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FASTING & PRAYER - OUR ULTIMATE WEAPON AGAINST SATAN

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These days, God has been stirring me even more than before regarding fasting and prayer. Most people try to avoid fasting and praying, **yet it is a must** if we want to see the power of God at work in seemingly impossible situations.

Let us look at the nations around us today, especially in Asia. In Nepal, the whole royal family was wiped out suddenly and shockingly. Several related families were also affected in the killing. In the eyes of the world, it is a great tragedy but I believe the hand of God is there. Judgment will always come upon a nation that keeps on closing its door to God. He allowed it to happen, I believe, to show us Christians that we had not been praying hard enough.

We look at Indonesia where I visited twice this year – in March, the National Prayer Network Prayer Consultation in Surabaya; and in May, the Praying with Power Conference normally held in Colorado Springs in the US but this year conducted in Jakarta.

This time, the organisers of the conference had invited me to take one of the workshops, and I was really praying whether I should go or not. Somehow, I felt I should. With so much

unrest in Indonesia, people who would normally attend the Conference gave it a miss. Our hosts took us to see the burnt buildings, the children turned orphans and other damage that had been done.

Rumours kept coming to us in the hotel that there would be curfew, that the situation was serious, that the airport was closed. I had to be back in Malaysia to take the “Cleansing the Temple” advance just two days after the Conference ended.

So we gathered together to pray. All of a sudden, the Lord showed us that it was such a privilege for us to be there to pray. God loves the nation of Indonesia, just as He loves Malaysia and the other nations. He specifically brought us there at the time of unrest so that we could pray for the nation. **We took all authority against the forces of darkness. We bound the spirits of mob and violence and silenced the enemy.**

The next day, we heard more rumours but we knew that God was in control. As Christians around the world and in Indonesia rise up in prayer and intercession, this nation will be turned around and the glory of God will be seen. Amen.

A nation is either influenced by the power of God or by satanic power. We look at the Philippines and how horribly the rebels there have treated their hostages. Heads have been severed and people live in fear. Things seem to be happening all over Asia.

I really believe that Christians, especially Christian leaders, must rise up in the Spirit of God. If we do not, our nation will be in danger. Things change either for better or for worse.

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul says “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Spiritual warfare is very real. I do not think that at this

time we, especially as leaders, can sit back anymore. **I am sure that God wants us to rise up, take up the authority that He has given to us and really turn the tables around over the enemy.**

Our Lord Jesus has said that “the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10a). **This thief is no small thief.** He has been in business right from the Garden of Eden. **He is going all out to deceive the world** (Rev 12:9) and will stop deceiving only when he is bound for a thousand years (Rev 20:1-3). The minute he is released, he will go out to deceive the nations again (Rev 20:7-8).

He even deceives the minds of the Christians. We really need to know the truth (John 8:32). Thank God that Jesus has also said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10b).

It is so sad to see what is happening in our own nation, Malaysia. To start with, there have been so many fatal accidents lately involving whole families.

Look at the young people in our nation today. It is a really sad thing. They haunt places such as the Bangsar area in KL (Kuala Lumpur) where vices abound. Even in Ipoh, there is an area called “Ipoh Bangsar” where drugs and ecstasy pills are openly available along the streets lined with karaoke lounges, bars and coffee shops. Some of these are not small. Who are patronising these places? Young people - the future leaders, of our nation.

If we do not arrest the power of the enemy troubling and influencing them now, what would the future be?

Around two months ago, three men chopped a man into pieces in an occult ritual. This poor man was distressed and needed help. **But instead of coming to Christians for help, he went to the powers of darkness.** This is the experience of

many who are in dire need of help. God is surfacing this. When we get such news, what are we doing about it?

Even in church, practically every call for help is from Christians who are sick or in some form of trouble or other. Most parents today, even Christian parents, cannot handle their own children. One mother told us about how the son got angry and chased the father around the house, with a parang (large knife) in hand. The father, a Christian leader, did not dare to do anything.

In another family, the father wanted his son to stop playing his computer games, so the son locked himself in his room and refused to come out. After 12 days, the father broke into the room only to be bashed up by his own son. These are Christians.

Even Christian children are not spared from gang fights in school. I receive calls from Christian parents asking me to pray for their children in hospital. They were hurt in school fights.

