

June 1 - July 10, 2015

GOING STRONGER IN PRAYER

40 Days Fasting and Praying





“

PRAYER IS THE
MOST IMPORTANT
CONVERSATION OF
THE DAY

SHALOM

Greetings, my beloved IFGF brothers and sisters!

I'm excited to join with you in this 40 Days Prayer & Fasting 2015. We have received many testimonies during the 21 Days Daniel Fasting earlier this year, and I believe all of us will experience more of God when we pray and fast together this June 1st until July 10th.

Our great team from IFGF Pray has provided us a guide for this prayer & fasting where we can learn and relearn the biblical truths on praying and even making intercession for others. Together, let's witness God's love and power by unlocking heaven's door through our prayers.

"Let Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!" (Matthew 6:10)

Together Stronger,
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Oentoro
Founder & Chairman

Shalom Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a tremendous joy for us as a united body of Christ IFGF worldwide to come together to God to humble ourselves through 40 days prayer and fasting (1 June - 10 July 2015).

I believe prayer cannot be separated from everything that we face and go through in life. Prayer acts as a form of two-way communication with the Lord, as said in the word of God "Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17-18).

Prayer does not only act as a form of communication with God, but also act as a builder to enable us to have better relationships with others. Let us rise up to be his prayer warriors and we will see His remarkable power answering our prayer, changing environment surround us, and changing lives of those we prayed for.

Through the answer of our prayers, we can testify and glorify the Lord with our testimonies. I encourage brothers and sisters to strengthen each other through testimonies. Testimonies can be shared and sent to us via email: pray@ifgfg.org by providing name and the location of the respective IFGF church. I believe even a short and small testimony have power to strengthen and encourage those who hear.

Let us experience the power of prayer and fasting by building a closer relationship with God and others.

Together stronger,
Pdt. Kristanto Hanna, M.Th
Vice Chairman - Equipping

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We would like to welcome all our brothers and sisters in all IFGF churches throughout the world to experience an exciting 40-day IFGF Prayer and Fasting season that will take place from June 1st to July 10th, 2015. Prayer has the amazing power to connect us not only to God, but also to other our family, our church, our community and even to many nations as we pray for them through intercessions. And during this special time of seeking the Lord, we will pray for God to send His revelation and His Spirit of prayer to take us into a more intimate relationship with Him and other people around us.

The purpose of this 40-Day IFGF Prayer and Fasting guidebook is two-fold. The first is to take us to understand the multidimensional aspects of prayer, so that we can experience prayer and the intimacy with God that it brings to the fullest. Secondly, this book also aims to guide us in building successful relationship with others through prayer.

Together as the body of Christ, let us experience the power of prayer and fasting in the next 40 days and let us build deeper relationship with God and others through prayer.

Together Stronger!

Blessings,
IFGF Pray
Yenny Tjipto & Lina Hasmy



Remember to pray with a clean, compassionate heart, and perseverance. During this fasting time, it is not only a matter of not eating and drinking but to set our priority to spend time with The Lord. When we focus on The Lord, He will focus on our life as well. Have an exciting 40 days praying and fasting time with The Lord!

FASTING

What is Fasting?

Fasting means to humble ourselves before God and telling Him that we deny our flesh to seek Him. As a spiritual discipline, fasting is an act of not eating and drinking to focus ourselves on God and giving spiritual food to our spirit and flesh.

- Fasting in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, fasting was a moment where people gathered to humble themselves, to receive the purification from sins through repentance, to obtain spiritual renewal, and to find divine help. Fasting was often associated with tears and humbling experiences before God. In the Old Testament, fasting was defined in Joel 2: 12-13, Isaiah 58, 1 Samuel 7:6, and Deuteronomy 9:9.

- Fasting in the New Testament

Lord Jesus gave the example of fasting when He fasted 40 days after being baptized. There was a woman of an advanced years, called Anna, who unceasingly served God in prayer and fasted day and night. In Antioch, the prophets and Jesus' early disciples also fasted (Acts 13: 2), and Apostle Paul wrote several times in his letter that "in fasting often," (2 Corinthians 11: 27). For every child of God, fasting is a lifestyle and the question is not "do I have to fast?" but "when should I fast?"

How Should We Pray and Fast?

There are 3 choices:

1. For those who have previously fasted, it is recommended to skip two meals. End the fasting at 6pm. The fasting will then continue from 10pm that night till 6pm the next day.
2. For those who have just started fasting, it is recommended to just skip one meal. We can choose to skip either breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
3. For those who are not physically fit, it is recommended to break fast up till noon only.

What can We Do Differently During Our Fasting Time?

1. Pray together with our family, Care Group, or Prayer tower to end the fasting together.
2. Pray and minister to those in need. Pray for our community, family members, co-worker, church, and nation. Have a list of names that we commit to pray for during these 40 days praying and fasting.
3. Dedicate time in the morning, afternoon, or at night to have a special time with God personally.
4. Read 40 days praying and fasting journal guide and have time to read the word of God daily.
5. Write down our questions and what we receive from the Lord in a journal during 40 days praying and fasting time.

JUNE

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	

JULY

WHY DO WE PRAY?

John 3:16, Romans 8:38-39, James 4:8

Prayer is two-way communication with God. This is the simplest, yet the most essential and accurate definition of prayer. Sadly, so many Christians miss this essence, and after being Christians for many years myself, it is only recently do I truly understand this beautiful meaning of prayer.

Previously for me, prayer means bringing to God a list of things for Him to do. However, I now learn that prayer is supposed to be the same as when you are communicating with someone you love. When people are in love, they would spend numerous hours trying to get to know each other; they would meet in person, chat on the phone, send text messages, etc.

The person you love would be the person that you would want to speak to when you wake up in the morning and say good night to at the end of every day. Our relationship with God is a relationship of love. To God we are His bride (Isaiah 54:5).

God is truly, madly in love with us. It doesn't make sense why - but He is. It doesn't matter how we feel towards Him, the fact is God loves us and His love for us won't change. He loves us so deeply that He sent His son, Jesus, to live on this earth and die an extremely painful death, all so that we can be saved. Our Father in heaven knew that there was no guarantee that we would return His love, even if He sacrificed His own Son; yet He did it anyway. He took a bet on us.

God doesn't stop there. It is written in Romans 8:38 that NOTHING can separate us from His love. This gives us confidence that no matter what our condition is, no matter what we have done, we can always approach God in full confidence that He would accept us.

Just as a couple in love like to spend much time together, God longs for us to spend time and have conversation with Him - about our days, our feeling, our disappointment, our heartaches, our regrets, our hopes, dreams and joy. He wants to hear from us and speak to us. And it is all done through prayer.

For me now, prayer is a time when I get to talk to the One who loves me more than anything is this world - My Jesus. It is the time when I can embrace all the love He pours for me, when I can let Him speak to me through His words (the Bible). It is the time when I can love and adore Him freely through worship, share about my days - my pain, my joy, hopes and dreams, or simply spend some time of quiet and peace with Him.

Let us begin this 40 days of prayer and fasting by truly understanding how much God loves us. Then and only then would we be able to love Him back and truly enjoy this prayer journey as God means it.

Prayer Points:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us understanding how much God loves us.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us a new prayer paradigm, so that it will cease to be an obligation, but rather a desire to be with the God who loves us.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Jeremiah 33:3

I love food. I am one of those people who live to eat and not vice versa. Recently, I made the decision to start taking better care of the body that the Lord has given me. I would start with eating healthy and doing exercise. The choices are oftentimes not easy. When it comes to a choice of eating a bowl of salad versus a box of “finger-licking good” KFCs, it is a difficult choice indeed. Exercising has been the same. Each day I need to make a decision whether to spend the next 30 minutes exercising or watch my favorite TV shows.

Old habits die hard. My willpower would from time to time fail and I ended up choosing the wrong decisions. However, after I made the right decisions for a sufficient number of times, I began seeing good changes and in the end became addicted to this new health regime. Those junk unhealthy food that used to taste so good, well, they don't taste that good anymore. Choosing whole foods becomes second nature, and exercising is one of my favorite pastimes now.

It is the same with prayer. A lot of us consider prayer as an obligation, a chore that we have to do day after day. And just like exercising and eating healthy to me, prayer for many of us does not come naturally.

However, prayer is not a chore that we Christians must do. It is a way of spending time with the Lord that we love, and a venue for Him to pour out His love for us. For some of us who are new to Christianity or who haven't been talking to God for a long time, prayer would feel unnatural. You would probably feel like there is nothing to talk about. Any relationship requires nurturing and investment of time and energy. The same thing goes for our relationship with God.

Jesus finds prayer a necessity to connect to His Father. As the Son of the God, living on earth couldn't have been easy for Jesus. For Jesus to be able to overcome the world and complete His purpose on earth, He would, on a regular basis, recharge through connecting to His Father first thing every morning.

David, the man after God's own heart, is also a man of prayer. He would come to God during different occasions:

- Celebrate a war (Psalms 118)
- When he was threatened (Psalms 27)
- When he was at a loss (2 Samuel 21)
- When he fell into sin (Psalms 51)
- When he was joyful (Psalms 100)
- When he was in distress (Psalms 77)
- When he was weak (Psalms 102)
- When he went to bed at night (Psalms 63)
- When he felt defeated (Psalms 22)
- When he was treated unfairly (Psalms 64)

Just like Jesus and David, let us build a habit of involving God in our days through prayer. Start by committing at least 15 minutes a day for devotionals. Read at least 1 chapter of the Bible, sing a worship song and talk to God, about anything and everything. Once you see the benefits of prayer – refreshed by the Lord, being connected to God, the sensitivity of the Spirit, the joy and peace of knowing that you have been with the Lord who loves you, and revelation from the Holy Spirit – prayer would become second nature.

On the days when you fail, do not take it too hard on yourself. Just make time and pick up where you left off. Ask God to speak and connect to you. Before long, you will be addicted to spending time with the Lord through prayers.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God to take us to an intimate prayer journey during this 40 days of prayer and fasting.
2. Pray for God's revelation upon His Word

THE GOD WE PRAY TO

Romans 8:15, Luke 15: 11-31

Every religion has its own prayer rituals. One requires its followers to identify which god they will bring their prayer petitions to, others require cleansing of self before performing the prayer routines, many require food offerings to the gods. Many people say prayers without knowing whom they lift up their prayers to.

For us Christians, the offering, cleansing, and any sacrificial practices to make us acceptable by God has been completed by Jesus Christ when He died for us on the cross. Jesus chose to be the sacrificial lamb for us so that we may become children of God and have free access to the Father.

As children of God, we pray to our Father. When we received Christ as our God and Savior, we are no longer slaves that have to impress and perform for our master. We have been adopted to be God's son and fellow heirs with Christ (Romans 8:15). We now have free access to God, not because we are good enough, but just because we have become sons and daughters of God.

