

UNTO THE LORD FAST

DAY SIX

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Dear Victory family, it is an honor to partake in another fast unto the Lord together! I thank God that He has put us together as a family, in one accord for days such as these. I pray and ask that You, Lord God, would nourish our souls, hearts, and minds during this fast and for the days to come. I pray that Your will would be done on earth, in Victory, and in our own homes as it is in Heaven.

In this corporate fast unto the Lord, we are focusing on speaking the truth in love and particularly how walking in love leads us into maturity in Christ. I thank God for His word because, just like you, I desire to grow and mature in our Lord and Savior.

Let's read Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) together:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

To give context, during the time Paul wrote this letter, Gnosticism (a belief that salvation is attained through divine knowledge and not by faith in Jesus Christ) had begun to infiltrate the church and draw believers away from the faith and into false doctrine. Paul gave a strong decree to them earlier in the chapter, saying, “I beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (vs. 1). Not only was he calling Christians to a high standard, but he declared the sound doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ by stating there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (vv. 4–6). He then went on to describe in verses 7–9 that God gave gifts to believers and appointed some believers to specific offices for the equipping of the saints.

It was the specific design and goodness of God that He would pour out His Spirit and set up a form of governmental leadership within His church to equip, train, build up, and protect the sound doctrine that the Lord Jesus Christ preached and implanted in our very lives, sealing us unto salvation!

We now know the structure that God put in place. But why was that His heart?

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting. (Ephesians 4:14 NKJV,)

God desires us to be children that know, walk in, and are grounded on solid doctrine. There are wolves in sheep’s clothing that are among the brethren at-large who are trying to trick us, ensnare us through craftiness, and destroy us through deceitful plotting. Victory family, we know the enemy has come to kill, to steal, and to destroy all that he can. How can we have confidence we will never fall victim to the enemy or allow false doctrine to creep into our lives and belief systems?

Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV) answers this: “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ.”

The Greek word for “speaking the truth” is *alētheuō* (al-ayth-yoo'-o), which means to be true (in doctrine and profession); speak (tell) the truth (Blue Letter Bible). This is very important for us to understand as believers because speaking the truth is twofold. The first part is being sound in the fundamental doctrine of our faith in Jesus Christ and the second is speaking this over ourselves, family, and neighbors.

So, how can we have confidence that we will never fall victim to false doctrine and drift away from our most dear faith in Jesus? Just as the Scripture says, “speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Ephesians 4:15 NKJV). It is by speaking the truth, living the truth, and growing in truth in love so that we grow into Christ! DO NOT MISS THAT PART. You are either growing and conforming into the image of Christ, or you are growing and contorting to look more like the world.

The first part of speaking the truth is knowing the truth. I love Ephesians 4:20 (ESV):

But that is not the way you learned Christ! – assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus.

The truth is in Jesus. Always stay close to Jesus. Always make Jesus the number one priority in your life. Stay hidden in the secret place. Love on Jesus and let Jesus love on you. When you are with Jesus and His Spirit of Truth resides in you, when you go to speak you will speak the truth and live the truth!

In Ephesians 4:25 (NKJV) it says, “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.”

Paul declared that it is imperative to also share sound doctrine with our brothers and sisters in Christ to build up the Body of Christ.

Remember, we are of one body, “joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causing growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16 NKJV).

Friend, when you press into growing and maturing in your faith, it does not just benefit you, but also causes growth for all believers and the body of Christ! Victory family, I know that we desire to experience far more of the outpouring of the glory of God and it is something that will grab the attention of the Lord to pour Himself out!

In a wicked and perverse generation, will you make the choice to hold the line? Will you make the decision to advance, fight, and take back the ground that the enemy has stolen, by speaking the truth in love? Will you make the decision to speak the truth in love and not just to grow yourself, but also to build up your brothers and sisters in Christ around you for the glory of God? I hope we all come to this conclusion and make this commitment today for the rest of our lives.

I desire to finish with a sobering scripture so that it may keep us on the narrow road with a realistic expectation.

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. (Ephesians 4:1 NKJV)

There is a cost to speaking the truth and living it out. Paul wrote Ephesian 4 while being locked up. For Paul, the cost of speaking the truth locked him up in chains and ultimately sentenced him to death. None of us know what cost we will have to pay, but I ask, “Are you prepared to pay the cost for speaking the truth?” I say this in all soberness, as our King is coming!

**Friend, always speak the truth with all boldness, power, and LOVE!
Remember, you are the light in the world of darkness, and your
words have the power of life and death in them!**

God bless you and keep enjoying this fast with the Lord. Hallelujah!