

MFGC Congregation Events

English Worship

22 Mar: Pastor Clive from Durban- South Africa led a powerful session on 'Breaking Strongholds'. The meeting was a huge blessing to the entire congregation.

Baptism

29 Mar: In obedience to the Scriptures, Br. Ritty Abraham Mathew, Sr. Preenu Ritty, Br. James K Thomas and Br. Ajeesh Chacko Jacob proclaimed the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Upcoming Events in April



02 Apr – Enathu Church Convention



26 Apr -Scripture Class Rally



Disappointment with God

Disappointment is the feeling of dissatisfaction that follows when expectations or hopes fail to manifest. Everyone at one time or another has dealt with this issue, to some degree. People can disappoint you, circumstances can disappoint you, governments can disappoint you, and sometimes even God can disappoint you. If God does not perform in the manner we think He should, we become disillusioned with Him. And as we struggle with our own private setbacks, when we look around us, godless people seem to be thriving. We wonder why they are doing so well and we are not. And we begin to contemplate in our hearts the unfairness of it all. We question our faith. And we follow our natural tendency to crib and complain to all and sundry, while still displaying a pseudo faith in God.

But does God want us to hold on to the resentment and bitterness and live in disillusionment? If we look at the scriptures, we see the mighty men of faith openly talking about their disappointments to God Himself. A brief look at the Psalms shows us poetic accounts of hurts and grievances. We also see that as the psalmists complained to God, He listened to them and delivered them from their afflictions. God would rather have us empty our heart to Him than hold on to the resentment and bitterness that comes out of disappointment. Complaining to God is wise because He is capable of doing something about it, while our friends and relations may not be. God has the power to change us, our situation, or both. God can take our disappointments and work them for our good.

A righteous, loving, and merciful God would work all things together for our good because that is what He has promised. When we see God in this light, we cannot possibly be disappointed with Him. Rather, we submit willingly to our heavenly Father, knowing that His will is perfect and that everything He brings to pass in our lives will be for our good and His glory. Every disappointment fades when we trust God completely, when we look unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith!

Editor's Desk



Shepherd's Voice Continued

- b. **Oppressing the poor** - Isa 58:3 God expects us to do what He instructed in Isa 58:6 - This is the kind of fasting I have chosen: 'Loosen the chains of wickedness, untie the straps of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke'.
 - c. **Involving in strife and debate**—Isa 58:4 - 'Behold, you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness.' God expects us to keep away from such things.
 - d. **Fasting for just an outward expression** - Isa 58:5 'is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?'
- 2. A transformation is required during fasting** - If there is no transformation in ourselves, then our fasting becomes meaningless. 2 Chr 7:14. To transform ourselves while fasting, we should:
- a. Humble ourselves
 - b. Pray
 - c. Seek God's face
 - d. Turn from our wicked ways

What are the benefits of fasting?

1. **Fasting demonstrates the mastery of man over appetite** – 1 Cor 9:27 –Fasting brings our body into subjection or within our control. During fasting our outer man is weakened and our inner man is strengthened.
2. **Fasting is the time of spiritual purification** – Fasting will bring about a transformation within ourselves. We should turn from our wicked ways and walk in the ways of the Lord.
3. **Fasting helps to attain power over demons** – Mat 17:21 – By fasting, we achieve spiritual strength and power.
4. **Fasting develops faith** – Mat 17:21 – Fasting increases the measure of faith in our lives.
5. **Fasting helps the digestive system to work properly** – Fasting is a remedy for several diseases as it detoxifies our body and flushes out toxins.

Fasting is the most powerful spiritual discipline of all the Christian disciplines. Through fasting and prayer, the Holy Spirit can transform our lives. When God's children fast with a proper Biblical motive, seeking God's face, with a contrite spirit, God will hear from heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation and the world.

Pr. Juxy Mathew