In the parable of the prodigal son, we are the younger son who had rebelled against the father and came back asking for forgiveness (Luke 15:18). When the younger son returned to the father, the father (our Lord) extended the following:

1. Compassion (v. 19). "While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and ran to his son". Our father in heaven is feeling the same each time we come to Him in prayers. The prodigal son's father was a great and respectable man. Usually people come to greet him and serve him. However, he chose to run to his son.
2. Provision (v.22). God always give the best for His children, even to those that have rebelled against Him, as long as we came back to the Lord. The son that was poor living on his own now welcomed to share the wealth of the father.
3. Acceptance (v. 24). Even though the son has rejected the father by asking for inheritance in advance (thereby declaring that his father is dead, for inheritance is given only when original owner has died) the father never rejected the boy as his son. The son came back with intention to be a worker, but the father adopted him as a son instead (v.19). The same with us, we were sinners, who technically, are not even worth to be God's worker with all the sin that we have. However, God chose to adopt us as his sons.
4. Celebration (v. 31). For God, every lost soul that he finds is worth celebrating. The Bible says there is a great joy in heaven when we return to heaven by accepting Christ. Therefore let's pray for the salvation of unbelievers.

When we are praying to God, we need to come in a mindset of a liberated and adopted son. Previously, we were rebellious slaves. However, through Jesus, God has adopted us to be His sons. Let's approach God as His sons and daughters, knowing that he is pleased with us and love us unconditionally.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for a true understanding of our identity in Christ.
2. Pray for the salvation of souls in North, South, and Central America.

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11

According to many surveys, most people pray. In fact, a surprising large number of people who profess little faith claim that they pray when faced with difficult situations. Yet a quick survey revealed that a lot of people who do pray still feel they do not know how to pray. When and how exactly should we pray?

Praying is much like expressing love toward our loved ones. It is essentially having an intimate relationship with the one you love, except in this case it is a relationship with the one who loves you the most.

When one is in love, there is a constant desire to communicate at any given time of the day. Prayer should exactly be like that. There is no right or wrong time to pray. Prayers can be lifted up at any hour of the day; morning, afternoon or evening. Although it is recommended to set aside a special time every day to pray, it is even better if we can pray continuously in our heart as we go about with our daily activities (Eph 6:16).

When you are in love, there is also a strong need to be presence together with your loved one; to explore and travel to places together. This is also how prayer is. We can pray wherever we like; in our office cubicle, in the restaurant during lunch, or even in our bed before sleep. There is no specific rule where we need to be praying. It is however recommended to enter a hiding place when we need to pray for specific prayers. (Matthew 6:6) Going to a prayer closet allows us to focus intensely on the issue that we need to pray about.

Lastly, a person in love loves to share every single detail of their everyday happenings. It is almost natural to express thoughts, worries, gratitude and words of encouragement and care to our loved ones. Our prayers are also similar. If there could ever be one person who'd be genuinely interested in every single little details of your life, it would be Him, your Father and Creator. God desires to hear what makes our heart happy or ache. He longs to hear we proclaim our love and gratitude for His never-ending love. It is a profound sense of intimacy that grows as we learn to worship Him in prayer.

There is no right or wrong format in prayer. It is an open communication with the one who loves us the most. After all, God wants us to experience joy as we learn to grow deeper and more intimate with Him in prayer.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as He reminds us to pray whenever and wherever we are.
2. Pray for harvest of souls in India, Pakistan, and East Asia.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matt. 6:9-13

What should we pray about in our prayer life? Should we pray for the same exact things day in and day out? To many people, prayer may seem elusive, and in fact this was one of the few things that Jesus' disciples specifically asked Him to teach them. What Jesus taught them next was a prayer we now know simply as The Lord's Prayer. Jesus' prayer is not meant to be mindlessly repeated word by word. Rather, it provides a fundamental blueprint that teaches us where we should put our focus as we pray. More specifically, the prayer teaches us to focus on the Father, and to ask Him to bring His Kingdom and His will onto the earth.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Jesus began by putting our focus on the greatness of God's name. When God revealed Himself to Moses, He told Moses to make Him known as "I AM." I AM, with the emphasis on the "present" nature of the name, indicates that He is Immanuel, unchanging and ever present with us.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" Perhaps at times as we look at the current situation in the world, we would question whether God is truly sovereign over the earth. How can a just and loving and all-powerful God allow suffering, pain, sickness, poverty and chaos on earth? Is it possible to have God's Kingdom on earth? What exactly does it mean anyway? This part of the Lord's prayer reminds us to pray for the salvation of the people around. As people come to Christ, their lives and destiny will be turned around, thus our prayer will impact the world and bring God's Kingdom down one life at a time.

"Give us today our daily bread" is asking God for our daily supervision. We are taught not to worry about tomorrow, but rather to depend solely on Him alone to sustain our lives. In addition, we are to enjoy each day as His precious gift, knowing that each day is an opportunity to know Him more and to experience His glory.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." We need God's forgiveness each day. Yet how can we expect forgiveness from God if we ourselves refuse to forgive others, or if we harbor bitterness in our hearts? It would be hypocritical. Having received God's love and forgiveness for our sins, we should then do the same to others.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" - we are petitioning God to protect us from the evil one that seeks to steal our joy, destroy our lives and kill our spirit. As God's children, staying close to God is the only way to keep the devil away.

Some manuscripts include this closing: "for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Once again, the focus is on God. Exalting God means putting other things in their appropriate positions. When we realize that God is greater than our problems, we know that we are safe and secure as we stay in the hand of the One and only Mighty God.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for a deeper understanding so that we could direct our lives and prayers according to the model given by the Lord's Prayer.
2. Pray for salvation of souls in Australia and Asia

BUILDING AN EXCITING PRAYER LIFE

1Thessalonians 5:16-17

Prayer is more dynamic than we think. It is beyond bowing our head, clasping our fist and closing our eyes. God longs for a relationship that creates joy. “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing,” says 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 (KJV). What sort of rejoicing produces prayer? Imagine each prayer as a date with God. There is no limitation on where you should pray or in this case date with God. You might, for instance, go for a walk along the beach with God just you and the One who made the sea, the sand and the sun. Go somewhere nice and enjoy His presence as the most important gift in your life. As you sit or walk together; try sharing your dreams, desires and needs while not forgetting to thank God for the time together in worship.

There is no need to always be chatty. If you don't have much to say, just savour the pleasure of His love. As you dwell in His presence, let the awareness of God's love be your focus. Let your heart well up with thankfulness and tell the King of kings how wonderful He is and how much you love Him.

We can write all the wonderful memories we shared in our prayer journal. During the times when the going gets tough, our prayer journal will remind us of our pleasant experiences with God. It keeps record of prayers that have been answered and directions that have been given. Prayer journal is the love letter written by our magnificent, mind bogglingly generous Lord who “richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment” (1 Timothy 6:17).

To keep our prayer life exciting, we can start asking God questions about many things that concern others or us and pray for others in need. He is a God who talks back to us in many ways.

There are unlimited possibilities how to do these “dates” that will do wonders to our relationship with God. When we are regularly dating God in this way, we are building a relationship that will last for eternity.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for an excitement and spirit of prayer to be poured out in our personal life.
2. Pray for salvation of souls in Europe

PRAYING BOLDLY

Colossians 3:2-4:7; 1 John 5:14-15

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15)
“So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:7)

These verses reveal the privilege God has given us when He elevated us from the level of mere servants to that of sons and heirs to the Kingdom of God. Since everything that Jesus learned from God has been made known to us, we should approach the throne of God with confidence and boldness, knowing that when we pray according to His will, it will be answered.

Oftentimes we do not pray with confidence, because we are unsure whether or not God would answer our specific prayers. This only reveals that we feel insecure with regards to our status as a child of God and that we have not fully understood the Father’s heart. Regular communications with God through prayer and reading His Word will enable us to be sensitive to Him and His will.

In Luke 22:25-32, the older brother of the prodigal son failed to realize his status as a son. Thus, in his insecurity, he became angry and bitter. He considered the years he worked in his father’s field as years of enslavement. Had he been secure in his status as a son, he would have served his father out of love and appreciation towards his father. In addition, his inability to recognize his status as a son prevented him from approaching the father boldly. He could have asked his father for the fattened calf anytime to party with his friends; but he did not, because he considered himself a slave instead of a son.

Being God’s children, there is nothing more powerful than praying the promises of God in the Bible. Psalms 138:2b says, “For you have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.” Praying His words into our lives takes us into a deeper and more powerful level of prayer where we can experience the fullness of God’s kingdom - that is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the spirit of boldness to overflow in our life.
2. Pray for salvation of souls in Myanmar.



“

PRAYERS
GO UP
BLESSINGS
COME DOWN

OVERCOMING BOREDOM

Colossians 4:2, Psalms 16:11, John 17:20, Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:1

We can pray as often as we want every single day of our lives. We can join all the available corporate prayers or any prayer gatherings, yet unconsciously, at one point in our lives, we would inevitably find ourselves losing the excitement to spend good quality times in prayer. Bit by bit we are losing sight of the foremost purpose of prayer, which is to build an intimate relationship with God.

It has always been in the devil's agenda to get God's children to become bored in prayer. Distractions after distraction are served to distract our attention from God. We need to devote ourselves to prayer with an alert mind (Col 4:2a). When our mind is alert, we would realize when distraction comes to blow our focus away from God. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can surely resist anything that attracts our attention far from God. When our minds are all over the place, it is impossible for us to find excitement in building intimate relationship with God through prayer. When one relationship cannot find excitement, soon enough, that relationship will become dull and thus we find boredom. Our love for God is the essence that fuels our excitement to stay focused to God and to build a deeper relationship through prayer.

When we crave for an intimate relationship, we would always give time for the relationship to flourish. Building relationship takes time and effort. It requires time for two-way communication. The same goes in our prayer life. The moment we stop giving time for God to reveal His heart to us, leading us to do what He wants us to do or whom and what to pray for, our prayer becomes one-way. When this happens, boredom will start to take place because we feel God is not responding to us. The truth is that we rush our prayer time. We do not prepare our heart to embrace His presence, nor to listen to whatever He is trying to say to us.

A thankful heart is also an antidote to a boring prayer life. As we give thanks, His peace and joy consume our minds and hearts. It enables us to embrace His presence and have a clear focus as He reveals His heart to us. Giving thanks keeps us away from praying a selfish prayer that concerns only ourselves. Giving thanks leads us to pray for the people around us. As we pray for others, we will find new excitement and strength fuelled up. Anything that keeps us excited, keeps us away from boredom.

We need to ask ourselves why we lost excitement in praying. Is it because we keep giving in to distractions? Or have been talking and talking our heart out, but not giving Him time to reveal His? Have we been so pre-occupied with 'Me, myself, and I'? We need to always be vigilant in our prayers. We need to always remember that our focus as we pray is to build and intimate relationship with God, not simply getting God to give us what we want! Allow God to teach us how to keep our prayer life exciting; allow Him to help us build intimacy with Himself. Remember, God always wants to talk to us and He never gets bored of us!

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that we may grow out from a mediocre and boring prayer life and flourish into an exciting and intimate prayer life with God.
2. Pray for an alert mind and an open heart as God leads and teaches us how to keep a boredom-free prayer life.
3. Pray for Nepal. Pray for God's love, revival and repentance to take over Nepal.

