

Lord, Focus Me

Isaiah 58

Isaiah 58:3-7 NIV

'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

Isaiah 58:3-7 NIV

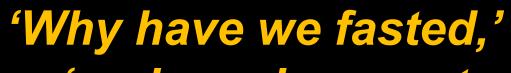
Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Isaiah 58:3-7 NIV

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 them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?



A DIFFERENT REASON



they say, 'and you have not seen it?

Fasting is Not a Magical Way to Manipulate God

More than Superficial Practices

Motivated by His Presence Motivated to Be More Like Christ Motivated to See Thy Will Be Done



A DIFFERENT ROUTINE

Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please

Addition and Subtraction

Subtract Things – Add Time with God A Spiritual Goal in Mind

Physical Appetites
Under the Spirit's Control

A DIFFERENT RIGHTEOUSNESS

Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife

They were Living Sinfully God Calls Them to Righteousness First

Examine Our Hearts and Actions

Love Your Neighbor

Submission to God and Others



LORD, FOCUS ME



The Discipline of Fasting

God's Light Burns Away the Fog Things Become More Clear

Reveal Obstacles
Reveal my Standing
Reveal How to Love My Neighbor

Jesus, Be the Center