



WALKING IN THE FEAR OF GOD

Psalms 25:12 (ESV)

Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that
he should choose.

4 DAYS

FAST & PRAYER

7 AUG - 15 SEP 2025

CONTENT

Foreword

Walking in the Fear of God	4
Quiet Strength of Godly Fear	7
Feeding the “Dogs” within: an Insight into Psalm 25:12	10
Support NECF Building Fund	13

Devotion & Prayer

Day 1-5	Definition of Fearing of God	16
Day 6-10	Generational Blessings of Fearing God	22
Day 11-15	Consequences of Not Fearing God	28
Day 16-20	Walking in the Fear of God	34
Day 21-25	Actions of Fearing God	40
Day 26-30	Fearing God as an Individual	46
Day 31-35	Fearing God as a Family	52
Day 36-40	Fearing God as a Church	58

Acknowledgements	64
-------------------------	----

WALKING IN THE FEAR OF GOD

*By Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng
Chairman, NECF*



A fall can result in broken bones and surgery. It can be extremely painful and costly. Recovery can take months, sometimes years. It is important to avoid falling by walking carefully and attentively. Distractions and hurrying can result in a fall.

It is the same spiritually. As the time of our Lord's return draws nearer with each passing day, how we walk matters a great deal. We must not be careless. We must walk vigilantly and consciously in the fear of God.

To walk in the fear of God is to live with an awareness that we are in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God. He will hold us accountable for our motives, thoughts, words, and actions. This should cause us to be humble and obedient.

John Bevere wrote, "The fear of God is not being afraid of Him. It's being afraid of being away from Him."

To walk in the fear of God is to desire to live in harmony with His righteous standards and to honour Him in all that we do. Because our sinful nature leads us to pursue selfish pleasures instead of delighting in God and discovering the

joy of knowing and loving Him, we do not naturally seek to honour God. We need to therefore make a deliberate choice to walk tenaciously in the fear of the Lord. The psalmist David prayed, *“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.”* (Psalm 86:11)

To grow in the fear of God, we need to have a high regard for the Word of God. When we take time to read the Scriptures and commit to applying its truths, we learn more about the nature of God, His ways, and our role as His creatures. We learn that He has plans and purposes for His Church.

King Solomon said, *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including*

every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Let us also heed what the apostle Paul says. In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul points out, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

The Church wants the presence of God. We desperately need His presence and power. But all these would not be possible without a holistic reverence and fear of God.

May we learn to walk in the fear of God more and more.

(Bible verses are taken from the NKJV version)





QUIET STRENGTH OF GODLY FEAR

*By Pr Samuel Ang
Secretary General, NECF*



As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee Year 2025 of the 40-Day Fast and Prayer, we are thankful for the Lord's grace and sustaining hand. This annual faithful call to the Body of Christ has become a constant reminder of the importance of praying together for our nation.

The theme chosen for 2025 is **"Walking in the Fear of God"**. While many of us would acknowledge that walking in the fear of God is a basic requirement for our spiritual journey, there is unfortunately a lack of depth in the understanding of its meaning and its application.

For this year's foreword, we will look at *"The Quiet Strength of Godly Fear"* from three characters of the Bible in the following areas:

1. Godly fear trusts him with what we can't control.

The character of Job is a great example of a man who had no control over the circumstances that were thrust upon him. God declared to Satan in Job 1:8 *"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."*

Job was never aware that his faith was to be tested when permission was granted to Satan by God in verse 12, *"Very well, then, everything*

he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Initially Job had a sense of confidence, for in verse 21, he responded, *"The Lord has given and taken away —blessed be the name of the Lord."*

Only after lengthy discourses and soul-searching was Job able to admit his ignorance to God, saying in Job 42:2-3, *"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know."*

Finally, we read of Job's confession in verse 6, *"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

2. Godly fear pursues holiness

King David's life journey reveals how a man of God pursued holiness after experiencing godly fear for all the sins he had committed. We are all familiar with David's multiple sins against the Lord, Bathsheba, Uriah and the nation of Israel.

Psalm 51:10-12 was his deepest cry to the Lord when he said, *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me*



the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. "

King David's greatest fear is found in verse 11, something that he could not afford to lose. He recognized he had only one thing left to do and that is mentioned in verse 17: *"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."* That bold and contrite decision he made to restore his relationship with God was subsequently accredited to him as "A man after God's heart."

3. Godly fear looks to His promises

Sarah was able to conceive a baby in her impossibly old age, not because she had "enough faith," but because God was faithful to her. Even though she laughed at God's promise and then denied doing so, God assured her that nothing was too hard for him (see Genesis 18:14-15)

Fear tempts us to walk by sight, to assess our situation based on what's in front of us or what could happen to us. But godly fear means walking by faith as we look to God's trustworthy promises.


Sarah was subsequently included in the list of the heroes of faith as shown in Hebrews 11:11. And by faith even Sarah, who was past

childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered Him faithful who had made the promise.

These three Bible characters mentioned were ordinary people like us. Their actions were recorded and praised for they had walked in the fear of the Lord. At that moment in time, they may not have understood their actions but, one day, when Christ's glory is fully revealed, they will weep with relief and laugh for joy.

We hope it will also be true for you as you join us to walk in the fear of the Lord in 2025. We trust that all earthly fears will fade in the light of his enduring radiance.





FEEDING THE “DOGS” WITHIN: AN INSIGHT INTO PSALM 25:12

*By Rev Looi Kok Kim
Chairman, NECF Prayer Commission*



Psalm 25:12 asks a thought-provoking question: *“Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.”* This verse prompts us to reflect on our daily choices and the influences we allow into our lives. In this context, the metaphor of two dogs—one black, representing our carnal life, and one white, symbolizing our spirit and relationship with God—provides a powerful illustration of this spiritual battle. The question ultimately becomes: which dog are we feeding daily?

The black dog represents our worldly nature, which thrives on information, temptations, and comforts that align with secular values. This dog is fed by the myriad distractions of modern life—social media, internet, entertainment, and the pursuit of material wealth. When we prioritize these influences, we stimulate a hunger that can lead to behaviors and thoughts that distance us from God. We might find ourselves more consumed by desires for popularity, wealth, or pleasure than by an earnest search for truth and righteousness (see 1 John 2:15-16). In essence, feeding the black dog dulls our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, thus making it more challenging to hear the voice of God guiding us in our daily choices.

On the other hand, the white dog symbolizes the nourishment we gain from God’s Word and His instructions. Feeding this dog involves immersing ourselves in scripture, prayer, and the things of God. When we prioritize spiritual growth and understanding, we cultivate a relationship with the Divine that shapes our character and choices. Engaging in the daily reading of the Bible allows us to gain wisdom and insight, helping us navigate the complexities of life with a clear moral compass. In doing so, we foster attributes such as love, joy, patience, and peace, which align with the Spirit of God. As we grapple with daily decisions, the instructions of the scripture can serve as our guiding light.

The representation of the two dogs reminds us that we have a choice in what we nurture. Feeding one dog will inevitably lead to the starvation of the other. If we invest our time and energy in feeding our black dog—by indulging in worldly distractions—we may find ourselves increasingly distant from the virtues that God intends for us. Conversely, feeding the white dog through prayer, worship, and engagement in scripture reinforces our spiritual foundation and fosters goodness in our lives.

This struggle between the two dogs is not merely a theological concept; it's a daily reality for everyone. In a world overflowing with information, the challenge lies in discerning what we allow to shape our minds and hearts. Are we making choices that uplift our spiritual white dog, or are we falling prey to the allure of the black dog?

Ultimately, the essence of Psalm 25:12 calls for introspection. It invites us to examine where we stand in our faith and which aspects of our lives we prioritise. By consciously choosing to feed the white dog—the embodiment of our spiritual life and relationship with God—we allow His guidance to influence our

decisions and lead us along the right path. In doing so, we nourish our souls and become more reflective of His love and truth in a world that often steers us in a different direction.

During the 40-day Fast and Prayer, we are challenged to assess which we are feeding more—the black dog or the white dog. This examination encourages us to take inventory of our lives. Are we prioritizing our spiritual growth, or are we allowing the distractions of the world to take precedence? Each day offers us choices; we can either fill our time with secular activities or delve into prayer, worship, and the studying of Scripture.





SUPPORT NECF BUILDING FUND

*By Elder Lee Choong San
Honorary Treasurer of NECF*



The prophet Samuel spoke to the people of Israel in 1 Samuel 12:24, telling them, *“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”*

This year’s theme, **“Walking in the Fear of God”**, reminds us that fearing the Lord and serving Him go hand in hand together. The primary motivation for fearing Him and serving Him should be the gratitude we have for Him and the great things He has done in your life.

This year, as we spend time in prayer during the 40-Day Fast and Prayer, let’s take some time to reflect on the blessings you have received from God. Even as I pen this letter, I am humming the lyrics of this hymn:

*Count your blessings, name
them one by one,*

*And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done.*

One of the ways we can serve Him is to sow generously into the kingdom of God. What you give as an offering will be channelled

to the NECF Building Fund for the construction of the NECF Training & Resource Centre in Cyberjaya, Selangor. This centre, with seminar rooms on the first floor and an auditorium on the second floor, will be integral to the ongoing work of NECF, whose enduring vision, “Transforming The Nation Through the Local Church”, is to see Christians within the nation living out their purpose and calling as nation builders and agents of transformation.

My prayer is that you will be richly blessed as you give to the work of His kingdom, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, where He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

I thank you for all that you have contributed in the past as well as for the amount that God places in your heart to give this year.

As we give generously, I pray that, together, we will witness the sovereign hand of God moving through our beloved nation of Malaysia.

If you are prompted to give to our Building Fund, you may do so by:

- Banking directly/transferring online to NECF's building fund account:

Bank: Public Bank

Account Name: National Evangelical Christian Fellowship AC3

Account No: 3218284529

- Scanning the Touch' n Go barcode given in this booklet, NECF website, Facebook pages, App, etc.