HINDRANCES

Psalms 63

There are many things that could hinder us from spending quiet time with God: busyness in life, lack of interest in getting closer to God, unanswered prayers that lead to disappointment such that we no longer believe that God hears us when we pray; and lastly, pride and reliance on one's own self.

Apostle Peter reminds us, "The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray." (1 Pet. 4:7) Oftentimes we have difficulties focusing our mind to pray. One of the ways to focus on God is to pray early in the morning. This enables us to be more in tune with God since our minds are still fresh. However, high discipline and determination are needed. Mother Teresa's nuns in the Missionaries of Charity devote 5.00 am – 6.30 am for their daily morning prayers. When we see the number of lives being transformed as a result of their ministry, we realize that it is because of the priority they set in seeking God first at the dawn of every morning.

Other factors, such as doubts and disappointments due to unanswered prayers could also hinder us from coming to God. Doubting God means that we do not trust Him to answer our prayers. Martin Luther once said, "Before you pray, check to see whether you believe or doubt that you will be heard. If you are doubting or uncertain, or if you are merely trying a prayer to see what happens, your prayer won't be worth anything."

A hungry person does not eat until he or she realizes he/she is hungry. Likewise, we will not seek God until we recognize the hunger in our spirits for Him. Richard Foster states: "To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us."

The more we pray, the more we know God's heart, desires and will. How much do we want to know our Saviour today? How much do we hunger for Him today? Let us start our days with prayers. Expect that His will and heart will transform the way we see and act in our world today.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the things that hinder us from getting closer to Him.
2. Pray for soul harvest in Africa.



PRAYER TRANSFORMS LIFE

A few days ago, I received a call from one of our leader at IFGF Sikkim, Pastor Luke Pradhan. His relative, Mr. Gopal Pradham was not well and was staying Siliguri, where I was staying. Due to smoking and drinking excessive alcoholic beverages, his neck was almost spoiled. Mr. Gopa Pradham went through many treatment. The doctor suggested him to cut part of his neck through operation. However, Mr. Gopal Pradham would not agree with the doctor's recommendation.

I decided to visit Mr. Gopal Pradham's house and minister to him. I started by speaking to Mr. Gopal about Jesus and prayed for healing in Jesus name. Mr. Gopal was miraculously healed and now he believed Jesus is Lord and healer. Mr. Gopal is the head of his family and now his family members believe in Jesus as well.

Praise The Lord,

Ps. Sillas on behalf of Mr. Gopal Pradham. Phone number: +91 9832342179

UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Psalms 61

Unanswered prayers often leave wounds in a person's heart and soul. We get disappointed with God and often become angry with Him for seemingly abandoning us in our time of need. In reality, there are many unknown factors that we are unable to perceive with our limited sight. Often times, our requests are selfish, short-term, materialistic or even unimportant in the long run. Yet they are able to consume us and even at times jeopardize our relationship with God.

What then, should our action be, when our prayers seem unanswered? Hold on to the promises of God regarding our situation by praying these promises. This will not only increase our faith, but also remove doubts that arise.

When the Israelites were carried into captivity in Babylon, their lives and dreams were shattered. They longed to return to the land of Judah, their home, but instead, God told them to flourish and build their lives in the new land (Jeremiah 29). Their prayer was not answered the way and in the timing they wanted it to happen. They did eventually return to their land, after 70 years of captivity, but in the meantime, they were to enjoy and build their lives in the land they were held captive.

Instead of letting anger and bitterness consume the Israelites, God told them to pray for their captors and their land (29:7). It was the way to prevent roots of anger and bitterness from growing in their hearts. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (Proverbs 4:23). The Israelites were able to flourish in their captors' land and God did answer their prayers; just not in the way and timing they wanted it to be.

Bill Hybels states: "If the request is wrong, God says, 'No.' If the timing is wrong, God says, 'Slow.' If you are wrong, God says, 'Grow.' But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, 'Go!'"

Often times we do not understand God's mystery of unanswered prayers. Yet our Creator who sees beyond time and situations, knows and is in full control of our lives. He wants us to trust Him whatever the outcome of our prayers are.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for our faith to never run out while waiting for the answer to our prayers.
2. Pray for soul harvest over Russia.

HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP

John 14:15-30

Many people come across our path in life. However, do we have anyone in our life that we can confide to? Someone in life to whom we can share our struggles, silly stories, disappointment, happiness? Some that can listen to us, cheer us up, laugh with us, give encouragement and advices. It could be a best friend, our spouse, our parents, or even the Holy Spirit.

Jesus realizes that in life we cannot be left as orphan. We are created to always have relationship with others and especially with our creator. Knowing the needs of our human nature, God has given us the Holy Spirit to be someone we can always confide to. The Holy Spirit is God himself that has been sent by Jesus to be with us and live in those who believe (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit teaches (John 14:26), counsels (John 14:16-17), sanctifies (2 Tes 2:13), protects (Acts 16:6), guides (Act 16:6-10), loves (Romans 15:30), and helps us to pray (Romans 8:26).

Sometimes we do not know what we ought to pray for but the Holy Spirit helps us to pray according to God's perfect will. Praying with Holy Spirit will give these fruits:

1. Prayers that are in accord with God's will in our life (1 Corinthians 14:2)
2. Higher prayer quality (Romans 8:26-27)
3. Effective intercession (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
4. Edification of faith (1 Corinthians 14:4)
5. Leading us to step into God's supernatural power: (Acts 1:8)
6. Submitting our tongue and self in obedience to the Holy Spirit. (James 3:2)

The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God's own powerful mind, character, and personality. Let us spend time with the Holy Spirit, involve Him in our prayer life, and let Him take us into an exciting new level of intimacy in our prayer life with God.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to take us into an intimate prayer journey with Him.
2. Pray for IFGF Apostolic team and their families.

PRAYING IN GRIEF

Psalm 34:18, Hebrew 4:16

C.S. Lewis, the world-renowned Christian author, met his wife, Joy Davidman, an American writer, at the age of 58. After a hard-long battle to be with his wife, he lost his wife to cancer not long after they were married. He was utterly devastated with the loss. He wrote a book “A Grief Observed” during his struggle. In the book, Lewis, a man of great intelligence and faith, was angry with God. He questioned God and questioned the world, but in the end the book with a conclusion that God in fact sometimes uses the pain we experience in our lives to draw us closer to Him, so that we may know and trust Him as He is, to believe that God is able to give us comfort that will eventually allow the grief to subside.

Probably one of the hardest things we have to face in life is loss – parents lose their children, children bury their parents, families are torn apart, relationships are broken, friends betray friends, money is lost, health deteriorates. Pain coming out from these losses results in grief.

During this time, just as C.S. Lewis, we would probably question God. Why would a good Lord allow bad circumstances to happen? Some probably question their faith and God’s love towards them. How should one pray during this season?

1. Take time to feel your pain.

When Lazarus died, the Bible said – Jesus wept (John 11:38). Jesus knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead shortly, nevertheless, he took the time to weep and mourn. These two words let us know that it is okay to weep in our sorrow – as Jesus modeled it. We are not less spiritual or have less faith when we weep.

2. Know that God understands. God also lost His loved one, Jesus. As a Father, He had to witness His beloved son tortured on the cross.

3. God's sovereignty is absolute, even when we don't understand.

He is the creator of heaven and earth. He has been orchestrating the world since its creation. Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6), He knows what He is doing. He never plans to harm us (Jeremiah 29:11).

4. We can be honest to Him about how we feel. Whether we are feeling angry, disappointed, or at a loss with God, we can just tell Him the truth. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). The Lord will wipe away your tears and provide healing.

5. He doesn't leave us alone. God leaves the Holy Spirit on earth to be our "Counselor." (John 14:16)

6. Believe that God will use our sorrow for good. Twenty years after losing his family and everything he had, Joseph was able to say, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Gen. 50:20)

If it is grief you are experiencing now, open your heart and let the Holy Spirit mend your crushed spirit. After some time, with the healing of the Holy Spirit, we can sing to the Lord songs of praises, just as David did:

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever." (Psalms 30:11-12)

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's healing for your griefs.
2. Pray for those that you know are experiencing griefs.

PRAYING DURING VICTORIOUS TIME

Psalms 118, 2 Samuel 22 & 23

My nephew and niece are young toddlers. On their birthdays, I would give them nice presents. They would then rip the wrappers apart and excitedly play with their new toys. Although I really enjoy seeing their happy faces as they open their presents, it would bring me extra great joy, if afterwards, they would just sit on my lap, thanking me and spending time with me – the giver of the presents.

As children of God experiencing breakthroughs, we, oftentimes, neglect spending time and giving thanks to the Lord. In good times, we usually would spend less effort or time praying or giving thanks, than we would when we are in distress.

At the end of his days in 2 Samuel 22, David reflected on his life and gave thanks to the Lord for delivering him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He acknowledged that God was the source of his victory. (2 Samuel 22:51)

From David, we learn that by giving thanks to the Lord when we receive our victory, essentially what we are doing are:

1. Acknowledge that it is God who gives us the victory. Even after winning numerous battles and surviving through many tribulations, David never took pride in himself. In the fifty one verses in Samuel 22, David proclaimed that he won battles not because he was a good fighter, but because it was God who fought his battles for him (v. 33). By giving thanks, we won't be taking credits for what God has done. All glory rightly belongs to God.
2. Build our faith (2 Samuel 22:7). We remind ourselves that no matter what we go through in the future, God will be there to help us.
3. Worship God (2 Samuel 22:48). As we spend time in to give thanks to God, our heart will be humbled and we would naturally praise and exalt Him.
4. Give testimony to others. God can use our sorrows and griefs to bless others, and God can also use our victory as a testimony of who He is to unbelievers.

Today, let's take time to give thanks to the Lord for every victorious breakthrough He has given. Just as it brings me so much joy to have my nephew spend time with me, it will bring an even greater joy to our Father when we choose to take time to acknowledge His works in our lives.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks and praise God for His blessings in our lives.
2. Pray for IFGF Pastors and their family.

PRAYING FOR PERSONAL NEEDS

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 2 Kings 20:1-11

God is aware of our physical needs and it is His delight to provide for His children. When we face troubled or helpless situations, we are to bring our petitions to God. By seeking God, we are able to ask for God's directions to discern the path we need to take. God is glorified as He provides for us and directs us according to His will.

As God's children, we can depend on His fatherly care (Matthew 6:31-33). His ever-watchful eye is always looking after us and He is always eager to come to our rescue. However, there are several truths that we need to remember as we pray for our personal needs.

1. Our prayers must align to His will according to the Word of God. Matthew 6:10 says, "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Praying in the name of Jesus means that our prayers must be aligned with the will and character qualities of Jesus; pure, merciful, just and righteous. This will give us a clear basis to pray effectively for all aspects of our life. For example, we know it is God's will for us to walk in holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7), therefore if we pray for revenge or lust, it means our prayer is not aligned with His will.

