

# UNTO THE LORD FAST

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DAY SEVEN

BRIAN GIBBS

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**Good morning, Victory!**

**Can you believe it's day seven and we are coming to the close of this special fast. I love these weeks that we set apart and draw close the heart of The Lord, His Word, His Spirit, His desires, His will and His purpose.**

**As we complete our fast today, I want to return us to the emphasis and theme of “speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body in Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” (see Ephesians 4:15 NIV) We remember that the Apostle John writes: “Moses brought us the law, but Jesus brought us grace and truth.” (see John 1:17 NKJV) With this in mind, when we are speaking the truth there must be the proper balance of grace and of truth. Our goal and aim are to build others up, not to crush them, nor to harm them. In speaking the truth, we must do this with love, honesty and compassion – this is what causes spiritual maturity to spring forth, with growth and unity in the family of God.**

**As we do this, the truth of God's Word will protect and defend others and shield them from false doctrines, just as Paul warned in the context of this passage. The posture of our heart towards our brothers and sisters in Christ must be in patience, a gentle and right spirit, and with humility when serving them the truth. We have to walk in God's wisdom so that we do not come across self-righteous or arrogant when bringing correction with the truth of God's Word. In the fear of the Lord, we never want to mishandle our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Word will do what it is anointed to do – it is alive to divide and separate what is true from what is false.**

**Love without truth will lead to enabling people to stay in an unhealthy and unsafe place of not walking in the fear of the Lord, but when we walk in love towards one another and speak the truth, God's Word will elevate and lift us higher so that we see from His perspective. The truth breaks the shackles and removes the darkness of blind spots that we are unaware of.**

**We need each other. Please hear and receive that. We need each other. Yes, we need God. Always and without question. But we also need one another, because we are a family. We are not an island unto ourselves. The truth is, we are not independent from each other, but rather interdependent, just as the body was meant to function by God's design (see 1 Corinthians 12:21-27).**

**Together, let's be present and contend for greater growth and unity by being watchful and speaking the truth in love. This is a high priority in the Church, and it's a spiritual calling and responsibility that we cannot afford to neglect – especially in this urgent hour. Let's be patient in guarding one another, listening well and investing in the maturity of the family of God. Let's submit to the Word of God, letting it be our final authority in all things. As the Word says, "Testing all things and holding fast to what is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. Now may the God of peace sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (see 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23 NKJV).**

**Finally, when we speak the truth in love, we remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to us – that the nature of love is patient, kind, not arrogant or rude and this sets the tone on how truth should be delivered to one another in the family of God. Walking in the truth is what makes us free (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJV). Speaking the truth in love is not simply about being "nice," but it's about sharing the truth in such a way that allows people to experience the love of God and to be changed by it.**

**Greater things are yet to come here at Victory this year. We all recognize that the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us in so many special ways. Keep pressing in, and walk in the love of the Father. Walk in the freedom of God's truth. Enjoy the journey together, and keep speaking His truth in love. God bless you all!**