

Serve God's Purpose

Part 12

*“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36a NIV)
“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God.” (Acts 13:36a KJV)*

David's life was full of challenges that he needed to face and overcome, and he was facing that through prayer and fasting. Many Psalms speak about David's prayer to God; how he was asking God to save him and deliver him from various troubles that he was facing in life. Read in the book of Psalms the prayer of David and see how in his various prayers he presented to God his request and petition and the Lord answered him.

Fasting was one of the things that David was characterized with. We can read about the fasting of David the following occasions:

1- David in *Psalm 35: 11-14* said *“¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about. ¹² They repay me evil for good and leave my soul forlorn. ¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered, ¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother.”* He was even fasting for the people who are around him. He was so honest that he even was praying and fasting for people who even did not repay him good for all his prayer and fasting for them.

2- In *Psalm 69:1-12* David said *“¹ Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. ² I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. ³ I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God. ⁴ Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. ⁵ You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. ⁶ May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel. ⁷ For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face. ⁸ I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons; ⁹ for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. ¹⁰ When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn; ¹¹ when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me. ¹² Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards.”* He was enduring suffering, hardship and insult for the sake of the house of God and the work of God. He was facing all that pressure but he was humbling himself and continued to do the work of God through prayer and fasting.

3- David was really diligent in fasting even he said about that the following, *“²⁴ My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.” (Psalm 109:24)*

4- David even fasted when he heard the news of the death of Saul his enemy, *“¹¹ Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. ¹² They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.” (2Samuel 1:11-12)*

5- David fasted when repented from his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. The Lord exposed what David did through his prophet Nathan whom the Lord sent and confronted David and rebuked him for what he did; truly David repented as he said, *“I have sinned against the LORD.” (2Samuel 12:13)* And *“Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die. ¹⁵ After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. ¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. ¹⁷ The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. ¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.” ¹⁹ David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.” ²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.” (2Samuel 12:13-20)* David showed his repentance when he accepted God's discipline and the death of his son that was born out of adultery.

David passed many struggles through prayer and fasting. He served God's purpose in His own generation by the will of God. And one of the things that he did is facing the struggles of life with prayer and fasting. In the same way you can take his example and apply that in your life and service unto God.

My Dear and Beloved: King David was a man of prayer and fasting. He took all his struggle and hardship to God through prayer and fasting. He fixed his eyes on the Lord; he trusted him fully. He humbled himself and the Lord lifted him up. He forgave his enemies. He repented when he sinned against God. Therefore learn from the life of David, the life of prayer and fasting, and apply them in your life, they will be of great help and support to you as you agree to fast and pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that teaches me clearly your ways and how to walk humbly with you. Lord I will apply the life of prayer and fasting in all my life's situations and struggles. Give me Lord the strength to do that and remind me of it to do it, this all what I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*