2. God's answer always aligns to the written Word of God (the Bible). As we dwell deeper in the word of God, we would understand what God's character and desires are for our lives. This will give us more confidence when we are trying to discern His directions in our life. For example, if we are offered a way out of debt by doing dishonest work, we can know for sure that it hasn't come from God, because dishonest work cannot align with the word of God.

3. Our prayers have to be in complete surrender to Him. We tend to consider our prayers unanswered when we do not get what we pray for or if we have to wait for it. Our disappointment can breed resentment towards God. But one thing we have to remember, despite all our needs, God wants our focus to remain on Him. This means that we have to trust that His will is the best for us and His timing is always perfect.

In terms of praying for our personal needs, we have to learn to give thanks to Him regardless of whether our prayers are granted or not. Only then will we learn the true delight in seeing God perform His perfect will in our life, whatever it may be. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Prayer Points:

1. Be open and honest to God and pray for your deepest needs and desires.
2. Pray for IFGF children to grow in the fear of the Lord to be a godly generation.



“

**PRAY HARDEST
WHEN IT IS
HARDEST TO PRAY**

PRAYING AT A CROSSROAD

Psalms 23:1-6, Philippians 4:6-7

Why must we pray when we do not know what to do? Would it not be easier to seek advice from people close to us? It sure is faster. It is true that those people who know us pretty well may be able to help us to certain extents to find the right solutions to our challenges. We could even simply type our questions on Google. However, it is also undeniable that no one knows us better than He who created us. God Himself gives the perfect solution, peace, comfort, and strength like no other. That is why we have to pray to God when we find ourselves not knowing what to do.

Being in a crossroad may make us frustrated. However, instead of worrying and letting our frustrations consume us, it is best if we pray. Let Him know about all that have been weighing in our hearts and minds. As we surrender to God, His peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:6-7). Our anxiety will only lead us further away from the answer we hope to find. Having His peace guarding our hearts and minds will help us to stay calm, focused, and our mind clear so that we may be sensitive to His guidance.

As we pray to Him, we are acknowledging His power and guidance upon our lives. We trust that He will guide us along the right path for all our challenges. We are putting our lives in the hand of the Shepherd who will give us rest and renew our strength, so that we can always bring glory to His name even when we are at our lowest point. As we trust Him with our lives, we also need to trust His timing, i.e. that He will give us the answers and solutions to our challenges according to His time, not ours. Though at times we may feel like we are walking alone, always remember that He is our good Shepherd that never leaves us alone (Psalm 23). Even when we are walking down the 'darkest valley', His goodness and unfailing love will always follow us all the days of our lives.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that instead of leaning on our own understanding, we will always trust God to give the perfect solutions in His own perfect time.
2. Pray for every Sunday service in IFGF worldwide to be filled with God's presence so that many souls may receive God's love.

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYING AND FASTING

Isaiah 58

Why do we fast? Maybe after many days of bearing our hunger and thirst, we would be wondering whether there is any point at all why we should be joining any kind of fasting. Scientifically, fasting has many benefits. It helps to put our digestive system at rest and detoxify the body. All of us need to have week ends when we can rest from our work, sleep to give our tired body a rest, or to give our muscles some rest after many days of exercising. Likewise with our digestive system; it is always busy and working hard everyday, so it's good to give it a rest from time to time. During this rest, the body will be enabled to detoxify itself from toxic enzymes or chemicals within its system.

As human beings, like our physical body, our mind and heart are also always working hard day in and out. Everyday we are bombarded by information, goals, desires, ambitions, hope, worries and many more. Fasting helps our mind and heart shift its focus from ourselves to God, so that we may rest in God's presence. The benefits of fasting are:

1. It humbles us before the Lord. (Ezra 8:21, Joel 2:12)
2. It enables us to be aware of and stand for the injustice around us. (Isaiah 58:6-10)
3. To lift up petitions for our own needs. (Isaiah 58:9)
4. It builds relationship with the people around us, enabling us to become a channel of blessings for those in need. (Isaiah 58:7)
5. It is a training period to exercise self control and live by the Spirit (Galatians 5:23)
6. It is a time to dedicate ourselves to seek God's guidance and counsel over our lives. (Ezra 8:21-23)

During this time of prayer and fasting, let us set aside a time of rest physically and spiritually and allow God to fill us with His word, revelation, and guidance over our lives. Allow Him to open our eyes and direct our lives to build relationship with those in need, so that we may become channels of blessings for those around us as well.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray so that God may let us experience an intimate relationship with Him and others in need during this 40-day period of prayer and fasting.
2. Pray for IFGF congregations so they may find their calling and purpose in life.

HEALING THROUGH PRAYER

I, Mr. Khokan and my family in Siliguri had recently accepted Jesus Christ. My son was not feeling well due to heavy breathing problem. I took him to many doctors and even a well-known doctor in Siliguri has given up to treat my son's breathing problem. As parent, my wife and me were very desperate to find way to heal our beloved son. Pastor Silas invited us to his church one time. There we believe in Jesus and when the pastor prayed for my son, he was miraculously healed. Now my entire family is ready to take baptism at the end of this month.

Blessings,

Mr. Khokan and Family. Phone number: +919933078686

INTERCESSION, CONNECTING PEOPLE

James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1

We are called to pray for one another, for all people, including those with whom we barely talk, or whose names we do not even remember. We may have normally prayed for our family or friends; but there are times when God would lead us to pray for those outside our close circle. And when that moment comes, we should not ignore God's leading! We must ask God to reveal what we can pray about for this specific person.

God can use us or anyone whose hearts are open to serve, pray, and intercede for other people. As He leads us to pray for a particular person, God also wants us to learn to care for that person's needs. We are probably confused as we do not know what exactly to pray for, but do not just stop there! We can start by giving thanks to God for bringing our attention to that person, then we can pray for blessings upon that person's life. As we open our hearts, the Holy Spirit will lead us to intercede for his/her needs, sometimes in details. Keep our hearts open and ready so He can lead us freely as we are praying for that person.

As we start bringing other people in our prayer, God will start connecting us spiritually with those in our prayer list. A divine bridging is built when we pray for one another; barriers are dissolved as we are bound together in Godly love. We should not be surprised that the next time we meet that person that we have been praying for, she would not feel like a stranger as she used to be. We would somehow be able to relate well to that person.

Faith without action is useless. When God opens up a door for us to get connected to a specific brother or sister through prayer, we should respond steadfastly with faith through action. Take time to build a friendship with him/her, share to them that we have been praying for them, ask if there is anything specific that we can pray for. It could come as a surprise to them, but most likely they would be glad to have someone giving his/her time to care and pray for them.

It is always a privilege when we have or given the chance to pray for other people. Not only do we learn to care, serve and share their burden, but it will also strengthen and build our faith in God. Stop praying just for ourselves, but let God stretch our boundary to learn to pray and intercede for others. Nothing is more satisfying than serving the needs of others.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God may increase our sensitivity as He leads us to intercede for others unfamiliar to us.
2. Pray so that the desire to intercede grows even deeper in us.

INTERCESSOR'S ROLES

Ephesians 6:18, Daniel 9

Through intercessions we can build relationship with others. Intercessions can be done by all believers and should be an adopted lifestyle of any God's children. Intercessions are prayers that are lifted up not for personal needs but for others'. As believers, we have the authority to stand in the gap between God and mankind. When Peter was kept in the prison, the congregations were praying for him (Acts 12:5) and Peter was set free from the prison.

In Daniel 9, Daniel interceded and stood in the gap for Israel. First Daniel acknowledged the Israel's current situation (Daniel 9:5) and asked for Israel's forgiveness. He acknowledged God's sovereignty and focused on God's character. When Daniel received God's word and plan regarding the situation of Israel, He prayed for God's plan to be done instead of pushing his own personal plan. Intercessors do not pray for their will to be done, but rather seek God's will for the situations that they are praying for. Then they pray at all costs for God's plan to be done on earth.

By praying for others, we can build godly relation with those we pray for and make an impact by bringing God's plan and purpose to be manifested in their lives. Intercessors can stand in the gap between men and God (2 Chronicles 7:14), proclaim God's Kingdom on earth (Joshua 1:3), protect God's people from attacks (Ezekiel 3:17), and also support the nation's leaders (Exodus 17:12).

Intercessors might be invisible to the public, because they work behind the screen. However, they have the power to bring impact in people's lives and even change history. Let's allow God to use us as His humble and powerful intercessors to bring His Kingdom's reign on earth.

Prayer Points:

1. Intercede for 3 people who are close to us and are in need of God's intervention in their lives during this 40 days period of prayer and fasting.
2. Pray so that the love of Christ may bind all IFGF leaders and congregations worldwide in unity.

WHEN AND WHERE

Ephesians 1:15-23

Intercessions can be done whenever and wherever God leads us. When the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray about something or someone even in the most unlikely situations, we are to obey Him immediately. It might be a life and death situation for the person who is in dire need of God's intervention. Our prayer opens the way for answers to be directed his/her way. Martyn Lloyd-Jones states that we need to "always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this - always obey such an impulse."

God told the Israelites to intercede for their Babylonian captors, even in the midst of their captivity (Jeremiah 29:7); Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-33); Moses pleaded for the Israelites in the desert time and again (Exodus 32, Numbers 16); Stephen interceded for his murderers (Acts 7:60). During His last days on earth, Jesus spent time praying for His disciples and all believers (John 17:6-26). Even in His last breath, He was still interceding for His captors and murderers (Luke 23:34).

Whenever there is a need, we are called to pray. Yet sometimes what we lack is not the faith, but the lack of compassion. Richard Foster states: "If we have God-given compassion and concern for others, our faith will grow and strengthen as we pray. In fact, if we genuinely love people, we desire for them far more than what is within our power to give, and that will cause us to pray."

So, when is the right time to intercede? At all times. And where can we pray for others? Anywhere. When God's heart of compassion is imparted into our lives, we cannot but intercede for God to touch and transform their lives the way He transforms ours.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God to use us to be His intercessors anywhere, anytime, according to His will.
2. Pray for the spirit of intercession to be outpoured during these 40 days of praying and fasting.

HISTORY MAKER

Numbers 16:1-50

Korah, from the tribe of Levi, together with Dathan and Abiram, from the tribe of Reuben rose up against Moses. They instigated 250 leaders and community leaders, challenged Moses' leadership and stated that they too, had the authority from God and that God had set the whole community holy, instead of just Moses. In addition, they challenged Aaron's priesthood and carried censers with incense in them. The wrath of God broke against Korah, Dathan and Abiram, who were swallowed up when the earth opened beneath them and their families while fire consumed the 250 men who offered the incense. The next day, the assembly grumbled and accused Moses and Aaron that they had killed God's people. Once again God's wrath broke out against them and Aaron, taking his censer with incense in it, along with fire from the altar, ran into the midst of the people to stand between the living and the dead.

