

FEBRUARY PRAYER AND FASTING GUIDE:

VICF – 3-day PRAYER and FASTING | Wednesday 17 Feb – Friday 19 Feb 2021

Introduction: Attributes of God, part 2

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV) – *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.***

We began 2021 by meditating on 7 Unique Attributes of God. The unique attributes of God describe the nature of God; He is eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, etc. These attributes are unique to God and no other being (even the devil) can have them. In the month of February, we will focus on one more unique attribute of God (God is Transcendent) and then focus on two moral attributes of God. When studying the moral attributes - or the character - of God, it is important to realise that this is who God is that we are to become more like.

HOW TO FAST

Fasting guide: Please take time to listen to our teaching on fasting in our VICF YouTube Channel

- **The following recommendations on how to fast are intended to guide us and not to be taken as rules.**
- Remember that **fasting is between you and God** and is essentially giving up food (or something else) for a period of time in order to focus on God. Thus, the most important aspect of fasting is ensuring you take time to spend time with God (pray, read the Bible, worship etc.).
- We highly recommend **limiting time on social media during the fasting period**. This will help you keep your focus and limit unnecessary distraction.
- Use the time that would be used for food consumption to spend time with God

Fast	
1. For those who fast regularly*.	Fast from 0600-1800. During this time, we can have a drink e.g. water, apple juice or grape juice.
2. For those taking steps toward growing in fasting	Skip one meal and during that time have a drink e.g. water, apple juice or grape juice
3. For those who are pregnant and those with a medical condition that limits fasting e.g. diabetes.	Observe a partial fast. Skip choice food such as dessert, sweet pastries, snacks (chocolate etc.).

*Pls note, feel free to have a full fast for the whole time (no food and water or water only) if this is your regular way of fasting.

If you are uncertain of how to fast, please feel free to contact any of the pastors for guidance.

Please feel free to follow this guide as we fast and pray together as part of the Body of Christ in VICF. (You may also pray for your own needs too, of course!)

Intercession Guide: Wednesday–Friday: “Attributes of GOD” part 2

Adore and acknowledge God for who He is.

During the next 3 days, take one of the attributes of God and study the related Scriptures. Pray and meditate on the Scriptures provided. Ask God for a revelation on each specific attribute.

1. GOD IS TRANSCENDENT

Psalm 113:5-6 (NIV) – *Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?*

God is transcendent means that God is different and independent from His creation. He is self-existent and self-sufficient. The essence and nature of God (His being) and His existence are greater and higher, above and beyond anything He has created; human, angels, fallen angels including the devil, etc. *He alone is immortal and lives in unapproachable light* (1 Tim 6:16). God cannot be placed on the same level as created beings - He is on a different realm that is perfect, pure, and far above all creation. For this reason, for example, we cannot compare God’s unconditional love with what we define as love in the earthly realm. Though God is clearly distinct from created things, He is present and active in the world, and especially concerned about human beings - He is Immanuel. The greatest evidence of this is salvation through His Son. All He does is for our good; in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:24-28).

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Romans 11:33-36, Ecclesiastes 5:2, Deuteronomy 4:39, Psalm 8:1, Acts 17:24-28

Moral attributes of God

In the following devotions on God’s moral attributes/character, please take time to read through them, meditate on the given Scriptures, and then to answer these questions:

- (1) Find some Scriptures from the Bible that encourage us to also apply this attribute in our lives. *e.g., God is Love – we are also called to love each other (as seen in John 13:34).*
- (2) What are some practical steps you can take in your life to help you grow in this area? *e.g., To show God’s love to other people, I can start a conversation with my lonely, elderly neighbour and spend time listening to their story.*

2. GOD IS HOLY: 1 Samuel 2:2 (NIV) – *There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides You; there is no Rock like our God.*

1 John 1:5 (NIV) – *This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*

God is “totally separate, above and other than His creation; He is pure and spotless with no fault at all.” (G. F. Wiley). A. W. Tozer states that, “God’s holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God’s power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine...Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is.”

God is absolutely holy in all areas. In Christ we are made holy (Hebrews 10:10). Yet, we are also to pursue a life that is set apart (Hebrews 12:14).

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Exodus 15:11, Psalm 99:3, Isaiah 57:15, James 1:13, Revelation 4:8

3. GOD IS GOOD: Psalm 34:8 (NIV) – *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.*

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) – *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

We have often said this: “God is good - all the time. All the time - God is good”, but do we comprehend His goodness?

God is totally aware of all our needs and is considerate of those needs (G. F. Wiley). When we look around at all God has created, all that He continues to provide for us, and the protection He gives us, we can also join in the praises of the author of Psalm 106:1 (NIV) – *Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*

Wayne Grudem describes how God’s goodness is closely related to some of His other characteristics: “God’s mercy is His goodness toward those in distress, His grace is His goodness toward those who deserve only punishment, and His patience is His goodness toward those who continue to sin over a period of time”.

Thinking about God’s goodness raises thankfulness within us. It is who God is, and we are also to be good and to do good works to reflect His character.

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Exodus 33:19; Ezra 3:11; Psalm 119:68; Lamentations 3:25; James 1:17

Intercession: Prayer Points

Intercession: GLOBAL

– Zanzibar Prayer Focus 2021

In 2021, we want to have an ongoing special intercessory prayer focus for the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania. Join us throughout the year as we pray for “breakthrough in Zanzibar”!

According to ‘*30 days of prayer for the Muslim world*’, Zanzibar has a population of 1.4 million, of which over 99% would identify themselves as Muslim, but with a lot of witchcraft also practiced. Zanzibar was a centre for the East African slave trade and is known for having the “strongest” witch doctors in East Africa.

- Pray for the Christians and pastors being persecuted.
- Pray for the hard hearts of the locals to be softened to the Gospel.
- Pray for the light of the Gospel to shine into the darkness of Zanzibar.

– Other Global Issues

Intercession: NATIONAL

Finland is shifting away from the Word of God quite quickly. Let's pray for this nation we are living in.

- Pray for wisdom for the political leaders of the nation.
- Pray for a turning back to the ways of God in Finland.
- Pray for people to open their hearts to God.
- Pray for unity in the church, and that the church will focus on "Finishing God's Mission in Finland".
- Pray against Covid-19 – For healings, for the pandemic to end, and for recovery from the negative economic impact.

Intercession: VICF

- Pray for the VICF leadership for wisdom and guidance.
- Pray that the Lord will give us a hunger for His word.
- Pray for Unity in the church.

Personal intercession:

- Pray for your family members.
- Personal prayer focus for 2021

References:

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