Please send your bank-in slip to prayer@necf.org. my if you do an online transfer or bank in your cash or cheque. Receipts will only be given upon request.



A black and white photograph of a waterfall, with water cascading down rocks, creating a sense of movement and power. The image is used as a background for the text.

DAY 1-5

DEFINITION OF FEARING GOD

WHAT “FEARING GOD” MEANS

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1 :7)

The Bible often refers to “fearing God” as the fear of the Lord, and it is a sense of deep respect, awe, and reverence for God’s power and authority. This fear is not one that causes us to flee with an unpleasant emotion, but, rather, it is to lead us to love Him, come closer to Him and be in His presence.

The Hebrew word for “fear” in this context is *Yirah* יִרָא, which also means worship, and is strongly connected with “trembling” to recognize God’s role in our lives and to live in a way that pleases Him.

Solomon was used by God at various points in his life while he was fixed on pleasing Him. He wrote most of the book of Proverbs and is traditionally regarded as the author of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Fundamental to salvation is the truth that *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”* (Proverbs 1:7) Solomon is not

talking about the fear of being harmed by an enemy or other dangers. To be sure, all stubbornly unrepentant people should have that kind of fear of the Creator, for His holiness will bring judgment upon them (see Revelation 21: 6-8). The fear of the Lord in Proverbs 1:7, however, is the fear of a converted person - a reverent love that understands God’s grace toward the sinner who trusts Christ and wants to do what is pleasing to Him.

To those who have such a fear, God gives saving knowledge of His kingdom (see Matthew 13:10-17). Those who forsake this knowledge are fools who despise wisdom and understanding (see Proverbs 1:1-7). Such people are unable to recognize the fullest expression of the creator’s Wisdom in our Saviour (see 1 Corinthians 1:24) who is revealed to us in the foolishness of the cross, which is, paradoxically, the wisdom of God unto salvation.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, prepare our spirit, soul and mind to focus during this 40-Day Fast & Prayer. Reveal Your Rhema word and vision for our church, and give us wisdom, knowledge and understanding as we apply Your truth in our daily walk. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will fear the Lord, that she will fear God who alone can save and judge, and that we will fear Him above all else, so that we can be set free from the fear of death. (see Hebrews 2:15)

NATION

Pray that Malaysians will embrace diversity, tolerance and respect to all whilst clinging to what is good and shunning evil, both in our words and deeds.

FEAR GOD, ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE AND REVERE HIM

Fearing God begins with:

- (1) Acknowledging His presence before time and all things. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last (see Revelation 1:8, 17). In Him all things exist, and without Him nothing was made (see John 1:3; Col.1:17). He is omnipresent and He knows everything. We are uniquely created in His image and likeness to relate with Him, worship Him and to do His will (see Genesis 1:26). Fearing God makes our calling and purpose of existence clear.
- (2) Revering Him with a deep and holy respect because He is the source of our very life and existence, a holy and righteous God who is full of glory. He appeared to Moses from the burning bush, and Moses was afraid to look upon His glory (see Exodus 3:5-6). He appeared on Mount Sinai when He gave His commandments, and the Israelites couldn't stand to hear His voice (see Exodus 19:16; 20:18-19). The Lord says in Leviticus 11:44, *"Be holy, for I am holy."* Hebrews 9:27 tells us that *"just*

as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." Judgment will come to all men and we will receive what is due to us for things done in the body, whether good or bad (see Romans 14:10,12; 2 Cor.5:10). In Him, there is no partiality (see Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25)

- (3) Seeking to consecrate your life to live for Him by doing three important things: (i) Guard our bodies (our flesh). Present them as clean, holy and acceptable to God (see Romans 12:1), (ii) Keep our souls sound and healthy. Be transformed by the renewal of our minds daily (see Romans 12:2), and (iii) Walk in and be led by the Spirit so that we will not follow the desires of our flesh (see Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16). If we keep ourselves - body, soul and spirit - strong and healthy, we will keep ourselves in the fear of God, enabling us to do His will.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear God, help me understand the fear of You, that You are holy, righteous and full of glory and that You will judge everyone according to the things done in the body, whether good or bad. I repent of my sins; I yield my body, my mind and my emotions to the power of the Holy Spirit so that I can live a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will learn to hate evil, pride, arrogance and perverse speech in response to His instruction to fear Him. (see Proverbs 8:13)

NATION

Pray that God would protect and give wisdom to human rights organizations like HAKAM, SUHAKAM, and Pusat KOMAS so that they will be able to freely express national issues and concerns in relation to racial discrimination and democratic values. Pray that the Malaysian government will adopt advice or proposals that will benefit all Malaysians.

THE BLESSING IN FEARING GOD

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. (Isaiah 11:2-5)

Fearing God brings us blessings, including wisdom, protection, and a close relationship with Him, our mighty God. For God's people who are under the terms of this covenant, the Psalmist said, "...Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed." (Psalm 112 :1-2)

When we fear God and believe He will fulfill His promise to deliver us from His wrath, we will be blessed. With the coming of Jesus Christ, we as God's people will fully understand how wonderful the blessings are that arise from the fear of God. Secondly, the blessing of fearing God is the total forgiveness of sin. We who once were God's enemies are now His friends (see Romans 5:1-10). Thirdly, the blessing of fearing God is the promise of a long life when we obey His commandments (see Proverbs 20:27; Ephesians 6:2-3.) Fourthly, He will deliver us from heresy and Satanic deception (see 1 John 2 :18-25.)

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear Jesus, help Your Church grow in faith with a genuine understanding of the blessing of fearing God. May we continue to be united, praying and focusing on You. Bring about a national repentance where people of every tribe, race and language will humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways to call upon You for forgiveness. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will serve the Lord with all her heart and all her soul, be attentive to His voice, and observe His Word and do His will. (see Deuteronomy 10:12; 13:4)

NATION

Pray that God would grant political stability to Malaysia and that the political turbulence that occurred in 2018 will not happen again, in order for the government of the day to focus on restoring our economic and social orders.

FEARING GOD MEANS REPENTANCE AND LIVING A LIFE OF HOLINESS

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God's covenantal promise to His people where He emphasises His readiness to forgive and restore when they repent is revealed in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Repentance isn't merely feeling sorrow for sin but comes with concrete actions like: (1) Humbling ourselves: acknowledging our sins and our dependence on God's mercy (see James 4:10); (2) Praying: communicating with God, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness (see 1 John 1:9); (3) Seeking God's face: desiring a deeper relationship with Him and aligning our hearts with His will (see Psalm 27:8); and (4) Turning from our wicked ways. (see Ezekiel 18:30)

Our repentance should include the following steps: (Step 1) Daily renewal of our minds. Romans 12:2 encourages believers to renew their minds continually to discern God's will and avoid conforming to sinful patterns.

(Step 2) Relying on the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:16 reminds us to "walk by the Spirit," which empowers us to resist sin and live according to God's desires. (Step 3) Living a repentant life. Luke 9:23 calls believers to take up their cross daily, symbolizing a life of self-denial.

We are bound to make mistakes, but God's grace is sufficient for us (see 2 Corinthians 12:9) and His mercies are new every morning (see Lamentations 3:22-23). This assurance motivates us to seek forgiveness for our sins which may include: (1) Personal sins like gossiping and slander. Proverbs 16:28 warns that *"a perverse person stirs up conflict and a gossip separates close friends."* We may inadvertently harm others through careless words. (2) Community sins like neglecting the poor and needy. James 2:15-16 challenges us to provide for those in need. (3) Global sins like greed and materialism. Colossians 3:5 describes greed as idolatry, which detracts from worshipping God and prioritising His kingdom.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, forgive us for we have fallen short of Your commands through our words, actions, and inaction. Forgive our personal sins of pride, anger, and gossip, and help us speak and act with grace and love. As a community, we repent of neglecting the poor, turning a blind eye to injustice, and failing to live as the body of Christ. We also confess the greed and materialism that have distracted us from seeking Your kingdom first. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Lord would empower the Church to fight every battle with praise, worship and thanksgiving, that the nations will see His power through the Church and learn to fear Him. (see 2 Chronicles 20:29)

NATION

Pray that the civil service will break free from corruption and function effectively and efficiently.

NATION THAT FEARS GOD

The concept of a “nation that fears God” is mentioned particularly in relation to Israel and other nations that acknowledge God’s sovereignty.

Israel: Israel is often depicted as the nation that was chosen by God to worship and serve Him. The concept of fearing God is closely linked to their covenantal relationship with Him. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and Psalm 33:8 emphasise the importance of reverence and obedience to God.

Other Nations: Non-Israelite nations express a form of reverence toward God, recognising His power and authority. In Jonah 3, the people of Nineveh feared God and repented after Jonah’s warning. Daniel 4:34-37 describes King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon as acknowledging and fearing God after his period of humility.

Psalm 33:8 says: “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.” The psalmist calls all people on earth to reverently acknowledge and fear the Lord, recognising His supreme power as Creator and Sovereign over all creation. According to the Bible, when a nation fears God, several positive consequences are highlighted:

1. Blessing and prosperity: Psalm 33:12 says, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”*

2. Righteousness and justice: Proverbs 14:34 states, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.”*

3. Divine protection: Psalm 34:7 suggests that, *“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”*

4. Peace and stability: Isaiah 26:3 speaks of peace, *“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”*

5. Wisdom and guidance: Proverbs 9:10 teaches, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*

6. Restoration and healing: 2 Chronicles 7:14 promises, *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray... I will heal their land.”*

In summary, when a nation fears God, it will experience blessings, justice, protection, peace, wisdom, and the potential for restoration.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Dear Heavenly Father, make us a nation that fears You, where we will have mutual respect towards one another, and live in unity, understanding and love. May Your love transform our hearts, bringing healing, peace and hope to all. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will forsake all idolatry and self-centred desires and motives, and that her members will live a life of Christ-likeness and Christ-centredness. (Joshua 24:14)

NATION

Pray that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission will exercise its powers and duties independently, transparently and professionally, without being compromised by any political influences or intervention.