While at the Station of Life in Lahad Datu, I met a student whom Pastor Susan Tang had advised to come here (ed. note: Semarak Revival Centre, Nilai) to pray and help out temporarily. She had previously served God for 3 years, after graduating from a Bible school. She wanted to seek God further. When she arrived during one of our monthly 3-day fasts, she joined the staff and others to fast and pray together. Nothing happened.

During her second fast the following month, I just asked her to confess her sins as the others were doing. Suddenly, she began to vomit blood. She was so shocked. After much praying, she fell down. Blood kept coming out, from her nose and even from her ears. We had to put paper all around her to protect the carpet.

When she went back from Glory Place (Prayer Centre of

Malaysia) to the church to continue the fast, she became violent. A big-sized girl, she had grabbed a knife and swung it at those who came near. She wanted to jump from the 1st floor window. She destroyed some things. The staff really had a hard time. Phone calls flew between the church and the Prayer Centre where I was.

Even when I was in Jakarta, a call came to inform me that she had a blade knife with her. I told them in order to overpower the enemy, they should not be fearful but bold to take authority and pray. Somehow, by the grace of God through prayer, she suddenly threw the blade knife away.

One time, she ran to a nearby temple where a Hindu priest was in a trance. She put ashes on herself and came back violent. The church was in its fourth year and we had gone on many prayer drives around the area but had not even realised there was a temple in one of the houses.

Many other incidents happened. **With much prayer and fasting, she gradually began to receive deliverance.**

When she could not get to hurt anyone, she cut her own hands and sucked the blood. She confessed that at the age of 12, she had joined the gang of school children in Shah Alam. There were 29 of them - 20 boys and 9 girls. Every week when they met, they cut their hands and mixed their blood in a bowl. They would go into a ritual and drink the blood. They prayed to Kali, the goddess of destruction that sucks blood.

Thank God that she had a prayerful mother. As the mother prayed, God began to reveal her daughter's activities to her. She checked her daughter but the daughter went back to the gang because of gang loyalty. When the daughter consulted the gang about her mother not being happy, they sent spirits to make her mother blind. Because the mother was prayerful, their attempts failed. They then decided to send spirits that kill.

Eventually, I believe because of fasting and prayer, God turned things around. Even though the members of this gang knew that they may live only another three years, they still made their vows to Kali. When one of her friends actually died after three years, the daughter became so frightened that she followed her mother to a church meeting and got saved. From there, she moved on into full-time service. I believe God is still setting her free.

Here was a mother who found out what her daughter was up to because she was praying. What about other children? What are they doing?

More and more, we see parents fearing their children. We see much violence and the enemy coming into the church. Services are being planned to suit the youth because we want them to come. But as a leader's wife pointed out, one minute the youth are praising the Lord and the next minute, they are smoking outside the church. Her heart went out to them but she did not know how to help them.

This state of affairs is multiplied everywhere. The enemy is after the youth, using TV, MTV, computers, video games and even pornographic magazines, etc. An increasingly wicked world pulls them. **Are we just going to watch these children struggle in sin? If we do not rise up to help them, who could? Only Christians are able to use the ultimate weapon of fasting and prayer against Satan's onslaught against the youth.**

Since mid-2000, God has led me to hold Jesus Heals miracle services throughout the nation. In most meetings, we find that Christians are the victims of the enemy. Many have died from terminal diseases such as cancer whereas we should be walking in victory. **We are supposed to be the ones bringing healing to the nation. But we are the very ones**

also being attacked.

What is our future? Do we mourn the state of the church, our children and the nation? Is it going to be like this all the time? Where is God? We praise Him as “the great and mighty God”? But is His power being manifested?

If we are not, through fasting and prayer, bringing down the power of God to confront the power of the enemy, is God at fault? If we are not praying “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, so that even unbelievers are confounded with the power of God, does it mean that God is not able?

With all due respect to pastors (I too pastor a church), I really believe that if we continue the way we are, merely moving from one meeting to another, do you think that we will win the world for our Lord Jesus Christ? **Meetings may be important but do you think meetings are the way to defeat the enemy?** No way. **We had better rise up and do battle, God's way.**

It is time for us to pay the price and not wait another 10 years, and another 10 years until we reach the grave and say that another generation has come and gone. It is time for us, especially as leaders, to lay down our lives through fasting and prayer.