Aaron risked his life, pleading with God to spare the living from the punishment of their folly. 14,700 died that day, besides Korah and his friends. The punishment of rebellion against God was death. Had Aaron delayed his actions more people would have died. Had he been a proud and selfish man, he would have acted differently at that crucial moment and let God's wrath consumed the whole assembly. In verse 45, God told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the assembly so that God could wipe the assembly out. They fell facedown and pleaded with God to show them His mercy. That was why God chose them.

We too, are called to stand between the living and the dead. Although people often do not appreciate our prayers, but when we are connected to God, we too, will intercede like they did. Anytime and anywhere, our hearts will be connected to the Father, praying for whomever He brings to mind that day.

Spurgeon said: "Aaron wisely puts himself in the pathway of the plague... there stood Aaron the interposer with arms outstretched and censer swinging towards the heaven, interposing himself between the darts of death and the people. 'If there be darts that must fly,' he seemed to say, 'let them pierce me; or let the incense shield both me and the people.'" His action and sense of urgency mark the character of a true intercessor as history maker.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God to use our lives as history makers for our families, nations, and workplace.
2. Pray for the upcoming mission trip to Kalimantan, Indonesia, in the month of July. Pray for God's protection, guidance, anointing and presence to sweep through the nation.

CHARACTERS OF INTERCESSORS

Romans 5:3-5, Colossians 3:12-17

In all prayers, Jesus teaches us to be God-centered. This means prayer does not change God. Rather, it changes us. Our character has to be renewed as we learn to grow deeper and intimate with God.

Characters of Intercessors:

1. A man of faith (John 14:12)

A faith as small as a mere mustard seed is sufficient for anyone to start praying. However, as we spend more time petitioning to heaven, our faith will get exercised as we learn to see and experience God's inner working. This in turn will build and stretch us to be men of faith.

2. A man of intimacy (Psalms 91:14, Matthew 13)

As we dedicate more and more of our time to learn the Word and to prayer, we will gradually know God's true character and heart. This will lead to an intimacy with God, enabling us to be more sensitive to receive God's directions in making our every day decisions. Remember that God's directions will always be in accord with His written word in the Bible.

3. A man of action (Romans 8:31)

An intercessor must be well acquainted with the written word of God. He puts his faith in the word of God knowing that it is sure and unchanging. This certainty gives an intercessor faith to take bold actions.

4. A man of peace

An intercessor has to make peace with himself. He needs to be free from disappointment, hatred and bitterness. Having a clean heart allows us to quickly recognize our wrongdoings and ask for God's forgiveness.

5. A man of priority

An intercessor knows his relationship with God is a priority. He knows that God's direction is all he needs. God never wastes our time. As we prioritize God, God will also prioritize us.

6. A man of compassion

An intercessor is quick to help; His heart is filled with compassion towards the suffering. He doesn't only pray for himself but he prays for the needs of others as well.

7. A man of confidentiality

God values our integrity in speech. An intercessor has the wisdom to know when to speak and when to be quiet.

8. A man of submission

A humble heart is a submissive heart. An intercessor is a supporter; he learns to submit to his leader, be obedient and commit to his promise.

9. A man of faithfulness

An intercessor grows in faithfulness through time and energy that he spends sowing the seeds of prayer. Although it takes God a split second to create a miracle, God values faithfulness the most. The fruit of the spirit is visible in his life.

10. A man of unity

An intercessor loves peace. He loves unity more than his personal desires. He puts people before him. A humble heart is like a treasure he carries in his heart.

As we grow deeper in prayer with God, He will build these characters into our life. Stop making excuses and start praying today!

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be born in our daily walk with God.
2. Pray for all IFGF congregations worldwide to grow in the character of Christ.



“

WHEN LIFE IS
ROUGH, PRAY
WHEN LIFE IS
GREAT, PRAY

PRAYING FOR FAMILY

Proverbs 11:29, Proverbs 31, Ephesians 6:1-4

Family is one of the most important foundations in a person's life. God puts high values in family. From the day of Adam and Eve, God has designed humans not to be alone, but rather together so that they can support one another in love through an institution called family.

Prayers can strengthen the familial bonds. "Family altar" is a devotional time spent on studying the Bible, worshipping and praying together as a family rather than individually. Some families have such devotional time weekly or even daily. It is important to include "family altar" as an integral part of family routines. It is a great way to instill Christian values and nurture your family's faith.

Although highly beneficial, doing family altar can be quite a challenge. There is a saying that the people closest to you are the ones who could hurt you the most. Thus members of our families can be a significant cause of our stress and worries. Thus, it is important to remember always that the time, energy and effort you spend praying for your family is worthwhile.

Praying for and with our family could bring a different atmosphere to the relationship. It will create a powerful change in each member's life. It strengthens our relationship to God and our bond to each other. God promises to hear and answer every single prayer you pray. He will change your family for the better through the process and He will make you stronger as you spend time with Him in prayer.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God's love to unite and be the center of our families.
2. Pray for our family members who are in need of salvation.

SERVANTHOOD IN THE FAMILY

Psalms 139, Joshua 24:15

Family is the first institution that God created. Every single one of us was born into a family. We first understand the meaning of love, forgiveness, and sharing in a family setting. Strong families will give rise to a strong and healthy generation, which in turn would give rise in a strong and healthy nation. However, the degeneration of families will also result in the degeneration of a nation. Family as the basic building block of a nation is definitely a powerful unit instituted and blessed by God Himself.

Building a successful relationship with our family members is not always easy. Sometimes we find arguments, problems and even deep-rooted disappointments against our own family members. Here are several tips that we could remember to build relationship with our family members.

1. Praying for each other is vital to bring God's perfect plan for every member of the family to completion. All of us have expectations, plans, goals, and dreams for our children or spouses, but God our creator is the One that fully understands His plan for all of us. In prayer, ask God to reveal His plan for every member of the family and ask Him to unite the family in His love.
2. Accept each other's weaknesses, and but focus on the positives. Pay attention to each other's needs as a way to build a loving and caring family culture.
3. Encourage each other with words of support. Love and supports expressed through words are very important. Speak words that are encouraging and bless them with God's promises for their lives.
4. Serve each other through actions. Actions always speak louder than words. Spend time together and do things that will encourage others to grow in their God-given talents. Put the family needs above our own.

By having a heart to serve our family through selfless love, acceptance, and support, we can build God-pleasing family relationship and help each other to achieve what God has in mind for each member's life.

Whatever problems that arise in our family, pray, intercede and speak blessings for each other. God the Creator has wonderful plans for each and every one of our family members, and prayer is the key that will bring those plans to reality. Family is God's gifts for each and every one of us. Pray, treasure, and serve each other with God's love.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for us to be able to see God's plan in our family.
2. Pray for God to open up doors to restore broken relationship among family members.



POWER OF PRAYER

Shalom,

I thank you for the opportunity to share the story of Zac. Me, Alen and my husband, Dandy are blessed with two children. Zac is my second child. During the pregnancy of Zac, we were very excited and we took care of Zac carefully. During our doctor visit on the fourth month, Zac was diagnosed with cleft and lip palate on his left side. This particular doctor's visit devastated us and we were very afraid to share the news with our relatives.

Me and my husband expected miracle and we asked Zac to pray with us since he was still in the womb. We often told Zac, "Zac, we love you, Jesus loves us, mommy and daddy will find the best way to cure your cleft." Zac was born on 5th June 2013 00:00 healthy with cleft lip and palate on his left side. There, our journey began. We tried to give him water with tube and used other tools to enable Zac to drink his water without choking. Everyday, we felt sad, panic, confused, and scared.

We planned to bring Zac for treatment in Singapore. With God's miracle we managed to have Zac's passport and documents needed for him to fly to Singapore quickly and able to have an appointment with a kind hearted and famous pediatrician in one of Singapore children hospital despite of the doctor's busy schedule.

After consultation with the doctor, the doctor needed to perform several operations on Zac's lips and palate. In the beginning, all procedure taken made Zac cried all the time and Zac refused to drink water because the mouth was bleeding and he was in so much pain. After I returned from one of the Singapore trip, I was angry with God. I felt God was unfair, I was tired having to put all these equipments around Zac's mouth that caused so much pain for Zac.

Finally, one day I was very exhausted. I went up to my room and left Zac with his nanny. I cried and complained to God. I reached a point where I was tired and fell asleep. During that time, I had a deep sleep and when I woke up there was a strong desire in me to read Psalm 91. I read it loudly a few times. During the third time I read it, I broke down and cried. I was overflowed with God's love and peace beyond understanding. I asked God for forgiveness and prayed, "Thank you for Zac. Please help me and Dandy to go through this. From today on, I promise I will not complain anything about Zac. I will only present thanksgiving. Please help Zac to go through all treatment with joy and no pain. I promise I will do my best. When I am weak, You are strong!"

After praying I went downstairs to see Zac and realized his facial expression has changed. Many people told me since Zac's birth that his eye was angry and scary. However, something was different that day. Zac's eye was filled with softness, hapinnes, and he was smiling. After my commitment with God, things did not get easier. However, God's love gave us strength. God also brought healing to my relationship with my husband. Post operation treatment also shook my faith and made me tired. However, when I was tired, I reminded myself, "Jesus, You are only a prayer away." Then I started to pray and God's strength and love overflowed in my life again.

Zac will still need to undergo operation when he reaches 8/9 years old. All treatment will also be on going until he reached 18 years old. Many things are needed and we do face difficulties. However through all these, me and Dandy learn to rely our life on the Lord. We believe He will fulfill all our need. Zac will be 2 years old soon and he is a healthy, cheerful, and smart boy. We can say, without God's help and God with us, we have given up a long time ago and our family relationship would have shattered.

After realizing Zac's condition, we have chosen a special name for him "Zac Elyon Fantoan". Elyon means God's most high. Let God's name be glorified and exalted highly through Zac's life. We give thanks for everyone who has supported Zac through prayers during operation and his treatment. God is good! Yes, He is good!

God Bless You,
Dandy, Alen, Charis, and Zac Fantoan - IFGF Jakarta

CORPORATE PRAYER

Matthew 18:18-20, Isaiah 56:7, Luke 19:46

In Acts 2:42, we learn that the early church prayed together: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” The Scripture tells us there is power in praying together. Exodus 2:23 states that when the sons of Israel started praying together, God released them from their bondage. In Acts 12:5, when the church prayed for Peter, an angel of the Lord supernaturally released him from prison. There is power in praying together, especially in praying corporately as a church.

However, most of us mistake corporate prayer as physically being together in one place and in a mode of prayer. The truth is corporate prayer extends beyond physically praying together. It is being in agreement with one another (Amos 3:3). One cannot be in agreement with one another unless we know what everyone is praying for.

There are plenty of people who pray together but not with each other. The power of praying corporately can only be released when we started praying with and for each other. Participating in a corporate prayer get us out of our individualistic selves. It puts us in wider perspective and cultivates us to have compassion and heart towards other members’ desires and needs. It is during corporate prayer that we become aware of those who are facing difficult situations. It helps us understand that God cares for the church as a body. Participating in corporate prayer re-introduces us to these ideas and reorients our thinking.

