



THRIVING

Isaiah 58

Observance of Fasts

58 *"Cry loudly, do not hold back;*

Raise your voice like a trumpet,

And declare to My people

their transgression

And to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 *"Yet they seek Me day by day and delight
to know My ways,*

As a nation that has done righteousness

*And has not forsaken the ordinance of their
God.*

They ask Me for just decisions,

They delight in the nearness of God.

3 *'Why have we fasted and You do not see?
Why have we humbled ourselves and You
do not notice?'*

*Behold, on the day of your fast you
find your desire,*

And drive hard all your workers.

4 *"Behold, you fast for contention and strife
and to strike with a wicked fist.*

*You do not fast like you do today to make
your voice heard on high.*

5 *"Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day
for a man to humble himself?*

Is it for bowing one's head like a reed

*And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes
as a bed?*

*Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable
day to the Lord?*

6 *"Is this not the fast which I choose,
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the bands of the yoke,
And to let the oppressed go free
And break every yoke?*

7 *"Is it not to divide your bread with the
hungry*

*And bring the homeless poor into the house;
When you see the naked, to cover him;
And not to hide yourself from your own
flesh?*

8 *"Then your light will break out like the
dawn,*

*And your recovery will speedily spring forth;
And your righteousness will go before you;
The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*

9 *"Then you will call, and the Lord will
answer;*

*You will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'
If you remove the yoke from your midst,
The pointing of the finger and speaking
wickedness,*

*10 And if you give yourself to the hungry
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday.*

*11 “And the Lord will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do
not fail.*

*12 “Those from among you will rebuild the
ancient ruins;
You will raise up the age-old foundations;
And you will be called the repairer of
the breach,
The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.*

Keeping the Sabbath

*13 “If because of the sabbath, you turn your
foot*

*From doing your own pleasure on My holy
day,*

*And call the sabbath a delight, the
holy day of the Lord honorable,
And honor it, desisting from your own ways,*

*From seeking your own pleasure
And speaking your own word,*

*14 Then you will take delight in the Lord,
And I will make you ride on the heights of
the earth;*

*And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob
your father,*

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
3. How do you think we are supposed to respond to this passage?
4. What are you excited to share with others?

Pray whatever the Lord lays on your heart as a result of this passage.

“For 3000 years this passage has been used by God’s people to reset their thinking and to measure their success. When I was called to ministry, this passage took up residence in my heart.

To feed the hungry
Help the homeless
Find the Lord’s favor at every turn
To be called the repairer of broken walls...

I wanted to live and serve with a people who looked like this!” —Pastor Justin

“If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things. It is we, of course, to whom things look ‘little’ or ‘big’.” —Elisabeth Elliot