Jesus is the greatest example.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Heb 7:25)

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared. (Heb 5:7)

We see violence everywhere. And we must be on alert even

in this nation.

The recent coronation of the leader of a silat (martial art) group with 4,000 members included a procession along the streets. A newspaper report said that RM10 million dollars had been allocated to finance their activities. **What, in spiritual terms, does this mean? It is actually proclaiming the release of the spirit of violence into our nation. Paul urges us to look at the things that are unseen rather than the seen (2 Cor 4:18).**

On another front, we see that illegal immigrants are coming in from different parts of Indonesia every day. It has been reported that, apart from workers with legal permits, there are more than 1 million Indonesian illegals in Malaysia. Some even say there could be as many as 2 million, especially when we see how widespread they are, for example, in Sabah. In any case, the figures are alarming.

In a nation of 250 million, an estimated 33 million are unemployed. That's more than Malaysia's entire population of 23 million people. If even a fraction of them decided to cross over here, how in the natural would we be able to handle it? If the illegals already in the land decide to rise up, how in the natural can we come against these forces of violence? How many are there in the Malaysian armed forces combined?

When they are desperate, the illegals are liable to do anything. They have nothing to lose. It will not be too difficult for the enemy to use them. **The spirits of mob and violence are the spirits ruling South East Asia and they can just cross over.**

So, what shall we do? Shall we live our usual lives, wait for them to come and pretend it may not happen? Whether we like it or not, one day we may be overpowered because our borders are so near. There might be an invasion if we don't rise up.

Malaysia is so at ease. And in the last days, anything can happen. Are we in the position to rise up against them? **Are we waiting for disaster to happen and then try to pull through?**

It is the spirit of darkness that influences the children here and stirs up rebellion, strife and wrath. There is much struggle for power even in our own nation. God is only waiting for us to move. We have been praying and praying but we do not see much breakthrough, do we? We may break through in having more people attend church. **But the breakthrough our nation and the world really need is the reality, power and presence of God.**

The only way we can save our nation is through divine intervention. All the meeting, planning and strategising will not do any good. What must we do? We have a responsibility. Surely we do not want to see our nation go down the drain. **God has put us here at such an hour so that we can rise up together to upset the enemy's plans.**

When this sister returned violent after running to the temple, I was praying and the Lord showed me that this was the principality governing the place - the spirit of Kali. We do not have the power to overthrow this spirit of Kali. Only God can do it. How?

God revealed that the answer is fasting and prayer. Through fasting and prayer, we can throw down any principality, any power. It is the quickest way to get God's attention.

I was saying to Pastor Daniel Ho over the phone that never in my life have I been so convinced that God has given us the final weapon to nail Satan down – fasting and prayer. The power is in our hand. **We are not only to do a little fast but to really go into fasting and prayer, coming before the presence of God to ask Him to take over.**

God has been stirring us to fast and pray, especially since we called for a national 40-day fast prior to the 9th National Prayer & Intercessors' Retreat held in January this year (2001). We asked our intercessors, 24-hour National Prayer Chain partners, the people at Glory Place Prayer Centre of Malaysia, at Semarak Revival Centre, at the Prayer Houses and everywhere to join us.

We began and ended the fast with corporate 3-day full fasts. In between, individual staff members did at least one other 3-day full fast. Throughout the 40-day fast, many took only one meal a day after 6.00pm or after the evening services were over. Others joined in with various other types of fast. **As a result, we saw a tremendous move of God during the last prayer retreat.**

After that we continued with our 3-day fast every second Wednesday to Friday of the month. **The ones who are really getting set free are the full-time workers. They are so stirred up that they want to fast and pray more.**

It used to be that when I called a fast, even full-time workers would respond, "Oh no, not again." These days, it is different. Why? Because they are eventually experiencing deliverance and cleansing, then infilling with the presence of God. When they were praying for someone else, suddenly they themselves began to manifest. **As full-time workers, they realised they had better be serious about fasting and prayer. Only through fasting and prayer would bondage in their lives be broken.**

We will be starting another 40-day fast on 13 June. Various ones will take turns to fast while those who are able to will fast all 40 days. In fact, more people now want to do longer fasts because they are experiencing so much breakthrough in their personal lives.

Personally, the Lord has shown me over and over again the effectiveness of the 3-day absolute fast, i.e., going without food and water for three days. When Esther and the heathen nation of Nineveh fasted this way, they experienced national breakthroughs.