DAY 6-10

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS OF FEARING GOD

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN THE FAMILY

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and, in the home, it establishes a legacy of godliness. When a family walks in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit becomes evident—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These attributes transform each generation into God-fearing priests and prophets.

Each generation that experiences the power of the Holy Spirit witnesses His transformative work in their lives. While Christian families will still face tough times and conflicts, the Spirit of God draws them together, bringing reconciliation, healing, and divine love. The fruit of the Spirit provides the strength to endure trials, and the grace to forgive and rebuild relationships. These moments become testimonies of God's faithfulness and His power to restore.

Consider the Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit is not merely a list of virtues; it's the evidence of God's active work in our lives. When parents model godly fear, they teach their children to seek God's presence and embrace His character. Families rooted in the Spirit's fruit experience harmony and unity, even in seasons of trial.

Generational blessings begin here. The fear of the Lord instills a love for His Word and a dependence on His Spirit. Children carry this spiritual inheritance as they grow, impacting their relationships and future families. Homes built on the foundation of godly reverence become testimonies of His goodness and instruments of His peace in the community.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Teach us to walk in holy reverence before You so that our families reflect Your love and goodness. May Your Spirit's fruit flourish in our hearts and homes, uniting us in Your peace and joy. Bless future generations to walk in Your ways and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that every Christian home will be a place of discipleship, where children are trained to be godly and upright, and that they will continue to practise what they are first taught at home, wherever they go. (see Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

NATION

Pray that the government will wisely manage, develop and promote the country's oil and gas industry, exports and foreign investment. Pray further that the government will continue to diversify Malaysian industries to make our country prosper.

MULTIPLICATION OF SOUL-SAVING

The fear of the Lord not only nurtures personal growth but also multiplies the reach of the Gospel across generations. Psalm 145:4 declares, *“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”* A deep reverence for God fuels this generational chain of faithful witnesses.

When parents instill the fear of God in their children, they are equipping them to be ambassadors of Christ. The blessings of fearing God include a passion for souls and the courage to share the Gospel. Families devoted to God become the launchpads for future ministers, missionaries, and witnesses who spread His truth to the ends of the earth.

Each generation faces the challenge of doing more than the previous in expanding the Kingdom of God. As we move closer to the Day of the Lord, every generation needs to intensify its evangelistic efforts. The urgency of the Gospel's message demands that we not only maintain the legacy of faith but also actively advance it, reaching those who have yet to hear the Good News.

Each act of obedience to the Great Commission compounds through generations. One family's faithfulness can lead to countless souls saved over time. The ripple effect of fearing God ensures that the light of Christ continues to shine brighter in the darkness.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord of the harvest, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the privilege of sharing Your Gospel. Empower our families to walk in holy reverence and boldness, passing on the passion for Your name to future generations. May we rise to the challenge of intensifying our efforts, sowing seeds of faith that yield a bountiful harvest of saved souls for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that lives of faith and obedience will be legacies handed down from generation to generation, and that generations will serve God together. (see 2 Timothy 1:5)

NATION

Pray that the government will effectively address the wealth disparity between the urban and rural populations with steps such as an appropriate tax system, a considerate public welfare, implementation of fair wages and access to job opportunities.

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS IMPACTING THE NATION

The fear of the Lord is not confined to individual families; it extends to nations and transforms them. Proverbs 14:34 reminds us, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.”* When Christians live as a minority within a nation, their impact can still be profound as they walk in godly fear, and influence society with their steadfast faith.

Generations of believers can impact all seven spheres of society: family, religion, education, government, media, the arts, and business. In the family sphere, Christian households model love, respect, and integrity, creating strong testimonies. Churches become sanctuaries of hope and moral clarity. Godly educators shape students to think critically and compassionately, while believers in government demonstrate integrity and uphold justice.

In media and the arts, Christians convey truth and beauty, offering a redemptive alternative to cultural narratives. In business, ethical practices rooted in biblical values testify to God's provision and fairness. Even in Malaysia, Christians can act as the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” (see Matthew 5:13-14), fostering righteousness and hope across society.

History proves that Christian minorities can transform nations. Communities anchored in godly fear cultivate leaders who prioritise righteousness, inspire cultural renewal, and influence policies for the common good. The nation experiences healing and elevation as these blessings ripple outward, demonstrating God's transformative power.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Sovereign Lord, we pray that Your righteousness would transform our nation. Help us live boldly and faithfully, influencing every sphere of society for good. Raise up leaders and communities that honor Your name, bringing justice, compassion, and renewal to our land. May future generations continue this legacy, glorifying You in all they do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that all generations will tell successive generations of the goodness, wonderful works and mighty acts of God, and celebrate His abundant blessings together. (see Psalm 145:4-7)

NATION

Pray that Malaysians will possess a strong sense of social responsibility so that all of us can contribute to the promotion of social equity and sustainability, for the betterment of all.

PASSING ON OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5)

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

As we meditate on the above Scriptures, we can learn a few lessons:

- * The importance of passing on our spiritual heritage to at least the next 2 generations after us, like what Timothy's grandmother and mother did to him.
- * That spiritual heritage is about reading, meditating, and obeying God's written Word.
- * That way, our children and grandchildren will continue to walk in obedience to God faithfully and fruitfully all the days of their lives.

For those of us who don't have biological children, we can adopt such an approach for our nieces and nephews or other children who are close to us, just as Timothy was the Apostle Paul's spiritual son.

It is the best inheritance they will ever receive because, with God's help, it will help them overcome challenges in their lives and be a blessing to others.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, the most precious inheritance we can pass on to our biological and spiritual children and grandchildren is our faith in You. Let us live lives that testify to Your goodness and awesomeness so that our generations will follow you faithfully. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that God would raise this generation to be a generation that seeks His face, has clean hands and pure hearts, and one that does not trust in idols or swear by false gods. (see Psalm 24:4-6)

NATION

Pray that a proper balance will be maintained between the need to digitalise and the difficulties that will be faced by certain groups, such as senior citizens and the rural population.

IMPACTING GENERATIONS AFTER US

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Read also Deuteronomy 6:1-2, Exodus 31:1-5 & Exodus 17:10-13.

Today's readings show us how we can apply Deuteronomy 6:6-9 in our faith journey with our children and grandchildren in practical ways.

Hur, the father of Uri and the grandfather of Bezalel, supported Moses in prayer with Aaron, while Joshua and the Israelites fought with the Amalekites. This is love (for God) in action.

I believe Hur's loving action impacted his grandson Bezalel's faithfulness in his service to God. Bezalel was later chosen, anointed and given the skills, knowledge and wisdom by God to build the Tabernacle.

Nothing much is said about Uri, who was the father of Bezalel. But we can tell from the story that grandparents (including spiritual grandparents) can leave a lasting impression or influence on their grandchildren with their walk in God. Such influence may not bear fruit immediately but, in the long run, it will bear fruit as mentioned in Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV), *"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Remember, God's desire is for us to positively influence at least one generation after us if not the next two generations after us.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, may our lives make an impact on our children and grandchildren, that they may come to grasp the importance and purpose of serving God and their generations. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that churches all over Malaysia will help our members see the urgency and need to serve our generation well, so that we will not fail in our mission to impact this generation and beyond. (see Acts 13:36)

NATION

Pray for a smooth transition for businesses and individuals as E-Invoicing is introduced.



DAY 11-15

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT FEARING GOD

THE FOUNDATION OF WISDOM

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)

In an age when opinions are elevated over truth, and personal freedoms are mistaken for ultimate authority, the fear of God feels like an ancient relic. Yet Scripture explicitly declares that the fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. To fear God means to stand in reverence of His holiness, justice, and majesty. It is a posture of surrender that recognises God's rightful rule over our lives.

When the fear of God is absent, society degenerates into moral chaos. Judges 21:25 mentions that: *"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes"*. This is the inevitable fruit of a Christian or a nation that does not have the fear of God. Cancel culture and woke beliefs thrive in such environments, replacing divine truth with short-lived opinions.

Reflect: Is the fear of God the foundation of my decisions, or have I allowed culture and others to dictate my values?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, awaken in me a deep and holy reverence for You. Teach me to love what You love and hate what You hate. Let Your wisdom guide my steps as I humbly submit to Your authority. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Ask God to reveal Himself by the power of the Holy Spirit to those who live in sin. Pray that He will enable the helpless to overcome their habitual sins, and that those who are hardened by sin will come to repentance. (see John 14:26)

NATION

Pray for concrete solutions from all stakeholders to the issue of youth unemployment which poses a severe threat to the country's overall economic growth. The December 2023 statistics show an unemployment rate of 10.6% (about 307,200) among youth aged 15-24, constituting 76% of the national unemployment rate of 3.3%.

THE DANGER OF LUKEWARMNESS

“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16)

Lukewarmness is a dangerous spiritual condition that reveals a deeper issue: the absence of the fear of God. The church in Laodicea believed they were strong, self-sufficient, and blessed. Yet Jesus exposed their true condition—*“wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked”* (Revelation 3:17). They mistook material prosperity, success and external appearances for God’s favour and spiritual health. Their complacency had dulled their awareness of God’s holiness and their need for Him.

When the fear of God is absent, we lose our urgency to seek Him, and apathy replaces passion. Lukewarm faith is not neutral; it is

offensive to God because it dishonours His worth and lordship. It is a faith that settles for partial obedience, shallow worship, and a heart divided. Jesus warns He will “spit” us out of His mouth—a graphic and sobering picture of rejection. This runs against much of our hyper-grace preaching.

A lack of fear of God leads to a life where comfort, convenience, and compromise replace holiness, consecration, and surrender. Without the fear of God, we become indifferent to His call for repentance.

