

Isaiah 58

What does God require of us?

Isa. 58:6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8 **Then** your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; **then** your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. 9 **Then** you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, **then** your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. 11 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

13 “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, 14 **then** you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.” The mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Do you want to know what God wants of you? Do you want to know what kind of worship is pleasing to Him? Then look at Isaiah 58:

1. Worship must give a unifying center to our life => there must be a harmony between life at work and life at worship; not independent, not in conflict.
2. Worship must be accompanied by a consistent life style => informed by God and by God’s priorities.
3. Worship must make us sensitive to and aware of human need, and worship must then result in acts of compassion responding to that need.

And with this kind of worship (Isaiah 58:8ff), we will become effective in:

1. **our influence**, [*Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear*]
2. **our testimony**, [*then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*]
3. **our prayer life** [*Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.]*
4. **our sense of direction**, [*then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always;*]
5. **our confidence**, [*he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*]
6. **our ability to accomplish things**, [*Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings*]
7. **our relationship with God** [*then you will find your joy in the LORD*]