In one particular African nation, the church had to contend with issues such as witchcraft, immorality and AIDS. They felt powerless and asked the Lord what they should do. The answer was to fast 40-days and dethrone the principalities over the nation. They had no choice but to obey. **After the 40 days fast, they began to see people healed of terminal diseases and AIDS. Tumours dropped off from bodies.** These people who had been bound by witchcraft were set free to receive Jesus as their Saviour.

God is there to answer and the power is available. Why are we not moving ahead in the Lord? Because of our flesh.

The Bible says that if you live by the flesh, you will die (Rom 8:13). Jesus said if we believe in Him greater things will we do because He went to the Father (John 14:12). In the past, only Jesus fasted. Now the whole body of Christ can be fasting. The Bible says we can only battle through the spirit by the spirit man (2 Cor 10:3-5). We are supernatural people because our Father is supernatural.

There are 6 billion people in the world. More than one-third are found in China and India. China 1.5 billion, India 1 billion.

The only question is whether we really want to pay the cost or not. I have fasted and taught fasting but never have I been so convinced that fasting and prayer is the final weapon against the enemy. If we as pastors and leaders come together to fast and pray as God has laid down in the Bible, no enemy will be able to stand against us.

Could we not, for example, take turns to fast and pray 40 days throughout the year?

In 2 Chronicles chapter 20, we read that three nations surrounded King Jehoshaphat. A host of armies were coming against him and he feared. Yet he did not turn his heart towards man but called for a national fast. **Even children and infants came together before God to fast and pray.**

Immediately, God took over. He told them not to worry because the battle belonged to Him. Then He gave them the battle strategy: they did not need to fight; only worship. When Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah obeyed, God caused their enemies to fight each other until all died. Many have concluded that true worship won the battle. **Actually, the victory was won through the fasting and praying that went before that.**

In the natural, it may seem that we are curbed in many ways. We are allowed to preach the gospel but with restrictions. Situations seem so hopeless with the enemy attacking the church, with road accidents, killing, destruction and disease, marriages being attacked, the youths are bombarded with the spirit of rebellion, ecstasy pills, drugs, satanic music. Even children are not spared. They are attacked through story books, tapes, TV, computer games etc. We seem to be bombarded from left and right.

Out of the 160 people who came to one particular service, one-third had cancer. Can you imagine it? In the natural, what can you do? Many have spent so much on medical help yet end up feeling beaten and lifeless. What can we do? **Only the intervention of God is of any avail.** I am sure that as a pastor, you cannot pray for the people, see no improvement and still declare that we have a great and mighty God. **We declare that God is so mighty yet in reality we seem to be so powerless.**

The enemy mocks us. Is it true that our God does not have power? **Our God has all the power.**

That power is not released because of blockage. And I believe that we are the blockage - we who have not paid the price nor laid down our lives to be the shepherds God wants us to be. **We try our best in the natural but even our best cannot be compared to the least that God can do. Unless God takes over, there is no hope. God must take over.**

It is up to us to come to God in fasting and prayer, to admit before Him our hopeless situation and to confess that He has all the power in the heavens and the earth to destroy all the enemy. **God showed me that He has given us the ultimate weapon to nail the enemy. God has given us the final and the greatest weapon - fasting and prayer.**

Throughout the Bible, we see that whenever people fast and pray, God turns things around for them. Surrounded by the enemy with no natural way out, Jehoshaphat knew they needed the intervention of God. How? By going God's way.

God's answer for our nation today is found in 2 Chronicles 7:13-15:

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Are we not the people of God? The responsibility is ours. Malaysia must be healed. God will intervene if we arise together and say, "Yes, Lord, we will do it, Your way." I am sure we cannot wait for the next generation to rise up because they

might be destroyed by then. God said that He hears the prayers offered in Solomon's temple. Now, we are the temple of the Holy Ghost and God's ears are attentive to our prayers.

In Ezekiel 22:30, God says that He is looking for a man to stand in the gap so that He would not have to destroy the land. Today, we see nation after nation being destroyed. I am sure we do not want Malaysia destroyed. We can act now to avert destruction. **We can save our nation from hell fire. We, the people of God, can bring down revival fire and see our nation blessed by our Lord God Almighty.**

God was so angry when the children of Israel sinned while Moses was 40 days in His presence that He was going to wipe them out. But Moses interceded. **He was the one man that God was looking for. Again he went up to the mountain, prostrated himself before God in fasting and intercession.** And God heard his cry (Deut 9:25, 10:10-11).