Reflect: In what areas in my life have I settled for a lukewarm faith instead of wholehearted devotion?

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Lord, I repent of my complacency and spiritual indifference. Restore a holy fear of You in my heart. Ignite in me a passion for Your presence, that my life may reflect a devotion that honours Your holiness and glorifies Your name. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will speak the truth in love to one another, restore gently those who are caught in sin and keep watch over ourselves so as not to be tempted the same way. (see Galatians 6:1)

NATION

Pray for appropriate assistance for all individuals dealing with mental health issues, and also for strength and wisdom for their families and friends. The number of people with depression doubled from 2019 to 2023, with one million individuals, about 4.6%, having suffered from it, particularly among those aged 16 to 29 years old (data from the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2023).

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God."
(Isaiah 59:1-2 ESV)

God's love is boundless, but His justice demands reverence. When the fear of God is absent, disobedience flourishes, and the consequences are devastating. Isaiah reminds us that sin creates a chasm between us and God. It is not that God is unwilling to move—it is that we have chosen rebellion and convenience over repentance.

In 2025, we see the fruit of disobedience in broken families, fractured communities, and confused identities. Woke culture celebrates rebellion against God's design. Yet the deeper cry of the human heart is for redemption and order.

The fear of God leads us back to the cross, where grace and justice meet.

Reflect: What areas of my life have I withheld from God's authority, and how has disobedience hindered His work in me?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, search my heart and reveal any disobedience in me. Restore my reverence for Your Word and empower me to walk in holiness. May my life be a testimony of repentance and restoration. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will be aware of the ministry of reconciliation that we have received from the Lord and take the initiative to help others reconcile with God as well as with one another. (see 2 Corinthians 5:18)

NATION

Pray that the Unity Government under the leadership of Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim will embrace integrity, transparency, accountability, fairness, justice, efficiency, and adaptability.

THE HEART OF TRUE LEADERSHIP

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

Leadership in the church is a sacred calling. Yet, how often do we pause to ask ourselves: What drives our leadership? Is it humility and a deep reliance on God, or have subtle ambitions crept into our hearts?

When ministries flourish, do we glorify Christ or do we take it as a validation of our efforts? Could we be mistaking numbers for true Kingdom fruit? Are we reaching the lost, or are we attracting people from other congregations under the guise of outreach while arrogantly claiming that we are better than others?

And what about stewardship? Do we faithfully manage God's resources, or do we act as though we are owners rather than stewards? Is there transparency and accountability in how we lead?

The rise of celebrity leadership is also something to reflect upon. Have we surrounded ourselves with voices that challenge us truthfully, or only with those who affirm us? Are we open to correction, or has pride made us resistant to it?

True leadership begins and ends with the fear of the Lord—a holy reverence that keeps us grounded in humility and focused on God's glory.

Reflect: Am I honouring the unity of the Body of Christ, or are my actions causing division? How can I ensure that my leadership reflects the humility of Christ and the fear of God?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, search my heart. Expose any pride, ambition, or self-reliance that has taken root in my leadership. Restore in me a holy fear of You and a deep love for Your glory. Teach me to lead with integrity, humility, and grace. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will be conscious of the severity of immorality that brings harm to our whole well-being, especially sexual immorality that sins against our own body. (see 1 Corinthians 6:18)

NATION

Excessive screen time carries risks to mental, and physical health, as well as relationships, with young people being especially vulnerable to the threats of cyberbullying and sexual harassment. Pray that parents will be good examples for their children and instill in them the required self-discipline, self-control and self-awareness.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A DIVIDED HEART

Read Matthew 15:8-9

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)

We cry out for God to move, but do we confront the condition of our hearts? Scripture warns that the absence of a holy fear of God leads to spiritual barrenness. A divided heart—clinging to sin while professing devotion—renders our prayers powerless. It is not that God cannot act; it is that unrepented sin blocks His presence and work in our lives.

The Pharisees prayed, fasted, and worshipped publicly, yet Jesus declared their hearts were far from Him. Outward religious activity cannot substitute for inward repentance. This deception lures us into thinking that busier schedules, larger or more meetings can bring change. But without a posture of humility and surrender, even our most fervent prayers fall short.

The fear of God demands that we confront our pride, rebellion, disunity and complacency. It calls us to complete submission to His holiness. Revival begins when we stop focusing on external acts and instead allow God to purify our hearts. The key to seeing Him move powerfully in our lives is repentance born from the fear of His name.

Revival does not begin in the streets—it begins in the hearts of God's people!

Reflect: Am I holding onto any sin, pride, or complacency that hinders God's work in me?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Father, I humble myself before You and confess the many ways I have grieved You. Forgive my pride and disobedience. Restore the fear of Your name in my life, that I may live in full submission to You. Purify my heart and use me as a vessel for Your glory. Amen.

CHURCH

Ask God to set us free from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of this life that come from the world and works against the Spirit of God. (see 1 John 2:16)

NATION

Many people fear that the advancement of Artificial Intelligence will replace their jobs, create difficulties due to their inadequate knowledge, and disrupt their normal work flow. Pray that, instead of being crippled by fears, the workforce will focus on enhancing and developing their skills in line with the rapid changes.

A photograph of a sandy beach with a series of footprints leading from the foreground towards the ocean. In the background, a large, dark mountain range is visible under a cloudy sky. The entire image is framed by a white rounded rectangle.

DAY 16-20

WALKING IN THE FEAR OF GOD

WALKING IN THE FEAR OF GOD

Read Philippians 2:9-12

We are living in an increasingly digital world where 5.07 billion people spend at least 2 hours and 20 minutes on social media on their smartphones daily. In contrast, how much time do we spend on reading the Word of God daily in reverence to Him?

The Apostle Paul emphasises the importance of reverence for God, which can be understood as “walking in the fear of the Lord.” (see Philippians 2:9-12). This passage reflects the ultimate authority and exaltation of Jesus Christ, illustrating how His obedience even to death led to His elevation by God who gave Him a name that is above every name, so that at His name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord. Therefore, Paul urges believers to be humble and respond with reverence towards God by living a disciplined lifestyle that includes a commitment to reading His Word daily.

When we fear the Lord, we cultivate a heart of worship that guides our actions and decisions. The purpose of a daily time to read the Bible is to know God while inviting the Holy Spirit to teach us to pray.

To “walk in the fear of the Lord” means to live in a state of awe and respect for God’s holiness and sovereignty. It signifies that we recognise our place in relation to Him—His greatness compared to our smallness, and His grace compared to our sins. This attitude influences our daily decisions, encouraging us to choose righteousness over wrongdoing and to love others selflessly, as demonstrated by Christ. Hence, it is not a passive pursuit, but an active one.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Lord, help me to know You and revere You by setting aside time to read three chapters of the Word of God every day, covering Genesis to Revelations in one year. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, the Church, will put into practice what we have heard and received from the Word of God and the good examples we have seen from our godly leaders. (see Philippians 4:9)

NATION

Pray that children, especially children whose parents are overseas or unable to devote sufficient time to their upbringing, will be able to go to churches in their towns or villages, and that they will find security in Christ.

WALKING IN KNOWING GOD

Read Daniel 11:32-35

This year, I have committed to reading 30 chapters daily, using the NECF Chronological Bible Reading Plan. In his book on the prayer altar, Dr. John Mulinde emphasises the importance of reading the Word of God in chunks to deepen our understanding of God and to effectively resist the devil.

This is highlighted in the book of Daniel which notes that *"... the people who know their God will firmly resist him [the devil]."* (Daniel 11:32) This declaration emphasises the strength and courage that comes from knowing God and having a deep, intimate relationship with Him, empowering believers to withstand adversity and persecution.

The phrase "know their God" indicates an experiential knowledge rather than a mere intellectual condition. For knowledge puffs

up (see 1 Corinthians 8:1). This aligns with 2 Peter 1:3, which states that His divine power has granted us all things necessary for life and godliness. The recognition of God's sovereignty fosters strength and resilience, motivating believers to resist persecution and trials, as highlighted in verses 33-35 where God's people are refined through adversity.

In a practical sense, walking in the knowledge of God involves daily engagement with His Word, prayer, and being in a community with fellow believers. It requires discernment in one's choices, promoting integrity and love in challenging situations. Moreover, nurturing a relationship with God cultivates confidence, allowing believers to resist daily temptations as mentioned in Matthew 4:4.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear Jesus, as I read your Word daily, please remind me that it is not about knowledge of the Word. For knowledge puffs up. Teach me to grow in the posture of knowing You so that I will be strong to resist the Adversary. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will possess the courage and strength of Esther, not fearing to risk herself for Jesus, and not shrinking away from her calling and responsibilities in challenging times. (see Esther 4:16)

NATION

A survey on the state of discrimination conducted in 2023 shows that 64% of the respondents have experienced some form of discrimination during the year as a result of their ethnicity and religion. Pray that discrimination will gradually give way to meritocracy and equality in Malaysia.

WALKING IN FEAR AND TREMBLING

Read Philippians 2:12-16, 2 Samuel 11:1-12:7

Paul urges believers to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” in today’s Scripture reading. This call to action emphasises the necessity of actively engaging in one’s faith, reinforcing the idea that salvation is not a passive state but a dynamic journey requiring diligence and reverence before God. The phrase “fear and trembling” signifies a deep respect for God’s holiness and a recognition of human frailty, reminding believers to approach their faith with seriousness and intentionality.

We read how King David’s adultery with Bathsheba led to deep guilt and conviction, prompting his repentance in Psalm 51.

Acknowledging his sinfulness and seeking God’s mercy and cleansing were key factors in his heartfelt deep respect for God’s holiness and his return to God (see Psalms 51:3 and 51:1-2.)

The understanding of “working out” our salvation means actively living out our beliefs through our actions, decisions, and relationships. It is not merely about achieving a state of salvation but is about continually growing and deepening our faith.

