge our phones, cook food, enjoy air conditioning- praise God. We also use it for lights. The majority of the time, when lights are on in a house, that means someone is home. You can see the house is filled with light. To choose to live without electricity is to choose to live less than the privilege given to you.

Choosing to live a carnal life is less than what you were born into. Living a carnal life belittles the eternal reason of why Holy Spirit was given to you. Living a sinful life is less than what you were born into. It belittles the sacrifice Lord Jesus made for you.

I want to use the illustration of the house being filled with light and us pursuing holiness. If you just have a light on in the back room and no other light on in the house, you may see the illumination from the front window and someone might wonder if someone is there or if someone just left a light on. But if you have all the lights on in the house more than likely someone is home. If you just have certain areas of your life submitted to the Lord, someone may see a small illumination coming from the back of the house, but may not be very sure if that's just good morals or if you are really a believer. If the whole house is filled with light, they will not second guess, and they can clearly see the illumination of light. We are the house; He is the Light. This is what it looks like when we are fully surrendered to the Lord. Holiness unto the Lord does not mean we are perfect and do not sin. It means we are fully surrendered to his Word and His Ways. It means we love what He loves, and hate what He hates.

I will make mention again of Mark 12:30, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment." I have heard it said, love will take you where your mind cannot. I think the most important part of holiness is loving the Lord. Love for the Lord will set you apart from the things that displease him. I will not commit adultery on my wife because first, the Father says not to. Second, because I am in covenant with her. I am head over heels in love with her, and it would break her heart. Lastly, I am terrified of her. Just a joke, but seriously, love motivates me to be faithful. Love motivates me to honor the covenant we have. Love takes me where my mind cannot. Associate that with the Lord. My love for Him motivates me to be faithful to Him and His Word. Love motivates me to be faithful to the covenant we have. Love takes me where my mind cannot.

Lord, help us to love you rightly. Lord fill us with a love for your Word and your Ways that marks us for eternity. Help us to be a humble and holy people that please your heart. Lord, let your love take us to a place our minds cannot, to a place of holy adoration unto you, Our great Savior and King! Lord, we ask that you would fill us afresh, in Jesus Name.