There is power in corporate prayer and there is a reason why corporate prayer is necessary. Just as prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 56:7, it is when we come to pray with and for each other that we become a house of prayer: “Even them I will bring to My Holy Mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for unity and a culture of corporate prayer to grow in our church.
2. Pray for our leaders to be anointed with the spirit of prayer and deeper relationship with God.

STARTING CORPORATE PRAYER

Acts 2:46-47, Matthew 18:19-20, Psalms 133:1-3, Philippians 2:3-4

Praying on our own is our personal quality time with God. When we pray together in a group or in a corporate prayer setting, we learn to share each other's burdens, we learn how to pray for one another, and we learn to pray persistently until God answers. Corporate prayer also helps us to connect with each other in a deeper level, because God connects us with His love as we pray and share each other's burden. Praying for each other and listening to others earnestly praying for us give us new strength, encouragement, and faith. As we gather together to seek Him and pray, it opens up a wonderful flow of God's blessings into our lives.

It does not take much to start a prayer group or corporate prayer. The few things that are surely crucial to have are the right heart, the right motivation, and the right purpose. We need the right heart to build a more intimate prayer with God and others. The right motivation is to have ourselves and others who participate to learn to pray and build a stronger prayer lives. The right purpose is to selflessly put others' needs above ours. Corporate prayer spreads the excitement of praying together. With that in mind, we need to pray so that God may send more of the right people to join the prayer, i.e. those who have the same longing, motivation, purpose, and are committed to build the corporate prayer together. There is power in unity because God strengthens our faith as He joins our hearts together in one accord.

When we would like to start a corporate prayer at church, workplace, home, or anywhere, we should find a comfortable room that could comfortably fit the number of people attending and is relatively free from distractions. Prayer time does not have to be long, as long as prayers are being lifted up whole heartedly and effectively. We would also need a prayer moderator whose duty is to prepare prayer requests and keep them simple and to the point. We can meet once a week or once every two weeks or even once a month, as long as everyone in the group commit to the appointed time.

It is also important to open-heartedly welcome any new friends who want to join. Keep the prayer group away from being exclusive, and believe that God would send the right people to be part of it. Build trust within the members of the group, so that everyone can share and learn comfortably. Trust in a corporate prayer setting is very important.

Let us learn to build a culture of corporate prayer with gladness, simplicity, generosity, and thankfulness. Even if we have to start with only two people, God hears our prayers. Surrender our corporate prayer to God and believe that as we are building upon the solid Rock, God himself will surely bless and use our corporate prayer mightily. Lastly, remember and remember to rely fully on God and on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray so that you may have the heart, desire, and courage to start a corporate prayer in your workplace or school.
2. Pray so that all corporate prayers in IFGF worldwide are filled with the fire and the spirit of prayer.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH LEADERS

Hebrews 13:17, Exodus 17

Many times throughout Paul's ministry, he explicitly asked his fellow believers to pray for him (Colossians 4:2-3, Romans 15:30). When Peter was in prison, the church prayed for him (Acts 12:5). In Exodus 17, Joshua was fighting the Amalekites and Moses interceded for Joshua with the help of Aaron and Hur. In this story, Joshua was leading the battle and acting as the leader of Israel during the fight. However, without Moses' intercessions, the battle would turn out differently. When Moses lifted up his hands, the Israelites got the upper hand, but when Moses put down his hands, the Amalekites got the upper hand. Why do we need to pray for our church leaders?

1. Our leaders have more responsibility. In Hebrews 13:17, God demands leaders to give account on behalf of those he leads.
2. Our leaders are prone to attacks and temptations. The devil understands clearly that good church leaders bring positive influence and great impacts to those under him/her. If leaders are attacked, the whole church will bear the impacts of the attacks as well.
3. Our leaders' lives are visible for others to see. Many look up to leaders for solutions, role model, and guidance. Therefore the leaders' lives are subject to gossips, criticism, and judgment by society.
4. Our leaders' well-being will affect our well being. Hebrews 13:17 says that if our leaders are in grief, it would be unprofitable for us.

We need to spend a portion of our prayer time to intercede for our leaders daily. The devil walks like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). Therefore, we need to pray for our leaders', specifically for God's protections upon him and his family, for godly wisdom, holiness, and revelation of God's words to guide and lead their life so they can govern us with God's love and wisdom. During this period of fasting, let us commit and build a healthy lifestyle of praying for our church leaders.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for our church leaders' family, protection, and well-being.
2. Pray for our pastors and leadership team.

PRAYING BOLDLY IN PUBLIC

Galatians 1:10, Ecclesiastes 5:2, Romans 8:26

As we pray, we will learn to pray, to believe, and to expect with increasing boldness. -Andrew Murray-

To pray boldly means to pray bravely, with confidence, and without any fear. Oftentimes our self-consciousness, lack of focus, and reliance on our selves hinder us from having the confidence to pray loudly and boldly in public. We may unconsciously let our thoughts wander and we become overly conscious of what others may think of our prayers. This will inadvertently takes our focus away from God.

Whether we pray alone or in public, one very important key that we need to remember is to always rely in the Holy Spirit to guide us in prayer. "Did I say the right thing?" "Did the prayer hit the mark?" "I have no idea how to pray about this topic," etc. These kinds of thoughts, arising from our lack of confidence and faith, will hinder us from praying out loud and bravely in public. When we pray with humbleness, we let the Holy Spirit guide us. The Holy Spirit will enable us to pray in the manner and measure that God desires. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, those discouraging thoughts and fears will begin to fade because we see that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears our weaknesses to meet our supplication and plead in our behalf.

As we pray, we will learn to pray, to believe, and to expect with increasing boldness (Andrew Murray). Some people will unavoidably come with discouraging feedbacks on our prayer, but rather than being discouraged, let us take those feedbacks positively, because we can only grow when we learn from our weaknesses. Do not be discouraged if others are praying more confidently in public, because our aim is not to be better than others, rather to learn from one another and to pray boldly according to God's will.

When the Holy Spirit leads us, we will have the courage to pray loudly in public because we know it is the Holy Spirit praying through us. Praying loudly is not meant to find attention or to show how good we are with our words, but so that others can hear us and we can lead them to unite their hearts in prayer.

Do not let our surroundings determine our prayers, but keep ourselves focused to please God and let His Holy Spirit lead us freely to pray according to His will. As we surrender to Him, God himself will give us grace to pray boldly according to His will.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God may break all hindrances that take our confidence away from praying loudly and boldly in public.
2. Pray that we will always depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us in prayer.

WORKPLACE BATTLES

Ecclesiastes 9:10, Colossians 3:23

Each one of us usually has a specific set of morning rituals that we do as we begin work in our workplace each day. Some start their day with coffee, some start by replying emails. Rituals and routines matter because they could affect the rest of our day. However, plenty of us often fail to do what should have been the most important workplace habit of all, i.e. prayer.

As Christians, our work is part of our worship to God. Therefore, we should regularly offer up our works in prayer to the Lord. Praying in the workplace is crucially important for plenty of reasons.

1. Prayer puts our selves in the proper posture before God and others. Through prayer, we acknowledge that the Lord is in control over all of our works. Without Him, our earthly achievements will be devoid of any eternal values. This humbling realization of God's grace and provision will inevitably show through our interactions with our co-workers, supervisors and subordinates. The right posture before God will lead to the right posture before men.

2. Prayer also offers an eternal perspective on our work. As we acknowledge that God is real and present, we realize that we as God's children are safe and secure as we walk through life. This sense of security will empower us to face daily challenges with courage and confidence.

There is great joy and peace when we make prayer an everyday habit. It will bring remarkable strength and courage as we face our challenges. Let us pray in and for our workplace, so that we won't miss the great blessings that God has prepared for us each day.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God's wisdom to lead our work.
2. Pray for the well-being and salvation of our co-workers.

PRAYING FOR COMMUNITY

Matthew 5:13-16

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a well-known civil rights leader and activist who changed American society and history between 1950s and 1960s. He dedicated his life to promote equal treatment of the white and black people of America using his special way of non-violent protesting. King organized a huge march for equal rights in Washington, DC in 1963 to protest against racial discrimination in employment and racial separatism in school, and to demand minimum wage for all workers. As a result from his peaceful protests and His famous speech known as “I Have a Dream”, civil rights laws were passed through the Congress and became recognized on national level. King saw injustice for his community. He believed that injustice and inequality were not part of God’s plan for humankind. He saw the need for peace and justice to be delivered in his community.

In Genesis 1, the world was dark and God’s Spirit was hovering above the earth and God commanded light to shine through the dark world. In the New Testament, God appointed us believers to be the salt and light of the world. He desires to shine His light to this dark world through us. To be able to shine God’s light upon our community, we need to have an intimate relationship with God because He is the source of the light. We need to let His light dwell in us. When we have an intimate relationship with God, He will also direct us to see the needs of our community.

As we shine God’s light upon our community, Jesus will be glorified, and the Bible said He would draw people to Him. With prayer, godly wisdom, creativity, and God’s light in us, we could transform our communities into Kingdom-like communities.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray so that we may see the needs of our community through God’s eyes.
2. Pray so that His light may shine through us to those people in need.
3. Pray for IFGF movement to always bring impact to the world.



“

KEEP CALM
AND
PRAY ON

PRAYING FOR SALVATION

Luke 19:1-10

In Jesus' times, tax collectors were fellow Jews who were employed by the Roman government. They were detested because they worked for the Roman government and often overcharged the people for their own profits. This kind of practice also made the tax collectors richer than the average people, and caused further rift between them. Matthew was a tax collector.

Jesus, however, chose Matthew to be one of His close disciples. He even went to Matthew's house and ate with the other tax collectors and "sinners." This action displeased the self-righteous Jews, who then accusatively questioned Jesus' actions. To which Jesus answered, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17) Jesus also reached out to Zaccheus, the wealthy chief tax collector. Jesus showed him love by staying at his house, leading Zaccheus to repent and turned his whole life around. He publicly announced that he would return four times the amount he cheated. To this, Jesus declared that salvation had come to his house.

God's love brings people to His kingdom. Through Jesus' simple acts of love and His willingness to be associated with "sinners," He won many to His kingdom. The fact that Jesus, the Holy One of God, was willing to talk to them and even offered to eat at their homes and extended His love to them, touched the group of people who were used to being rejected and despised by the greater community. God's love brought them home.

Praying and showering people around us with genuine love will eventually break through their cold hearts. Love is a language that all humanity understands and longs for.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for God's love to touch and transform our community.
2. Pray for iCare gatherings in IFGF worldwide to grow and bring many souls to God's kingdom.

CHANGING NATIONS THROUGH INTERCESSION

Esther 3-8, Jeremiah 29:7

Esther was an ordinary orphan girl from the tribe of Benjamin who changed the history and life of the Jewish nation during the time of Xerxes. Her story is a remarkable example on how intercessor prayers could impact a nation. Haman plotted to exterminate all Jewish people from the kingdom just to satisfy his wounded pride. When Mordechai and Esther were faced with this great problem, Esther took the initiative to proclaim a three-day fast to plead with God for the nation's survival, resulting in God's divine intervention that brought not only survival, but also victory for the Jews.