Therefore, doubling our efforts in the life of salvation means being intentional and reverent in our relationship with God. We have to diligently practise this with hearts attuned to His will.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, I seek your forgiveness for the things I do that do not please you. I repent and ask for your mercy and strength to flee from all forms of temptation that will cause me to fall back in sin again. Help me to work out my relationship with You by reading Your Word daily. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will function as the channel through which the manifold wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, through the preaching of the Gospel. (see Ephesians 3:10)

NATION

Many Malaysians are still unable to grasp the concept of gender equality. Pray that the efforts put in by the relevant authorities with the introduction of SDG 5 (Sustainable Development Goal) will help Malaysians understand the intrinsic values of both men and women as they are each created with unique dignity and worth for God-given purposes and destinies.

WALKING IN GOD'S DESTINY

Read Esther 4:1-17

In today's reading, we find a powerful narrative that illustrates the theme of walking in God's destiny. When Mordecai learns of Haman's plot to annihilate the Jews, he mourns and urges his cousin Esther to act, reminding her that her royal position may be for such a time as this (see Esther 4:14). This pivotal moment highlights the importance of recognising our roles in God's plan and the courage to fulfill them.

Esther's initial fear and reluctance to approach the king reflect our human tendency to hesitate when faced with daunting challenges. However, she ultimately chooses to embrace her destiny by requesting prayer and fasting from her community (see Esther 4:16). This act highlights the importance of communal support in pursuing God's calling. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages believers to *"consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,"* underscoring that we are not alone in our journeys.

In a practical sense, walking in God's destiny as the way forward requires acknowledging our fears while trusting in God's provision (see Philippians 4:19). We are reminded by Timothy that the coming of days will bring very difficult times (see 2 Timothy 3:1-6.) Like Esther, we can face daunting challenges with prayer, counsel, and faith in God's promises. Also, recognising that our positions—whether in leadership or service—can be viewed as opportunities for divine purposes helps reshape our understanding of any special circumstances or of our everyday lives. By embracing our roles and responsibilities, we participate in God's greater narrative, ultimately fulfilling His destiny.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, please search my heart to see if I am obedient to Your calling. If I have fallen short of Your calling, I ask for your forgiveness. And now, raise me up to be like Daniel or Esther to accomplish Your will for our nation. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will be firmly resolute not to be defiled by the spirits of the world, and that she will be fearless in refusing any offers that may seem rightful and attractive in men's eyes. (see Daniel 1:8)

NATION

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported that exploitative employment in Malaysia has driven many migrants to become undocumented. Pray that proper actions will be taken to stamp out these practices.

WALKING IN RADICAL GODLINESS

Read Matthew 5:17-20

Walking in radical godliness, as highlighted in today's reading, calls for a commitment to ethical living that is more than merely following the law. Jesus clarifies that he came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them, urging us to internalize the spirit of the law through a genuine relationship with God.

In Matthew 5:20, Jesus warns that our righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees to enter the kingdom of heaven, emphasising that external conformity alone is inadequate. We are called to embrace love, mercy, and justice, reflecting God's character. Jeremiah 9:23-24 echoes this, reminding us that we should not boast about our wisdom, power, and riches. But, instead, we are to boast about knowing God who embodies unfailing love and brings justice and righteousness.

In today's context, walking in radical godliness challenges societal norms that favor selfishness over service. It inspires young people to confront injustices and advocate for the marginalized, mirroring Christ's love in a divided world. This commitment can transform communities by prompting individuals to express their faith authentically and intentionally. By striving for a profound righteousness through knowing God, we can influence our families, churches, and communities, to ultimately transform our nation.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to teach us to live, not through mere religious practices, but to truly know and understand You—who are loving, just, and righteous. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that every one of us, as believers in Christ, will be diligent in building our personal prayer altars, and will be willing to spend time to read the Word of God, and to receive the ministry of His Truth. (see Acts 17:11)

NATION

43% Malaysian respondents to the PwC's Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey 2020 have experienced fraud or corruption 24 months prior to 2020 (vs 41% in 2018). Pray that the relevant authorities will crack down on these economic crimes, and that Malaysians from all walks of life will refrain from either giving or receiving bribes.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large flock of birds, possibly terns, flying in a V-formation over a body of water during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun's reflection visible on the water's surface. The text is overlaid on this image.

DAY 21-25

ACTIONS OF FEARING GOD

APPROACHING IN REVERENCE

Read Psalm 89:7

One day two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, took their censers, filled with hot coals and incense, and offered "strange" fire to God—something they had not been commanded to do. In Hebrew, "strange" means "foreign or profane," indicating that they had approached God in the most disrespectful and dishonouring manner, without fear of God. Because of that, God judged them, and a fire blazed out and consumed them. They died in His presence.

After they had died, Moses said to Aaron, *"This is what the LORD spoke of when He said: 'Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honoured'"* (Leviticus 10:3). Upon hearing this, Aaron held his peace because he knew his sons had sinned against God.

The action of the fear of God is to regard His holiness with reverence and awe. Psalm

89:7 says, God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him. Because God is holy, we approach His presence with reverential fear; because He is our majesty, we behold His glory in awe. Nadab and Abihu's carelessness and their utter contempt of God's presence should serve as a warning to us.

Modern worshippers should be mindful of what happened to Aaron's sons. The present day overemphasis on grace and mercy more than reverence and awe are leading many people towards a lackadaisical attitude with regards to worldliness and sin. Many may not realise that they are offering "strange" worship to God. If this disobedience continues, God will act because judgement begins in the house of God (see 1 Peter 4:17), for our God is a Consuming Fire (see Hebrews 12:29).

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I repent of my careless and irreverent attitude towards your holiness and glory. I am mindful that You see my heart – that I have not respected and honoured Your presence with the right posture. Forgive my sin as I offer You the prescribed sacrifice - a broken spirit and a contrite heart. These, O God, You will not despise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will trust God and have no fear of difficulties we might encounter, e.g., financial difficulties, relationship or health-related issues. (see Psalm 115:11)

NATION

Pray for genuine efforts on the part of the government to fulfil the terms of the Malaysia Agreement 1963, that Sabah and Sarawak will be given the rights and resources promised under that agreement.

ADMISSION OF SIN

Read Psalm 51:4, 2 Samuel 12:13

David committed many sins. Among them were adultery with another man's wife and then his attempt to cover up the affair by getting the woman's husband killed. When Bathsheba's husband Uriah died, David proceeded to covet the woman by marrying her because she was pregnant with his child. David's hypocrisy led to the death of the child. In essence, David's sin destroyed an entire family.

Yet, unlike Saul, the kingdom of Israel was not taken away from David. Why?

David had confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." To which Nathan replied, "Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin." David was quick to admit his sin and repent, which the LORD had known he would; He had forgiven David even before his admission.

God hates sin because it goes against His nature. The psalmist describes God's hatred of sin this way: *"For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with you, evil people are not welcome."* (Psalm 5:4) God hates sin because sin separates us from Him: *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:2). However, God is merciful and so He made provision for sin to be forgiven – there only had to be admission of sin before Him.

David had repented before the LORD saying, *"Against You, You alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight...My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise"* (Psalm 51:4,17). Because David had the fear of God, admission of sins and repentance before God was instantaneous. This is the action God desires from His people (see 1 John 1:9).

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I confess my sins, transgressions, and iniquities before you. Against You and You alone have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within me, I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will translate our fear of God into good works, so that the needs of the communities will be met, and praises will be given to our Heavenly Father. (see Acts 10:2)

NATION

The Statistics Department on Causes of Death 2023 has highlighted heart disease as a leading cause of sudden death among young adults, with figures increasing year on year. Pray that Malaysians will cultivate a healthy lifestyle with a moderate intake of food, and sufficient exercise and rest.

ACT OF OBEDIENCE

Read Genesis 22:11-12

The book of Ecclesiastes ends with this sobering reminder that *“now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and obey His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil”* (see Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).

The word “fear” in the Hebrew is *yārēʾ* (ירא) also translated as “reverence.” To “fear God” is to have a genuine reverence for who God is and, as such, He is to be obeyed unreservedly. God knows all things and whatever He does is final. Our duty is to acknowledge the attributes of God in awe and in acts of obedience and worship.

Genesis 22:1 says, *“Some time later God tested Abraham.”* Abraham responded to the testing of God by bringing Isaac, his son on

his journey of obedience. When Abraham reached the place, God told him to say to his servants, *“Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”* Abraham’s act of worship was to sacrifice Isaac as God had commanded him.

Abraham would have killed Isaac but God stopped him saying, *“Do not lay a hand on the boy,”* He said. *“Do not do anything to him . . .”* Then He went on to say, *“Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”*

The worship Abraham offered was an act of absolute obedience to God out of genuine respect for God. This is the fear of Him that God desires from His people.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I rededicate my life to offer true worship through acts of obedience to You. Your word says, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams, and I agree wholeheartedly. May my life follow the example of Abraham, who feared You and was commended as righteous. This is my life’s duty. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will humble ourselves, seek God’s guidance through the work of the Holy Spirit, and be willing to take heed of godly advice when the time comes to make any major decisions. (see Proverbs 19:20-21)

NATION

20% of Malaysians previously classified under the M40 income group have fallen into the B40 income group, hence enlarging the ‘new poor’ circle post-pandemic. Pray that the government will recognise and take steps to relieve their struggles, especially for those who have a big family to support.

AUTHORITY OF GOD

Read Proverbs 9:10, 1 Samuel 24

Saul had gone into a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men were inside. David could have used the opportunity to kill Saul, but he did not. Instead, he crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

After this, David felt guilty because he had cut off a piece of Saul's clothing. He said to his men, *"The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."* When Saul realised what had happened, he called out to David saying, *"You are more righteous than I. You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly."*

Why didn't David kill Saul? After all, God had taken the kingdom from Saul and given it to David. And he had the urging of his men to support him.

