

Prayer & Fasting 2012

This year we are specifically fasting through the prayer of Habakkuk in Hab 3:2 – it is a prayer for God to work both in our lives and in our nation:

“LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.”

What is fasting?

Fasting is the act of depriving ourselves of some of the good gifts that God gives us which can easily replace Him as first in our lives. Fasting demonstrates that we don't live by bread alone and that we seek Him before all other things. It is a recognition before God that we need Him more than anything physical.

When God is supreme over even the hunger in our hearts then He is truly supreme in everything. Psalm 73: 25 – 26 says: *“Whom have I in heaven but you, and earth has nothing I desire but you. My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

When we fast we are saying “I want God more than all of these things”. This is the essence of fasting.

Why are we fasting?

We are fasting because we want to demonstrate our sacrificing of the urgent, the important and the legitimate (food, etc.) in our lives for the ultimate (God).

We are fasting because we want to seek God together as a community for His empowering and vision in our lives and church in 2012.

We want to encourage you to listen to God's voice. In what ways do we hear from God? We can hear Him as we read through Scriptures, in prayer, through visions or through the quiet urgings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts to say or to do or to think about something.

When: Midnight, Thursday 13th January – 1.30pm, Sunday 15th January (2.5days)

What: Food (we allow ourselves water only, or liquids only, or liquids and fruit only), TV, Technology, Internet.

Come! We will pray together from 8 – 9pm on **Friday** and 6 – 7pm on **Saturday** at the Auditorium. Then on Sunday after second service we will break the fast together.

We will also open the Auditorium from 12.30 – 2pm on **Friday** for those who would like to come and pray.



Day 1: Friday, 13th January

“Oh Lord, I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds”

Morning:

Other Scriptures:

Jeremiah 9: 23 – 24
Philippians 3: 7 – 11

Notes:

Everything begins and ends with God. A.W. Tozer said that *“what comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us”*. For this reason, Habakkuk’s prayer starts off by remembering who God is and what He is like. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray He also asked them to begin *“Our Father who art in Heaven”*, remembering God’s character as a Father and His holiness.

As you begin to fast today, take some time to think about the attributes of God. Consider His Fatherly love, His gracious mercy, His awesome power, His tender compassion, His perfect holiness. Thank Him that you have such a God who is both sovereign over the universe and loving towards you.

Evening:

Other Scriptures:

Psalms 78: 4

Notes:

We serve a God who actively works in the macro plan of history as well as the detail of our own lives. Take some time to meditate on the awesome deeds of God in history, from His creation of the world through His word, His deliverance of His people from Egypt through the Red Sea, miraculous provision of their needs in the desert, deliverance from enemies, and most wonderfully Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection from the dead for our sakes.

What other things can you remember that God has done through history? What are some of His mighty deeds that He has done in your life? Take some time to remember God’s personal goodness to you and thank Him for his love.

Prayers:

Pray for 2012 to be a year of getting to really know God.

Pray that God would reveal aspects of His nature to you that you never knew before.

Pray that others may get to know who God is through your life.

Prayers:

Pray for God to increase your faith in Him and help you to walk by faith in Him and not by sight.

Thank God for His mighty deeds in history as well as His personal kindness to you.

Come and join us to pray at 8pm!



Day 2: Saturday, 14th January

“Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known”

Morning:

Other Scriptures:

Psalms 127: 1

Ephesians 1: 19 –21

Notes:

Many Christians live lives of practical atheism by never having any sense of expectation of God working in their lives or through their lives. But God is a God who is working and we should expect Him to do so. After having recounted God's character and some of his works of old, Habakkuk implores God to work similarly in his day. Let us pray and ask God for His work in our lives (personal struggles we need breakthrough in) and in our church (that God would establish us as a visible display of His Kingdom to Singapore).

Let us call out to God to mightily work in our lives that we might be transformed into His image, and that He would make our church into a loving, humble, mission-minded community.

Prayers:

Pray that God would deliver you from your regular sins.

Pray that God would grow us as a community of brotherly affection and evangelistic fervour.

Pray that God would build the 'city' of RHC in a way that displays His glory through the saints to the nation of Singapore.

Evening:

Other Scriptures:

Malachi 4: 6

Acts 4: 23-31

Notes:

We don't only want to pray for God to work in our lives and community, but for His Spirit to sweep across this nation in revival power. Unless God turns the hearts of people towards Him our preaching and evangelism will be in vain. This is why we cry out to Him. Let us pray for Singapore, that God would do a mighty work of revival across this nation. May churches be strengthened, lost people come to know the Saviour, and the nation turn to God's righteous ways.

Prayers:

Pray for revival to sweep across our land.

Pray for churches to be centered and strengthened in the gospel and effective in evangelism.

Pray for righteousness to exalt this nation.
(Prov 14:34).

Come and join us to pray at 6pm!



Day 3: Sunday, 15th January

“...in wrath remember mercy”

Morning:

Other Scriptures:

Isaiah 58: 6 – 8

Ephesians 5: 3

Notes:

Habakkuk ends off his prayer for a plea that God would show mercy in the midst of His judgement. This is a classic statement of how God deals with His people - those deserving His wrath, are instead given grace and mercy through Jesus taking that wrath on their behalf! As those who have received mercy instead of wrath, we cry out to God to show mercy instead of wrath to others who have gone their own way and who find themselves oppressed by their sin or the sin of others.

So today we pray for those who are exploited by others such as foreign workers and those in the sex trade in Singapore. We also cry out for mercy for the grievous sin of abortion in Singapore, where 1 in 5 pregnancies are aborted mainly for financial or social concerns. We pray this recognizing that the same root of these sins may be alive in our own hearts - a lax attitude towards sex and a lack of appreciation for the sanctity and value of human life.

We also pray that God would help us to represent Him well in this city by valuing people around us and being gracious and compassionate, as we have received mercy from God ourselves.

Prayers:

Pray that God would forgive us of our sin, change our hearts and change the hearts of those around us.

Help them to see the great value of human life.

Pray for those who are oppressed and exploited in our society.

Pray for this nation to honor people as those made in God's image.

Pray for us to be a church that is gracious and merciful in our dealing with all people.

Come and join us for service and to break fast at 1.30pm!

Lunch will be provided.