One of Esther's winning characteristics was that she was willing to be the answer to her own prayer. She was willing to put her life on the line and met the King uninvited, an action which, at that time, could possibly led to her death if the king was not pleased to see her. Her courageous and faith-filled prayers and actions changed the history of a nation.

The king was moved by her action and asked what he could do for her, because the king was pleased with her. What do we desire to happen to our country? Let us ask God to change the course of our nation. Like Esther, wherever we are right now, we are put here at such a time like this for a heavenly purpose. Like Esther, we can also be used to be a history maker and nation changer through the simple act of interceding for our country. God will use our prayers to bring His plan on earth and will use our lives to be the change agent for His Kingdom.

Prayer Points:

1. Intercede for the country that God has placed us in.
2. Pray for godly leaders to take places of influence in the government.



ANSWERED PRAYERS

Shalom Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Our name is Hendro and Novi and we are very grateful for the opportunity to share our life story. We would like to share about our journey of waiting for children in our life. We were married in November 2005. In the beginning, we did not plan to have children right away. We planned to wait for two years and prepare ourselves to be good parents for our children. However, God's way is different than our way.

Few years passed, and we thought it's time to have children. We tried to consult a few doctors. Many gave variety of opinions and in conclusion they concluded that our chance to have children is very slim and some even said impossible.

Doctor's diagnosis and questions from people surround us asking when we will have children burdened us many years. Countless struggles and tears filled our days. However, our pastor kept on encouraging us and reminded us not to put our faith on doctors' words. We should put our faith on God's promises. His promises are yes and Amen! Jesus is able to heal all our diseases.

Time passed quickly and many times we were disappointed with the never-ending procedure and treatments. However, in the midst of failure, we were strengthened by people surround us, especially our family and prayers from IFGF friends. Many friends prayed endlessly for us for many years . Without us knowing, there were many prayer teams in IFGF who relentlessly put our name as their prayer topic and pray without ceasing for us.

We realized, God has provided us with these prayer teams and they act like a warrior who fought for us when we grew tired. The seemingly unanswered prayer caused us to be weary and hopeless to pray for our own struggle. Not only we experienced weariness in our spirit, we also experienced tiredness physically. We went through even more treatment and failure followed after. Desperation and frustration grew intensely in our life.

In our heart, we even questioned, “God are You still alive? Do You hear our prayer? Will Jesus still going to be God in our life even when we don’t have children?” In the midst of hopelessness and struggles, i was reminded of Romans 8:39 “neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” My personal relationship with my earthly father also gave me strength in understanding this verse. I believe my father will love me regardless of my condition and mistake I make in my life.

After eight years of marriage, Jesus answered our prayer. It was hard to believe it in the beginning. The result of the pregnancy test showed positive. We did a re-test and indeed it showed positive! Finally, 25 March, 2014, after nine years of waiting, the long awaited children were born. Sophia, Joseph, and Cayden are one of the greatest gifts in our life. Indescribable joy and gratefulness filled our heart. His greatness and grace allowed these precious children to be born.

Let us experience how great God’s love is for us and how He cares for all our problems and desires. No matter how long we have wept and have petitioned our prayers to God, God is a living God. He hears and answers our prayer in His way and His timing. We pray may this testimony bring hope and encouragement for all of us.

God Bless all of us,
Hendro, Novy, Sophia, Joseph, and Cayden IFGF Jakarta

PRAYING FOR OUR GOVERNMENT

Romans 13:1-7

1 Pet 5:13-14: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men; whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”

When Peter wrote this, the reigning emperor was the godless, brutal Nero (AD 54-68). He was known for many executions, including his own mother. He most probably poisoned his stepbrother, Britannicus, who was the legal heir to the throne. In 64 AD he was said to start the great fire of Rome, killing thousands and blamed the Christians for the fire. Nero captured Christians and executed them by sowing or throwing them to wild dogs to be torn. In addition, he dipped them in oil, and set them on fire in his garden at night as a source of light.

With this background, Peter’s instruction to submit to the authority over us carried heavier weight. One of the ways we can honor the authority is by praying for them, instead of criticizing and demeaning them when we are unsatisfied. The governing body in our countries – i.e. the President, vice president, ministers, members of the parliament and other people’s representatives – need God’s wisdom and the fear of God to govern this nation. Without His wisdom and direction, this country will be in chaos. Thus, it is time for us to make a difference by getting on our knees and bringing them up constantly in prayers.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for our government so that they may have the fear of the Lord, godly wisdom, and protection from the Lord.
2. Pray for all believers to have the spirit of evangelism.

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LOVE

Ephesians 3:17-19, 1 John 4:16

Have we ever wondered how it is going to be if one day God actually gets tired of listening to all our complaints and demands? What if one day God tells us that He has had enough of us, of our unending disobedience and unceasing demands? What if He tells us that He has lost faith in us, and that He would simply give up on humanity? Imagine God saying those things; will we not be devastated? Surely we will. However, the good news is, our heavenly Father is nothing like that! His love is perfect and it is incomprehensibly wide, long, high, and deep. We might bore other people with our story and annoy them with our requests, but Jesus will never grow tired of us. God is love and his love is patient and kind. His love is not jealous, not boastful, not proud, and not rude. His love does not demand its own way. His love is not irritable, and keeps no record of wrongs. His love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. His love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) His love is more dependable and more amazing than any love you have or will ever know.

Only when we have experienced His amazing love would we be able to love others. To the extent that we have understood His love, to that extent we could express His love to others. Understanding the depth of God's love does not just happen overnight. We need to keep experiencing His love in an intimate relationship with Him in our lives every day.

Saying "I love you" is all too easy, but many times we forget that love is so much more than words; love is about giving and not expecting anything in return. It is no secret that we often fail to show love to our loved ones. Human's love and patience is limited. We tend to put ourselves above others. We think it is only fair that we forgive but not forget because those who hurt us need to learn a lesson. If we try to love others with our own strength, we would probably end up disappointed.

The only way we can have a godly, healthy, long-term relationship is when we have Jesus as our source of love. God's love is perfect and everlasting. No matter how many times others might disappoint us, we will find the strength to overlook that disappointment and endure through every circumstance. As we are rooted deeper and deeper in God's love, He will give us strength and power to love others with His love, to keep giving and not expecting anything in return. Let us always make Him the source of love in all of our relationships for "we know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." (1 John 4:16).

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that we may be rooted more deeply in God's love, so that we may experience more fully the love of Christ and be a blessing to many.
2. Pray for all believers to always be covered in God's love, grace, and obedience.

FORGIVENESS

1 Samuel 24:10-19, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

David had one perfect opportunity to take revenge on Saul for all those times Saul tried to kill him out of jealousy. Yet David spared Saul's life. It is only natural if we want to pay back evil for evil, but David chose to repay evil with good. It is not because David tried to be all holy and kind, but David simply did not want to play God. He chose not to deal with Saul according to his own human judgment, even when the opportunity to do so might seem God-given. David did not touch Saul because David saw Saul as a king anointed by God Himself. David thus left it to God to be the judge between them.

We probably have gone through times when people hurt us without any fault from our side. In that kind of situation, we might not understand why we have to forgive, especially if those who hurt us are people close to us. We probably have done all the right things yet in the end, like David, we are treated unfairly. When people unfairly hurt us, will we choose to forgive and give grace, or will we choose to hate and repay evil for evil?

For certain, forgiving others is not the most pleasant thing to do, especially when those we forgive won't even appreciate or care whether we forgive them or not. But it matters to God. Remember that when we forgive, it is to please God, not ourselves or others. God teaches us to love our enemies, to pray and bless them. Loving, praying and blessing those who have hurt us may seem too much, but nothing is impossible because we know that God would help and strengthen us when we are doing things that are in accord to His will. And His grace is sufficient for us.

"Where the grace of God is missed, bitterness is born. But where the grace of God is embraced, forgiveness flourishes. The longer we walk in the garden, the more likely we are to smell like flowers. The more we immerse ourselves in grace, the more likely we are to give grace." - Max Lucado

Have we sufficiently soaked ourselves in God's grace? Do we remember all those times when we fail to do the right things, and God extends forgiveness each time we pray and cry out for forgiveness? Do we remember how gracious He is that He never treated us like enemy no matter how painful our deeds are to Him? Whenever we are at a crossroad, choosing whether to forgive or to hate, let us remember how much grace He has lavished in our life. When we embrace His grace, we would learn to forgive the way He did, to pray and bless with all sincerity and gladness.

When we start praying for those who hurt us, God himself will start to change our heart. He will change how we see that person; He will heal our brokenness, and expand our heart's capacity to forgive. The decision is ours; shall we choose bitterness or forgiveness? Let us not grow bitter. Let us set ourselves free in His grace, learn to forgive like He has forgiven us; learn to give grace as He has been gracious to us; and learn to love as He has loved us. Choose to do the right thing; choose to do what pleases Him. In time, He will take care of our pain and restore and heal the broken relationship.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for grace so that we can repay evil with good, so that we may have a heart that forgives, gives grace and loves like He does.
2. Pray so that families everywhere may be filled with the spirit of forgiveness towards each other.

LOVE IN ACTION

1 Samuel 18

The story of Jonathan and David was one of those rare friendship stories that stand the test of time. They committed themselves into a covenant-based relationship, and through many trials, their friendship had been proven to be stronger than ever.

How rare is this kind of friendship today! The key to David and Jonathan's strong relationship is this: pure sacrifice. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Although both David and Jonathan were princes of Israel and in line to the throne of Israel, they chose to set aside any kinds of jealousy, lust of power and competitive ambition for the sake of their friendship. Had Jonathan adopted the same view towards David as his father Saul did, Jonathan and David could have been sworn enemies. After all, David was Jonathan's greatest competition for the throne of Israel. But for the grace of God and owing to their selflessness, they managed to hold onto their covenant friendship. So great is the covenant bond that when they were to part, "they wept together, but David more so," (1 Sam 20:41) as if they knew that it would be the last time that they met.

To build stronger relationship, we need to let go of our ego and selfish desires. David and Jonathan purposefully laid down their lives for one another. It was because of their selflessness that they built a lasting legacy. Let us learn our lesson from David and Jonathan, so that we may develop the same kind of relationship with God and others. Together Stronger!

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks to God for our family and friends that have been there for us in times of our needs.
2. Pray for godly relationship to be formed in our family, church, workplace, and community.

“

GOD IS ONLY
A PRAYER AWAY

RESOLVING CONFLICTS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

When Paul was first converted to Christianity, he went around Damascus preaching the name of Jesus. Coming to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples. However, they did not believe him and were afraid to welcome him into their fellowship. It was Barnabas who embraced him and brought him to the apostles (Acts 9:27). The Holy Spirit then sent Barnabas and Paul (then, Saul) on their first missionary journey.