Proverbs 9:10 (NLV) says, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. To learn about the Holy One is understanding."* David knew Saul was God's chosen one and Saul was also the king of Israel. As such, Saul had the authority of God, and David must respect it. And for David to do it out of the fear of God is commendable. Even after Saul died, David continued to be respectful towards God's chosen one by composing a funeral song in his honour (see 2 Samuel 1:17).

Recognising the authority of God in His chosen ones is respecting God. This is also an act of worship. What David did turned out in his favour when Saul reciprocated saying, *"I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands."* (1 Samuel 24:20)

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned against Your chosen ones. Instead of submitting to them, I have rebelled against them. Instead of praying for them, I have grumbled against them. I want to redeem myself by following the example of David with Saul. I want to grow in wisdom and stature, in favour with men and God, so help me, Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will rejoice in the Lord, praying continually and giving thanks to God in all circumstances, and that we will live lives that are worthy of His calling. (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

NATION

The 2010 census in Malaysia showed a 9.2% Christian population while the 2020 census showed a concerning reduction to 9.1%. Pray that the churches in Malaysia will be diligent and fervent in evangelism, church planting and service.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Read Isaiah 6:8

In the year of King Uzziah's death, Isaiah was given a vision of the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Then the voice of the LORD said, *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"* Despite his own sense of inadequacy, Isaiah answered the call of God saying, *"Here am I. Send me!"*

Even though Isaiah was a member of the royal family (according to ancient stories), when the LORD revealed Himself in all His glory and holiness in a vision to him, the prophet couldn't help but shake with fear and condemn himself as a man undone – a mere sinner living amid sinful people. An angel of the LORD used a live coal to atone for his sin, and the prophet duly answered the call of God.

The manner in which Isaiah responded to God's call as an act of respect is worth mentioning:

1. Repentance: He realised his sinfulness and God's holiness, and repented.
2. Attentive: He heard the voice of God, counted the cost, and surrendered.
3. Obedience: He obeyed God's instruction to speak to the people.

God is still calling us today. The issue is: are we answering His call? Perhaps, for most people, the calling may not be dramatic enough, unlike Isaiah's. Nevertheless it is still a divine calling. Would you answer the call out of respect and reverence for God? Would you have the fear of God when He calls you?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I confess my fear of answering Your call in my life. Fill me with the Spirit to have the boldness to say, "Here am I. Send me." Open my eyes to see your glory and holiness, and my ears to hear Your concern for the lost. I surrender my life to You to prepare me for this journey of faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will cleanse ourselves from what is dishonourable, and aspire to become honourable vessels that are set apart and useful for His house. (see 2 Timothy 2:21)

NATION

The Malaysian literacy rate in 2022 was 96% for citizens aged 15 and above. Pray that the government will work towards a 100% literacy rate through workable and effective literacy programs.

DAY 26-30

FEARING GOD AS AN INDIVIDUAL



RECOGNIZING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

Reverence for God establishes a firm foundation for life. Fearing Him means acknowledging His authority in every area, opening the door to divine wisdom and clarity.

I recall a high-pressure project early in my engineering career. The client was growing increasingly concerned about delays, while the contractor's confidence eroded due to prior mistakes. Entrusted with the project, I felt overwhelmed and turned to Proverbs 9:10: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* Seeking God's guidance in prayer brought clarity, restored strained relationships, and led to success.

This experience taught me that reverence for God anchors us in His wisdom, equipping us to navigate challenges with confidence. As we continue this 40-day journey of prayer and fasting, recognising God's sovereignty reminds us to trust His leading, knowing that His plans are always for our good.

Something to ponder: Are you allowing the fear of the Lord to guide your decisions, or are you leaning on your own understanding?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, I submit to Your sovereignty. Teach me to walk in reverence and to trust Your wisdom above my own plans. May my fasting and prayers draw me closer to Your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers of Christ, will be good stewards of the resources, gifts and talents that we have received from God, so that all these things will be used to serve God and give glory to Him. (see 1 Peter 4:10)

NATION

A work-life balance survey 2023 conducted by Remote, a human resource company, showed that Malaysia ranked 59 out of 60 countries in the survey, with only 27.51% of Malaysians enjoying a work-life balance. Pray that both employers and employees will know how to strike a proper balance, to reduce issues such as burnout, depression and other illnesses.

A LIFESTYLE OF HOLINESS

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Holiness flows from reverence for God and shapes how we live and interact with others.

The story of Nadab and Abihu, who offered "strange fire" before God, reminds us that His holiness must never be taken lightly. Their irreverence led to immediate judgment, showing the seriousness in approaching Him with a pure heart.

Once, a colleague of mine remarked, "You fear your God." That statement reminded me of how deeply our reverence for God influences our actions and leaves

an impression on others. During one conversation, I jokingly asked my business partner, "Aren't you afraid I might cheat you in business?" His response humbled me: "I know you're not afraid of me, but you fear your God." This moment reinforced how living in the fear of the Lord testifies to His character even in everyday life.

As you fast and pray, ask God to shape your life into a reflection of His holiness, becoming a testimony of His transforming power.

Something to ponder: What specific steps can you take today to ensure your actions reflect God's holiness?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, help me to honour Your holiness in every part of my life. Shape my thoughts, words, and deeds to reflect Your character. May my fasting and prayers inspire others to glorify You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers of Christ, will keep God's commandments by loving Him and one another in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. (see Matthew 22:37-39)

NATION

Various boycotts against companies such as KK Mart, Starbucks and McDonald's have caused some branches to close, risking unemployment among former workers who may struggle to find alternative employment. Pray that Malaysian consumers will practice good judgment over controversial issues.

SURRENDERING TO GOD'S WILL

"...Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

Surrendering to God's will requires humility and trust, demonstrating reverence for His authority.

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac shows the depth of his trust in God. Though the command was incomprehensible, his fear of the Lord moved him to obedience. God affirmed this, saying, *"...Now I know that you fear God..."* (Genesis 22:12).

When the Lord called me into pastoral ministry, I faced a similar test. At the time, my consultancy practice was thriving, and leaving a career I loved was one of the

hardest decisions of my life. Ultimately, the question boiled down to this: Do I fear and love the Lord more than worldly success? By His grace, I said yes, and I can now testify that His plans far exceeded anything I could have imagined.

During this fast, let us surrender every part of our lives to God, trusting His ways above our own.

Something to ponder: What areas of your life are you holding back from surrendering to God's will?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, teach me to revere You above all else and surrender my plans to Your will. Help me to trust in Your goodness and faithfulness. During this fast, may my obedience glorify You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers of Christ, will serve God faithfully, growing from faith to faith, strength to strength, and glory to glory in the presence of God. (see Isaiah 40:31)

NATION

Hate speech is commonly found in social media platforms, instigating conflict between our different races. Pray that Malaysians will be resistant to such influences.

TRUSTING GOD'S JUSTICE

"For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Trusting God's justice means living with integrity, knowing that He sees everything and will judge righteously.

David trusted God's justice when he spared Saul's life, despite Saul's relentless pursuit to kill him. His fear of the Lord guided him to act with integrity, even under immense pressure.

In my first year as President of SIB Sabah, we faced a significant challenge when children's teaching materials and a member's books were confiscated. After

much prayer and consultation, we decided to challenge the confiscation. Though the process was difficult, trusting God's justice brought clarity and an amicable resolution. This experience reinforced my trust in God's righteous plans and strengthened SIB's legal standing.

As you fast and pray, remember that God sees your struggles and will bring about His purposes in His perfect timing.

Something to ponder: Are you placing your trust in God's justice, or are you tempted to take matters into your own hands?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Righteous Judge, I place my trust in Your justice. Help me to live with integrity and to resist frustration. During this fast, teach me to rely on Your timing and righteousness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers of Christ, will take root in the Word of God by meditating on His living Word daily, so that we will develop discernment and be free from the defilement of the world. (see Colossians 2:6-7)

NATION

Racial stereotypes have been imprinted in the minds of Malaysians since the British Colonial era, and, in the present day, statements made by our political leaders have not made the situation any better. Pray that Malaysians will get rid of all these prejudices and learn to appreciate one another instead.

EMBRACING GOD'S CALL

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' (Isaiah 6:8)

Answering God's call requires a heart that fears Him and recognises His authority.

Isaiah's response came after an encounter with God's majesty, which not only revealed his unworthiness but also cleansed him for service. This highlights how the fear of the Lord compels us to obey His call with trust and willingness.

Throughout this series, we've reflected on the fear of God as an individual: recognizing His sovereignty, pursuing holiness, surrendering to His will, and trusting His justice. Each of these principles prepares us to embrace God's call, wherever He leads us.

When God called me into pastoral ministry, it tested my trust and obedience. Yet, stepping into His call brought blessings far beyond what I could imagine. As you continue this fast, may you respond to His call with boldness and joy, trusting that His plans for you are good.

Something to ponder: How will you respond to God's call in your life today?

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Lord, I surrender to Your call. Whether in small acts of faith or great tasks, teach me to obey You with reverence and trust. As the end of this fast approaches, may my heart remain sensitive to Your voice and faithful to Your purpose. Here am I. Send me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers of Christ, will work out our salvation with fear and trembling, keeping good relationships with God and others, knowing that we are personally responsible for our spiritual walk with Him. (see Philippians 2:12)

NATION

The 1MDB scandal has been dubbed the largest kleptocracy case in Malaysia and one of the largest financial scandals in world history. While the Unity Government has vowed to clean up systemic corruption, pray that all government funds will be spent as designated, and that vital social and public services, like healthcare, education and infrastructure works, will not be compromised.

