



# Praying as families for people under the yoke of debt.

Day 10

The yoke, traditionally used to harness animals for ploughing, serves as a symbol of the burdens imposed by the enemy upon humanity. These burdens often result from personal folly or the choices of others. One aspect of true fasting, as desired by God, involves loosening these yokes that oppress people. Today, we turn our attention to the heavy burden of financial debt weighing on many individuals and families.

At the dawn of creation, God entrusted humans with stewardship over all His creations. However, sin's coming into the world tainted even the provision God had bestowed. Now, countless families suffer under the weight of financial obligations, driving some to desperate measures, even suicide. Debt may arise from exploitation or from individuals' own missteps, greed, or love of wealth, resulting in burdens beyond their capacity.

What role does the Church play amidst this burden? How can we loosen these cords of oppression? Our response must be one of compassion and action, particularly within our own households. Scripture underscores the importance of providing for one's family, admonishing that failure to do so reflects a lack of faith according to 1 Timothy 5:8.

Loosening these cords is merely the first step toward breaking the yoke. While we may not be able to eliminate someone's entire debt, we can take meaningful steps toward their relief. Interestingly it is reported that there are several banks in a place in the state of Kerala, India, where there was significant amount of unclaimed money of people who have saved up, but never lived to enjoy it. Within the church today there are people who hoard up wealth and live in luxury, while many within their own church struggle to repay their debts. In contrast, the early Church exemplified a spirit of generosity,



as seen in Acts 4:34-35, where believers sold their possessions to support those in need.

Many of us fall short of such generosity. Yet, to untie the cords of debt, we must first identify those in need within our own households and then extend our assistance outward. In doing so, we embody the teachings of Jesus and become true witnesses during this season of fasting and prayer.

## **LET US PRAY**

Lord Jesus, we express gratitude for the Cross, which shattered every yoke that binds humanity. Moreover, you have assured to meet all our needs in accordance with your abundant riches. We implore you to intervene for families grappling with the challenge of meeting their basic necessities. May divine discernment guide families in managing their financial resources prudently. Lord, enable us to be attuned to those burdened by debt and empower us to extend assistance to those in need, both within and outside the church, thereby loosening the cords of debt. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

