

The Lord Will Guide You Always

Isaiah 58

**Isa 58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
(NKJV)**

- ***Isa 58:1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.***
- ***2 For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.***
- ***3 '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.***
- ***4 Your fasting ends in quarrelling 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.***

- **v.5 *Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?***
- **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.***

- **v.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.***

- v.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 honourable, and if you honour 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. (NIV)*



I. Prayer and Fasting

- Hindrances to God Hearing and answering:
 - v.2 *For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.*
1. Religious, church going people...
 2. We make our own rules for desired lifestyle.
 3. Exploitation of subordinates (v.3)

- v.3 *'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.*

4. Blame God for not doing His job!!!!

- Ps.44:23 Psalmist: *:Awake, O Lord, Why do you sleep?"*
- Isa.51:9 *"Awake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O arm of the Lord! Awake as in days.."*
- v.17 God: *"Awake, awake! Rise up O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord, the cup of His wrath..."*

- Elijah (cave): *"I've been very zealous... I'm the only one left, & now they're trying to kill me too"*
- God: *"Yet I reserve 7000 in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal..."*
- Jonah after God showed mercy to Nineveh, *"Lord, take my life, Its better for me to die than live"*
- God, *"Do you have any right to be angry?"*

5. Quarrelling, Strife & Violence...

- 4 *"Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists..."*
- 4 *"... You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high."*
- v.9 *"...pointing finger & malicious talk"*

- **How should we fast?**
- 1. v.6, v.9 Loose the chains of injustice, untie the cords of the yoke, set oppressed free!**
- That's all about a spirit of control...!!!
- The only humans you can control absolutely, are slaves!
- You can't absolutely control your children...!
- Or workers; colleagues; pupils; disciples...!
- We shouldn't try to control what God doesn't even control – He gives us freedom of choice!
- 2. v.7 Food, Clothing, Shelter...**
- 3. v.7 Not to neglect own flesh & blood...**

II. Precious Promises

1. Honest Prayer & Fasting can be Life-changing

- v.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.”*

2. Answers to Prayer

- v.9 *“Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: ‘Here am I.’”*

3. The Lord Will Guide You Continually

- ***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.***
- **Always – Continually!**
- **The Lord is NOT subject to mood swings!**
- **He is Immutable (unchangeable)**
- **HE will satisfy your needs..**
- **The Lord will PERSONALLY guide you always...**

- **In Exodus God tells Moses: Ex 33:2 *"I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.***
- ***3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."***
- ***Ex 33:15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.***
- ***16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"***

III. Honouring The Lord's Day

- v.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 honourable, and if you honour 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. (NIV)*
- v.13 speaks of The Sabbath *and* the Lord's Holy Day. Are they one and the same?

- Not to be controversial – consider 3 beliefs:
- 1. The Jews & 7th Day Adventists totally convinced Saturday is the Sabbath & the Lord's Holy Day.
- 2. The Puritans (Spurgeon etc.) often refer to Sunday as the Sabbath, replacing Saturday!
- 3. Some preachers: Saturday is the 7th day – a day of rest, for our benefit; and that...
- Sunday, the 1st day is "The Lord's Day", a day of worship.
- The early Church met on Sundays...
- These events occurred on Sundays:
- The Lord rose on a Sunday

- He put fire into the hearts of the two travellers to Emmaus on a Sunday.
- He met with the 10 disciples on Sunday..
- He sent the Holy Spirit on Sunday – Pentecost
- *“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.”* (Acts 20:7; 2:42)
- *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made”.* (1 Cor.16:2)
- John’s Revelation, *“On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard....”* (Rev.1:10)

- If the Church was born on a Sunday & John’s Revelation was divided into 7s, many expect these happenings on Sundays...
- Jesus said. *“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath”.* (Mark 2:28)
- v.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 honourable, and if you honour 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.*

Conclusion

- 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.”*
- 2Ch 7:14 *“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”* NIV

“The Lord will guide you always...”