Even a heathen nation like Nineveh was saved from destruction when they fasted and prayed, without food and water. Jonah had been reluctant to warn them of judgment within 40 days but the heathen king heeded the message from God. He proclaimed a national fast, including even the cattle. **The nation repented, and God spared them** (Jonah 3:5-10).

All the Jews in Persia were to be killed at a certain time by order of an irrevocable decree that Haman had persuaded King Ahasuerus to issue. **But Esther and Mordecai fasted and prayed, and God intervened.** The enemy was destroyed instead. (For more details, please turn to "Esther's Fast", page 37).

God has put us in this nation at this time to fast and pray for our nation. Only we, the people of God, can come before Him to repent and plead for His mercy upon our land. If we will take up this challenge, God will answer and He will give

us the grace to go through.

Fasting is a weapon God has given to the church. When we His people fast and pray, God will come down and take over so that we can truly say, “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” (see Zech 4:6b).

Impossible cases are made possible through fasting. **Many crisis situations can be overcome while fasting.** The enemy may attack and bring discouragement but as you fast, God will surely reveal to you the enemy’s secrets, just like He showed Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-17).

When you fast, you become more sensitive to the things of God. You think only of the heavenly things and walk in the fear of God, mindful of going to hell. When your relationship with God improves, you don’t care what people say. You will be saying, “God, I want to be right with you. God, I want to be more and more humble.” Your relationships with others become sweeter.

If you really want a brand new church, don’t move. Just get the whole church to fast and pray, and you will get your new church. If you move to another church but your problems are not resolved, in the Lord, you will meet the same kind of people and live the same kind of life again.

If there is so much power to be tapped but you cannot bring it down, your flesh must really be crucified. **Grow strong in the spirit and weaken the flesh life.** Now why is there fighting even in the church, in the family and everywhere because the flesh is strong and wants to react. However, after fasting, you just don’t feel like reacting anymore especially if you feel physically weak after going on a long fast to weaken the flesh.

Whenever the stomach says, “Time for food”, you should say, “No more. I am not going to be dictated by the flesh

anymore. Now I am going to be spiritual.” The spirit should tell the flesh to shut up. **The spirit should tell the flesh what to do and so the spirit will take control.**

I tell you that when you begin to focus on God, and get your family and your church to do the same, when you want God above everything else, God cannot help but come down and take over. Then you will begin to see the supernatural. You will see miracles, signs and wonders and the impossible becoming possible. Boldness will come to you. There will be genuine conversion because of conviction of sin and you will have church members who will be more God-conscious. **There will be less problems in church as the presence of God becomes more evident.**

Encourage the whole family and the Body of Christ to fast and when we pray, the enemy will tremble and the powers of darkness will be broken.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? (Is 58:6)

Jesus Himself said that because of unbelief, the disciples could not cast the demon out of the epileptic boy (Matt 17:18-20). There may be many things we cannot do but fasting and praying will help us break through to do them. Many who said they could not, have broken through.

When you fast, you will find changes in your spouse, in your church – behold, everything becomes new because you too have changed. You too will be changed. Now is the time. **Jesus Christ gave us His life and it is now up to us to pay the price.** The price involves tightening our belt, shutting our mouth and allowing God to take over. It means being desperate for God, putting Him above all else, wanting to see a breakthrough, wanting a revival.

There are 23 million people in our land but less than 10% are saved. Surely their blood is on our hand.

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. (Ezek 3:18)

We want to assault the enemy and knock him down with fasting and prayer. It is as if we are hitting the last nail into his coffin. Through fasting and prayer, we disarm and dethrone the principalities and powers, and enthrone the Lord Jesus Christ over the nation. It is our great desire to see Him worshipped by all.

This time, as we fast and pray, the people must bow down and say, “Truly Jesus Christ is Lord.” He is our God and all others are nothing. He is the true and living God. We will see revival taking place and the harvest coming in. We shall bring in the harvest.

Let us humble ourselves, lay hold of God’s word and follow the saints of old in fasting and prayer. The God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8) still works miracles, greater miracles than we can imagine. Amen.