

MARCH PRAYER AND FASTING GUIDE:

VICF – 3-day PRAYER and FASTING | Wednesday 31 March – Friday 2 April 2021

Introduction: Attributes of God, part 3 (EASTER FOCUS)

Easter is a time to celebrate, honour and proclaim God's great love for mankind. We must never lose sight of the fact that God paid dearly for our salvation with the life of His Son - the highest price He could pay. This is the greatest love you can and will ever receive.

Isaiah 53:5 – He [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is an expression of God's love, His justice, His righteousness, His grace and His mercy. This Easter, our prayer and fasting will focus on honouring God as we meditate these attributes of His that relate to Easter.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 3

Adore and acknowledge God for who He is.

Moral attributes of God

In the following devotions on God’s moral attributes/character, please take the time to read through them and meditate on the given Scriptures. Pray and ask God for a specific revelation related to each attribute in relation to Easter.

1. GOD IS JUST

God’s justice is the execution of His holiness, righteousness, and love for all He has created. God’s righteousness and justice are unchangeable principles of His nature. According to Easton’s Bible dictionary, “the justice of God is the perfection of His nature, whereby He is infinitely righteous in Himself and in all He does; the righteousness of the divine nature exercised in His moral government”. “God’s compassion flows out of His goodness, and goodness without justice is not goodness. God spares us because He is good, but He could not be good if He were not just” -A.W. Tozer. Because God is just, He is the only one who can justify.

Through the cross, Christ satisfied the justice of God. “Justification is the judicial act of a just God, by which He pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in His eyes” (Easton Bible dictionary). This Easter we believe and proclaim that the cross of Jesus Christ is the only basis for being declared righteous before a holy God. We are right with God by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Psalm 89:14, Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23-28, Romans 5:1-2

2. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS

Righteousness is the quality of being right. God is righteous, He is right in all He does, and He is the final and only standard of what is right. God’s holiness is His essence, and righteousness is His way by which His holiness is expressed. God’s righteousness is synonymous with His justice.

Righteousness can only be based on God’s standard. In comparison to God’s righteousness, our righteous deeds are “nothing but filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). Our best efforts to be righteous are still stained with sin; we will always fall short of God’s righteousness and glory. Our only hope is in the power of the Gospel - the power of the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

At the crucifixion, Jesus took our sins and made us right with God. In other words, God viewed and treated “our” sin as if it belonged to Christ Himself. Christ became our substitute and took the punishment that we deserved. This is what Christians mean by Christ’s atonement for sin. **God paid dearly for our salvation with the life of His Son - the highest price He could pay for us to be righteous in His sight.**

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Psalms 89:14, Romans 3:9-12, 1 John 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:22, Isaiah 61:10, Proverbs 12:28

3. GOD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL

“Mercy is God's favour that holds back from us what we deserve. Grace is God's favour that gives us what we do not deserve.” - Rolfe Barnard

While these two terms are closely related and include God's kindness and compassion, His mercy means being delivered from the judgement we deserve because of our sins, and grace is God's favour of blessing to us even though we are unworthy of it.

We have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and for that we deserve death (Romans 6:23) and eternal judgement in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:12-15). If we received what we deserve, we would all be condemned for eternity, but thanks be to God for Jesus Christ, who came to take our place through His death on the cross and to give us eternal life!

We do not deserve anything good from God, yet He chooses to pour out His blessings upon all of mankind and especially gives gifts of His grace through Jesus Christ to those who believe in Him – eternal salvation, forgiveness of sins and an abundant life.

Let us thank God for His mercy and grace as we see them in action towards us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Scriptures to meditate on:

- Psalm 103:8-14, Lamentations 3:22-23,31-33, Ephesians 2:4-10, Hebrews 4:14-16, Titus 3:4-7

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.
- Pray for the relationship between Zanzibar and Tanzania.

– 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 the salvation of your family members that are not saved
- Personal prayer focus for 2021

References:

1. Barnad, R. (1989). *Sermons of Evangelist Rolfe Barnard: Vol 3*.
2. Bible commentaries (Fire Bible, Life application Study bible, Warren Wiersbe Be Series Commentary)
3. Easton bible dictionary
4. Pink A. W. (1993) *The Attributes of God*, Chapel Library United States of America.
5. Tozer, A. W. (1978). *The Knowledge of the Holy*. HarperOne.
6. 30 Days of Prayer International. (2019). *Pray for the Swahili People of Zanzibar*. Retrieved from <https://www.pray30days.org/2019/swahili-of-zanzibar>
7. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/attributes.cfm>
8. *What is the difference between mercy and grace?* GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/mercy-grace.html>