Afterwards, however, a strong dispute arose between Paul and Barnabas when Paul, wanting to continue their journey, rejected Barnabas' idea of taking John Mark with them since he had deserted them before. Barnabas then took Mark, who was his cousin, and went to Cyprus while Paul took Silas with instead. Their personal feelings towards Mark had caused a split between them. Though it was not recorded that Paul and Barnabas ever did any missionary journey together again after that, Paul did mention Barnabas in 1 Cor. 9:6 as a noble example of someone who did not depend on anyone to support him. Later, Mark also proved himself to Paul, and became part of his group (Col 4:10) during Paul's imprisonment. During the latter part of his life, he requested that Mark be brought to him because he was helpful to his ministry (2 Timothy 4:11).

Disputes are bound to happen even among the best of friends. As we can see through his letters, Paul did not harbor bitter feelings towards Barnabas. Likewise, when we encounter conflicts with friends, co-workers or family members, it is important that we allow no bitter roots to grow in our hearts. Bitterness can break relationships and ruin friendships. Looking beyond our personal agendas and differences, we need to forgive each other so that there will be reconciliation.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul emphasized the importance of having God's love as the basis of everything we do. Without genuine love of God, there would be no genuine forgiveness and reconciliation. As we receive God's love in our hearts, let us learn to forgive and be reconciled with those who have hurt us in any way.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for others with whom we have conflicts. Pray for openness and forgiveness towards each other.
2. Pray for unity in our local churches.

SERVANTHOOD

John 13:1-17

The highlight of Jesus' love and acceptance of His disciples was when He washed their feet the night before the Passover Feast. In those days, foot washing was a sign of hospitality. Since people travelled to places using sandals on dusty roads, it was an act of hospitality for people to welcome guests in their homes by providing servants to wash their feet and refresh them. This duty was reserved for menial servants only.

Jesus, the Lord of all creations, stooping to the level of the least of servants, in His darkest and lowest moment, washed the feet of those in whom He had invested His life for the past three years, including those who would greatly disappoint Him. Though He knew Peter was going to deny Him and Judas would betray Him, He did not give up on them or single them out for hostility. Instead, He extended to them the same grace and love as He did to the other disciples.

In the upper room, as the disciples were witnessing the unimaginable sight of their Savior performing the most menial task, their pride crumbled. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13:14-15)

That night, Jesus changed their paradigm. No longer was foot washing relegated to being a task to be done exclusively by the lowest of servants; but it was now to be the task of all the disciples. They were responsible to keep their brothers clean and holy; they were accountable for and to their brothers. The cry of Cain when God asked him where his brother Abel was "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9) was no longer valid. That night, Jesus was making a strong statement to His disciples, "Yes, indeed! You are your brothers' keeper." They were to keep each other holy and safe from the evil one, and safe from wandering away from the faith in Christ Jesus.

How then should we act towards those who have not received Christ? Serve and accept them as they are, just as Christ accepted you and me as we were.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God may enable our heart to serve and accept others sincerely, the way they are.
2. Pray for the young generation to grow in the fear and wisdom of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR BREAKTHROUGH

Being handled the responsibility and trust to run a new aluminum composite panel (ACP) company and factory by my father was a challenge I excitedly accept, as soon as I returned to Indonesia for good after finishing my master's degree. Little did I know that the ACP market in Indonesia had already been very saturated with many brands, in which one or two have become the giants of the ACP brands in Indonesia. I have heard that the construction project world is one of the dirtiest business industries with regards to corruption, bribery, tax manipulation and many more. But being plunged into that world as a follower of Christ, I have to be honest that the temptation to bribe some consultants, or to cheat tax, to be able to win a few projects is very real and immense.

Some projects which I lost, was due to a difference of 10% higher in my price, because I refuse to cheat on 10% goods and service tax which must be paid to the government, while other brands can just pay the agreed price by transferring the money to a private account, in which tax doesn't have to be paid. It was not easy to start a company, especially boldly stating our identity as a Christian company to our own staff and to our clients, in which we do not tolerate any nightlife entertainment nor any kind of corruption or bribery.

There is no special trick or secret in the way we have developed the past three years other than PRAYER. It was awkward at the beginning when I made it a company policy before every Monday morning technical meetings that I or my leaders would start the meeting by leading in prayer out loud. Some of my staff who are not Christians were uncomfortable at the beginning. But as we pray, as we try to embrace the motto of ORA ET LABORA, which is to pray hard and work hard, in time, most of our staff in time believed in the power of prayer even when they are not Christians. Today, my team would be the one to ask: "Sir, we need to pray for this project...", "Sir, we haven't prayed for that contract..." and I can sense a different atmosphere.

We may not be as big as the other giants are today, but in the three years of starting this business, our revenue have doubled every single year, which we believe is all because the power of Prayer. We believe there is protection through prayer. We have experienced some people tried to cheat and manipulate us from behind and how God used what seems to be 'coincidences' to protect us and still let us have the projects.

However, one of the greatest highlights is that at the beginning of this year, on 26th of January 2015, our product was featured on Kompas, Indonesian newspaper in the front page of the Economics section. The amazing part is that we believe as we prayerfully tried to do business the right way, being straight with tax and with people, God can return it with a hundred million rupiah (at least) worth of publication on the largest newspaper in Indonesia for FREE. All that seems to be the 'lost projects' because we chose to pay tax, God returned it with such publication. God never promised that if we follow Him, business will be easy and doors will always be open. I admit that it is not easy doing business the right way, when even other fellow Christian friends would mock us for being 'too straight' with business. But at the end, God will honor, God will return. The most important feeling is having His presence every day as we do business, is something that is so much more worth it than richest itself.

K.E IFGF Jakarta

TRUST

Genesis 39-45, Matthew 25:14-30

Most successful businessmen or world leaders have their own trusted right hand people. These people have to go through intense selections process before they are able to earn their leader's trust. Truly, trust is one of the rarest characters to be found these days. Many marriages, business relationships and friendships break down because trusts are betrayed or abused.

We can learn the keys to winning trust from a man called Joseph. As a young man, Joseph exhibited upstanding character that won him the favor and admiration of everyone he met, including his former master Potiphar (before Joseph was falsely accused), the prisoner warden, his fellow prisoners the cupbearer, the baker, and lastly even Pharaoh himself. Pharaoh trusted Joseph so much that he gave Joseph, a non-Egyptian youth, authority over all of Egypt, second only to the Pharaoh himself. (Genesis 41:41-44)

What can we do so that we may gain the trust of others?

1. Immerse ourselves in God's word and presence daily. In Joseph's story, many times it was mentioned, "And God was with Joseph." Joseph lived daily with God and God caused him to win the favor and trust of many people.
2. Avoid talking negatively behind other people's back. Joseph never talked to anyone about how the cupbearer had forgotten him or how his own brothers had betrayed him to other people.
3. Speak with godly wisdom. Joseph's close relationship with God enabled him to interpret the Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 40).
4. Hold on to your integrity. Joseph maintained his integrity even when Potiphar's wife seduced him or threatened to accuse him with wrongdoing. (Genesis 39: 8-9). Joseph's action was consistent with his speech.
5. Speaking the truth in a kind and loving way. Joseph spoke the truth about God's plan for his family in a loving and forgiving attitude, without regards to the past betrayal that his brothers had done against him. (Genesis 45:45).

When we can prove ourselves to be consistently trustworthy even in small matters, we will be entrusted with ever increasing opportunities, either in family, church or the workplace. Most importantly, though, being a trustworthy individual will enable us to build lasting and meaningful relationship with anyone we encounter in life.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray so that God may train us to be trustworthy individuals before God and other people.
2. Pray for wisdom to speak and listen to others, so that we may be a blessing for those in need.

INITIATIVE, SINCERITY AND LOYALTY

Ruth 1-4, Proverbs 22:4

“I have spent my life, so much of it, building up this country. There’s nothing more that I need to do. At the end of the day, what have I got? A successful Singapore; what have I given up? My life.” Mr. Lee Kuan Yew

Former Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, was known as the one person who had the most influence over the phenomenal rise of Singapore in the last 6 decades. He dedicated his life, even to the day of his death, to sincerely and faithfully create a proud and successful Singapore. During his funeral, countless Singaporeans paid respect, honor and gratitude for what he had done for the country. Through hard work, sincerity and an indomitable spirit, he built great relationship with other world leaders and with the people of Singapore itself.

Proverbs 3:3-4 teaches us to never let loyalty and kindness leave us, for they will win us favor with both God and people. Loyalty, sincerity, and kindness reflected in our actions are important to build successful relationship with others. The story of the widowed Moabite named Ruth is an excellent example of how sincere love shown by a daughter-in-law towards her mother-in-law could influence the course of families and nations.

Ruth was willing to give up everything she was comfortable with so that she may continue to be with her mother-in-law Naomi and her God. Ruth sincerely loved Naomi, even though Naomi had nothing left to offer her. Ruth took the initiative to be with Naomi and offered herself to be with Naomi wherever she went and however hard things may go for them. Ruth also showed her kindness and loyalty by working hard to take care of Naomi. In the end, her simple and sincere dedication to Naomi won her the admiration and love of Boaz and his community.

In building relationship with others, there are sacrifices and compromises to be made. We can learn many things from the story of Ruth and the life of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. To build successful relationship wherever we are, always consider the needs of others. Train ourselves to care for and be interested in other people’s needs, and then take initiative to meet their needs. Serve others with sincerity and loyalty. With God on our side, we will be able to connect to God, connect to others, and let His light shine through us for all mankind.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God may shape our characters, so that we may have fruitful relationships with others.
2. Pray so that we may faithfully take care of what God has entrusted to us.

REACHING MULTITUDES THROUGH PRAYER

Ephesians 6:13, Acts 16:25-34

We have been learning many things about prayer in the past thirty-nine days. Prayer is God's way to develop relationship with us and vice versa. Prayer also enables us to develop true, meaningful relationship with other people. People are at the center of God's heart; they are the reason God sent His one and only Son Jesus to the world to die on the cross. With prayer, we can unlock God's promises and reach out to multitudes for His glory.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were in prison. Their prayer and worship unlocked God's miracle for their situation. God's divine intervention broke open every chain and every door, setting everybody free. Yet an even more mysterious thing happened. None of the prisoners tried to escape. With boldness, Paul and Silas introduced Christ to the jailer and his household, and at that very day, they were all saved.

We can do what had been done by Paul and Silas as well. Through prayer, we can be channels of God's divine intervention and bring many to Christ. When we surrender our actions and words to overflow in obedience towards God, our lives will shine the light of Christ to many. All authority has been given to Jesus, who lives in us. With this authority, we shall bring many to Christ. We have been called to baptize and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). And when God calls, He also empowers.

Let God use us to be His prayer warriors and we shall see His marvelous works touching and changing our surroundings. We will see many receive Christ through our prayer and testimony. Let the power of prayer connect us to God and to people.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for boldness to speak the good news to the people around us.
2. Pray so that God may use our lives and our church to bring multitudes to his Kingdom.

IFGF

Jl. Gunung Rinjani no. 6 Taman Himalaya

Lippo Village - Tangerang

Phone : 021 542 02 388

Fax : 021 542 02 387

email : pray@ifgf.org