DAY 31-35

FEARING GOD AS A FAMILY



THE FAMILY THAT FEARS GOD

Read Proverbs 14:26; 1 Samuel 2:12-17; 2 Timothy 1:5

Society today is riddled with problems, not least with politicians who are endlessly greedy, both for money and power. Sadly, the church is not exempted from these personal and spiritual issues. The root of the problem is a lack of reverence for God. The Chinese historian Zhu Xi once said, "A gentleman's heart is always filled with reverence." Only with a heart of reverence would one act cautiously and achieve long-term success. The most frightening thing in the world is the loss of reverence where heaven and earth are not honored, and no living being is feared. This sense of reverence must start at home, giving the family unit a crucial role.

Proverbs 14:26 encourages us, saying, *"Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge."* Christian parents have the responsibility to live lives that revere God so they can

be role models and examples for their children to follow, and provide their children with heavenly protection. Parents also have the duty to pass on their faith to the next generation. If parents do not have a reverent heart for God, they will fail to fulfill the mission of the family.

Walking with God in reverence is not only a personal matter but also a family one. Eli, though a priest who feared God, had two sons who did not. They did not know God, committed wicked acts, and offended Him, eventually causing people to despise Him (see 1 Samuel 2:12-17). In contrast, Lois and Eunice, a mother and daughter who feared God, deeply influenced their descendant Timothy (see 2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy later became a servant greatly used by God. A family that fears God not only keeps God's commandments but also lives their daily lives consistently. They fear only God because they value truth and righteousness.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

A family that fears God knows how to honor both God and others. Lord, show parents how to guide their children to live lives of reverence. When children have God in their hearts, they will also respect others. A family that fears God influences social harmony and the prosperity of the nation. Lord, raise up parents who fear You so they can raise godly descendants. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that husbands will love their wives as Christ loves the Church and died for her, and that the love will be fostered in married couples, enabling their children to discover the importance and value of the family unit. (see Ephesians 5:25,28)

NATION

The soaring cost of living has crippled the poor, hampering their access to even the most basic of needs. Low and middle-income households have also been affected. Pray that the government will possess the wisdom, skill and knowledge to implement policies relating to wages, subsidies, housing schemes, and so on.

THE FAMILY THAT WORSHIPS GOD

Read Genesis 8:20-21 and 12:6-8

In the 16th century, the Puritans already recognised that worship was not only for the church but also for the family. Therefore, they brought Sunday worship back home. Puritan parents diligently taught and disciplined their children in their daily lives, and through family worship, made the home a place for winning souls and making disciples of Christ.

A family that worships God begins with the parents or guardians, as they hold spiritual authority and responsibility. They must lead their children before the Creator, just as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did, building altars for prayer and worship wherever they went (see Genesis 8:20-21; 12:6-8). Worship has a powerful centripetal force that turns hearts toward God, preventing them from being distracted by worldly affairs. The family's prayer and worship altar is where Christ reigns in the home, guiding the family to fully submit to His mighty power.

A family that worships God is built on Christian family values, with Christ at the core, and the Bible as the foundation for family life. Every family worship session invites Christ, through the Holy Spirit, to be Lord in the home. Through this, God's Word infuses the family with greater faith and motivation, enabling them to present themselves as living sacrifices, willing to be shaped and refined by the Lord to ultimately become servants greatly used by God.

A family that worships God helps its members understand and experience God's love and power, building strong relationships with both God and one another. The ultimate result is that family members will obey the Lord's commands and faithfully fulfill the mission entrusted to them. Therefore, the relationship between the church and the family is inseparable, as the health and strength of the church depend on the spiritual quality of the family.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

A family that worships God is Christ-centered, and worship brings the family back to the heart of God, connecting with Him, and receiving wisdom and revelation from Him. Lord, may every home establish an altar of worship to Jesus, allowing Him to reign and every family to be fully submitted to His mighty power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that a proper family order will be firmly established in every Christian home, with the husband as the head, the wife as his helper and the children as their followers, paying due respect to their parents, and submitting to their parental authority. (see Ephesians 5:21)

NATION

Trends in Malaysian families show a decline of the marriage rate (a 12.5% drop from 2022 to 2023), a high divorce rate and an increase in the number of single parents. Pray that proper family values will be imparted to young Malaysians so that they will understand and honour the sacredness of family.

THE GODLY FAMILY

Read Proverbs 9:10; Malachi 2:15

Society is made up of multiple family units, and the prosperity or decline of society is closely linked to the effectiveness of family education. When we look at the complex issues in society, it is easy to see that many are closely related to the family. Similarly, the development and issues of the church are also inseparable from the spiritual state of the family.

A Christian's godly life begins with the fear of God. Godly parents integrate the principles and doctrines of faith into their daily parenting, instilling biblical moral values, and especially emphasising love, kindness, purity, integrity, and compassion. Godly parents lead by example, with consistent words and actions, showing humility and tolerance in line with their faith. They prioritise spending quality time with their children, offering guidance and support, and fostering the development of their children in all areas—body, mind, and spirit, especially in spiritual growth. Most importantly, they teach their children

to know and fear God, as Proverbs 9:10 says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

Malachi 2:15 says, *"Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring."* God created humans to communicate, interact, share, and manage the world He made. However, without godly descendants, families cannot carry out the stewardship mission that God has entrusted to them. Susanna Wesley, a woman of fervent prayer and godliness, had two sons, Charles Wesley and John Wesley, who, along with George Whitefield, sparked the great revival in 18th-century England. When families instill biblical values of life and faith, passing on their pure faith, and when family members walk together across generations, it can bring about an extraordinary impact on society.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

The example set by godly parents profoundly influences the spiritual growth of their children. Lord, raise up parents who fear You, so that godly descendants may be raised. May the godly descendants, walking among generations, keep Christ at the center, and embody godly living in their actions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the home of every Christian family will be a house of prayer, and that the families will have a firm foundation of biblical values that are constantly imparted to their children and grandchildren. (see Psalm 78:4)

NATION

Childcare or daycare centres are mushrooming all over Malaysia, especially in big cities where working parents are unable to take care of their children. Pray that these centres will not seek just financial gains but also love and train well the children entrusted to them.

SECOND CHANCES

Read Psalm 51:4, 2 Samuel 12:13

Psalm 128, Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1, 4

The Lord Jesus said, *“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”* (Matthew 12:50)

Each family member has a different role to play, depending on their identities within the family unit. There is a connection of love between a husband and his wife, parents and their children, and also between brothers and sisters. Beautiful as it is, none of us is perfect. We will inevitably make mistakes.

However, family members can offer one another a “second chance” when needed. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is known as the “Gospel of second chances.” Indeed, it is a grace that allows forgiveness seventy times seven times. God forgives our sins and bears the punishment we deserve, giving us a “second chance.” If your parents, children or siblings offend or hurt you, they are also hurting themselves. Will you give them a second chance?

Family is a place of restoration. Family relationships are precious. *“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”* (Galatians 6:1) Family is a refuge, where we long for our family members to “leave a light on” for us late at night like a loving father waiting patiently for the prodigal son to return home. Cherish the hope family members have for one another.

Family is happiness. Happiness is having someone with me who values my existence. The God who created you says, *“...for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”* (Isaiah 43:1) Seeing family members through the eyes of the Creator, and affirming that they are precious and valuable brings forth blessings and happiness to us.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Lord, thank you for the family You have given to me. Help me cherish and value each family member, and enable me to let go of past hurts and strive for peace with them. May You bless them with health and happiness. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that Christ will be the head over every Christian home, that parents will imitate Christ and demonstrate to their children a life of faith, love and obedience in their daily walk with Jesus. (see Genesis 18:19)

NATION

Nationwide, 2,100 senior citizens were abandoned in hospitals from 2018 to 2022. Statistics from the Social Work Department in Hospital Kuala Lumpur shows an upward trend each year, with 166 cases (66 Chinese, 51 Indians and 43 Malays) up until May 2024. Similar cases are also found in nursing homes. Pray for a sense of filial love and responsibility amongst all Malaysians with aging parents.

DISCIPLINE WITH GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 112; Hebrews 12:1-13

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying His commands.

Whatever our circumstances, let us choose to obey God steadfastly, making Him the center of our family, confidently and fearlessly.

For family members to be godly, discipline is necessary. Discipline is the process of parents training themselves and then their children in godliness. During the time of discipline, both the one who administers discipline and the one who receives it will experience pain, reluctance, and sorrow. It requires patience, and it may take a long time. It is important to see the refining process as temporal, for there is hope in it. Believe firmly that obedience to God's way will ultimately bear fruit for us.

Discipline is a process of training that allows us to share in God's holiness and bear the fruit of His peace and righteousness. Therefore, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and with unwavering hearts, run the race set before us.

Fear the Lord and walk in godliness. Fathers should encourage, exhort, and urge their children to live in a way worthy of the One who has called them into His kingdom, and thus, bring glory to Him (see 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13). In all wisdom, we must encourage our family members to listen to and read the Bible, and obey God's commands by walking in the light. Do not neglect listening to or reading the Bible for any reason or excuse. The Bible is a vital means of protection and strength for the family.

TODAY'S PRAYERS


It is because we love our family that we do not tolerate or allow sin to defile us. Lord, help us to obey Your commands, even when it requires hard discipline and correction. May we value Your Word and nurture our children to bear good fruit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that families will worship and serve God together in their respective capacities, and that faith will become a part of family life. (see Joshua 24:15)

NATION

Many youths, especially those who have studied abroad, have started lives overseas, leaving many aged parents behind. Pray that these parents will find appropriate support and companionship within their communities.



DAY 36-40

FEARING GOD AS A CHURCH

REDISCOVERING THE FEAR OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

Read Acts 5:1-11

Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. (Acts 5:11)

Today we start a five-day journey of rediscovering the fear of God in the Church. Our churches emphasise many things - having a welcoming atmosphere, good music, engaging preaching, and so on and so forth. Nothing wrong with any of these, but let us look again at what Scripture tells us characterised the early church.

In the study of Scripture, there is something called the Law of First Mention. The idea is that the first time a word appears in the Bible (or book of the Bible), it sets the tone for how that word should be understood. That is to say, the circumstances, characters, and events surrounding the first mention of the word have direct implications to its foundational meaning.

