

³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

If you have been struggling with sin or a particular sin, will God still honor your fast and hear your prayers?

The answer is no, but with a very strong word of encouragement. Sin is a barrier that blocks the voice and power of God. It is true that God may not hear or respond to our prayers when there are sin barriers in our lives. Psalm 66:18 says, If I cherished sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear. Isaiah says that sin blocks God's hearing (Isa. 59:1-2). But the good news is this: a fast will make you very aware of exactly where there is sin and what you need to do about it. There is always the offer of forgiveness where there is confession, repentance and a sincere effort to correct the wrong.

Just like sin caused Adam and Eve to be banished from the garden of Eden. Likewise, sin separates us from God. But the encouraging news is - it is not the end. Adam and Eve lived to have children. After repentance you are still given a chance to live and be fruitful.

Prayer and fasting brings clarity in all areas of your life and it is a light that shines in the dark places where hidden or unknown sin live. Praise God for the cross and for His promises. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (1 John 1:9).

Whatever you may be battling today, give it to God and He will give you victory. Confess and repent! God is ready to anoint you.

Respond