Well, the first time the word “church” (ekklesia) is mentioned in the whole book of Acts is found here in Acts 5:11 - the tragic story of Ananias and Sapphira. Both met their early demise when they sought to deceive the church and lie to the Holy Spirit. But what was the result of the whole incident? It says *“great fear seized the whole church.”* (vs.11)

Did you catch that? The first mention of the word “church” (in Acts) has to do with a “great fear” - the fear of God. This was meant to be inherent to the nature of the church. Meaning without the fear of God, the church ceases to be the church. The two cannot be separated.

TODAY’S PRAYERS

Almighty God, thank you for making me part of the church of Malaysia. I declare Psalm 89:7 over our churches: *“In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.”* May it be so according to Your Word. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will recognise her call to priesthood and be zealous in seeking the welfare of her nations, communities and neighbourhoods. (see 1 Timothy 2:1-2)

NATION

The number of child abuse cases in Malaysia has been alarming, with 18,750 and 6,709 cases reported by the Social Welfare Department (JKM) from 2020-2022 and 2023-August 2024 respectively. This has been highlighted by the infamous atrocities connected with GISBH. Pray that strict and effective measures will be taken by the government to address the issue.

THE ABSENCE OF THE FEAR OF GOD

Read Acts 5:1-11

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...? (Acts 5:3)

The story of Ananias and Sapphira gives us a picture of what happens when the fear of God is absent. We must note - they were not punished in regards to their giving; they were punished because they lied to the Holy Spirit. They attempted to deceive the church into believing they were more spiritual than they really were.

Now there is a name for this: hypocrisy. The word "hypocrisy" literally means "wearing a mask" - to conceal what is really going on. To put on a show. Hypocrisy is untruth - it is a lie of the worst sort where you don't just tell a lie, but live a lie. Hypocrisy cost Ananias and Sapphira their lives.

One may ask: Isn't this punishment inconsistent with the love of Christ? Not so. During His time on earth, Jesus loved even the worst of sinners - prostitutes, tax-collectors, and thieves. Jesus forgave and restored them. But the one sin that Jesus did not tolerate was hypocrisy. Jesus' harshest words were reserved for those who were hypocrites.

Why? Because hypocrisy is rooted in pride. And a proud person cannot turn from their sin and therefore cannot turn to God. The Gospel uproots pride by telling us we are so sinful that we deserved death but, at the same time, so loved that God himself would die for us. When we truly embrace that Gospel, the masks can come off, and a healthy reverence for God can take root.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear Lord, *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* (Psalm 139:23-24). In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will spur one another on towards love and good deeds, and help create a loving environment that will attract non-believing communities. (see Hebrews 10:24)

NATION

Floods are a recurring crisis in Malaysia. A survey by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in 2023 shows that all states were indeed affected with Johor, Kelantan and Sabah being the most heavily hit. Losses of RM7.9bil were recorded within 3 years from 2021-2023, with more than 1 million victims affected during the monsoon seasons between 2017-2024. Pray for effective flood risk management strategies that will remove causes of the floods.

WHY THE INCREASE?

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. (Acts 9:31)

The early church enjoyed a time of peace. But that time of peace was not squandered on careless living or selfish indulgence. No, instead they lived in the fear of the Lord (vs.31). The result: the church “increased in numbers.” The church grew.

Church growth has quite often been a hot topic, made evident by the number of books and conferences on it. Silver-bullet strategies, people-centric programs, polished pulpit ministries, and ... accessible parking lots. Anything to bring in the people. But it might be a good time to ask: Would any of these things have made it onto the list of church growth “strategies” in the early church of Acts? Or would “living in the fear of God” top it?

Imagine a church where every member truly lived in the fear of God. Each member truly conscious that we will one day stand before Almighty God and give an account for our lives. How would husbands treat their wives? How would we handle our disputes? How would we spend our time and resources? How would it change the way we spoke with and of one another? For now, one can only imagine.

Our Malaysian census recorded a decrease in the overall percentage of the Christian population from 9.2% to 9.1% from 2020 to 2024. Still, we are in a time of relative peace. The question remains - will the church of Malaysia be strengthened and grow, or will it continue to decrease? Perhaps the answer has quite a bit to do with whether we are living in the fear of the Lord or not.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Almighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. *“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm.90:12).”* In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that we, as believers in Christ, will honour everyone, without showing favouritism or partiality, and live at peace with all and regard others as higher than ourselves, as a means to obey, honor and fear God. (see Philippians 2:3)

NATION

Internet celebrities have become highly effective communication figures. They have influenced how Malaysian youth believe and behave - especially those between the ages of 16-34 who spend about 7.2 hours per day on social media platforms. Pray that more constructive and edifying content will be released through these social media platforms, and that the Gen Z & Gen Alpha who access these platforms will have the wisdom and discernment to choose the channels that are beneficial.

THE FIRE, THE FEAR AND THE FLESH

And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (Jude 22-23 NKJV)

Jude wrote a letter to the early church. Some say it was written a decade or two after the events in the book of Acts; some say earlier. But one thing for sure, the church that Jude was writing to was in a deep crisis. The church had been infiltrated by false teachers, immoral men, and divisive people.

And so Jude wrote. In his writing, he gave instructions on how to deal with the troublemakers. He says, there are some to whom we ought to show compassion, nurturing them back to the Lord with all patience and gentleness (vs.22). But then

there are others that require a radically different approach. One of urgency and non-compromise. One that is conscious of the dangers of the fire and the flesh. One that is rooted in the fear and reverence of God.

The phrase “making a distinction” is key (vs.22). It means having the ability to discern. Only a church that fears God and is not beholden to the opinions of men can discern rightly. It is the guiding compass to all church-related matters - from congregational life, to church discipline, to election of leaders, to handling of church finances, and everything else in between. May the Lord grant us a discerning spirit.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear God, your ways are not our ways, nor your thoughts our thoughts. Teach us, Lord, to trust you and lean not on our own understanding. Give us, your church, the wisdom that comes from heaven for which we so desperately lack. Guide us, Good Shepherd. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that leaders will be diligent in keeping watch over their own spirituality as well as the spiritual life of the Church as a whole, and be alert and sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they administer and lead the Church. (see Acts 20:28)

NATION

There has been a two-fold increase of traffic congestion in Klang Valley since the pandemic. The problem has also surfaced in many places beyond this area, affecting the quality of life of working people deprived of adequate sleep and suffering from traffic stress. Pray for a more convenient public transport system without any poor first and last mile connectivity.

WALK ON

"When darkness falls on us, we will not fear, we will remember." - David Crowder Band, Shadows -

We have reached the final day of our NECF 40-Day fast and prayer. Being the last devotion, it might be fitting to conclude with the last book of the Bible - Revelation. In the book's closing passages (see Revelation 19-22), we are given a wonderful metaphor of who the church is: The Bride of Christ. This is comforting as we often forget who we are, and more importantly, whose we are. But here we remember again that we belong to Christ. In light of this glorious truth, here are three encouragements to close with.

Firstly, Christ gave His life for His Bride (see Ephesians 5:25). We are the Bride of His

redemption, purchased by His very own blood. That's how much he loves us. Never forget His sacrifice.

Secondly, Christ will defend His Bride. He is with us. We are not alone in our struggles. We are not alone in facing the gates of hell. Take heart for *"if God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans. 8:31)

Thirdly, Christ shall return for His Bride. In the end, *all will be well*. Christ was there at the beginning, He shall be there at the end. The future of our nation may be as uncertain as ever, but we can take heart because our times are in His hands (see Psalm 31:15). And so we walk on in the fear of the Lord knowing He who is Faithful and True shall bring us home.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Dear Lord, your word says, *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready."* (Revelation 19:7) But until that day comes, may the fear of the Lord guard us. Make us ready - holy, sanctified, and prepared in every way. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHURCH

Pray that the Church will learn to always humble herself before God, allowing the Word of God and the Spirit to purify and sanctify her. (see James 1:21)

NATION

Malaysia is not self-sufficient in its food supply (where vegetables are as low as 45% and rice 63%), with imports exceeding exports in recent years due to climate change and inadequate farming techniques. Pray that we will see a progressive and positive change in this trend under the National Agrofood Policy 2.0.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foreword

Walking in the Fear of God	Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng
Quiet Strength of Godly Fear	Pr Samuel Ang
Feeding the “Dogs” within: An Insight into Psalm 25:12	Rev Looi Kok Kim
Support NECF Building Fund	Elder Lee Choong San

Devotion

Day 1-5	Definition of Fearing of God	Dr Henry Padin
Day 6-10	Generational Blessings of Fearing God	Rev Dr Victor Lee & Elder Khoo Kay Hup
Day 11-15	Consequences of Not Fearing God	Rev Elisha Satvinder
Day 16-20	Walking in the Fear of God	Rev Looi Kok Kim
Day 21-25	Actions of Fearing God	Rev John Lim
Day 26-30	Fearing God as an Individual	Rev Datuk Jerry Dusing
Day 31-35	Fearing God as a Family	Rev Paulus Wong Rev Foo Moy Peng
Day 36-40	Fearing God as a Church	Rev Lee Yew Meng

Editors

Flora Tan
Eunice R. Chin
Sue Leung Suk Hing
Alvin Leong

Designer

Murphy Goh

Printer

InDesign Solutions

Note: All Bible verses are taken from the NIV unless otherwise stated.

Support NECF Building Fund

National Evangelical Christian Fellowship AC3

**Public Bank Berhad Account No:
3218284529**

or

Touch' n Go e-wallet

Scan the QR code to contribute:



NECF
MALAYSIA

National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF) Malaysia

32, Jalan SS2/103, 47300 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan
MALAYSIA

Tel. +603-7727 8227

Email. enquiries@necf.org.my
www.necf.org.my