

DO WORKS OF MERCY

*“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need,
yet closes his heart against him,
how does God's love abide in him?”*

1 John 3:17

WE PRAY ISAIAH CHAPTER 58, Authentic Fasting That Leads to Blessing....

We Fast for Justice

- ◆ Dear Lord God, in this holy season that recognizes, honors and practices fasting as a way of holiness, as a means for breakthroughs, we fast for justice. We fast not only on a physical level; we fast from personal indulgences and bad habits, and offer them up to You as little sacrifices to bring Your justice.
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:6 says: *“Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke?”* Guide me Lord God, in ways to support releasing those bound unjustly.

Wounds Heal Thru Mercy

- ◆ Dear Father God, I commit to works of mercy to answer your exhortation to care for the needy. I repent for times and ways when I turned my back *“on my own flesh”* when they needed a helping hand, even moral support and a sympathetic ear. For your Word demonstrates how little acts of kindness, *chesed*, can cause our own light to break forth.
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:7-8 says: *“Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own*

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flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.”

- ◆ How precious and profound that as I offer healing to other people’s wounds, You heal mine Lord God!

Mercy Thru Self-Restraint

- ◆ Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us that as we remove malicious speech about others and an accusing finger, our own cries to You for help are answered. 700 years before Christ Jesus taught this, did the Prophet Isaiah exclaim this spiritual law. Our own works of mercy bring to us Your mercy. Restraining my own negative tendencies IS a work of mercy.
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:9 proclaims: *“Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: ‘Here I am!’ If you remove the yoke from among you, the accusing finger, and malicious speech.”*

Works of Mercy Bring Holiness

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, open my heart to ways to “*satisfy the afflicted*”, be it physical/material ways, be it in emotional or spiritual means. I now understand that as I help to remove the suffering of others, it is a form of removing darkness. As I remove darkness by works of mercy, You cause my own light, the light of Christ in me, to shine forth, to “*rise in the darkness.*” How profound!
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:10 teaches: *“If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday.”*

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The Promises of Works of Mercy

- ◆ Lord God Adonai, I understand that the works of mercy are a selfless act, not seeking personal reward, Your Word teaches me that as I relieve the thirst of others, my spiritual thirst is quenched. Mercy begets mercy.
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:11 promises: *“Then the Lord will guide you always and satisfy your thirst in parched places, will give strength to your bones and you shall be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never fail.”*

Works of Mercy Repair the Breach

- ◆ Holy Father God, we have stood in the breach over the past 8 years. Make us an instrument of restoring ruined dwellings, especially ruined spiritual dwellings, the temple of God that dwells within us.
- ◆ Indeed 1 Corinthians 6:19 says: *“Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, whom you have received [as a Gift] from God?”*
- ◆ As an Intercessor standing in the gap, the breach, make me an instrument to repair the dwellings of the Holy Spirit; those mutilated, genetically damaged, distorting their true identity, who want to come home to You.
- ◆ For Isaiah 58:12 declares: *“Your people shall rebuild the ancient ruins; the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; ‘Repairer of the breach,’ they shall call you, ‘Restorer of ruined dwellings.’”*

Do Not Miss Opportunities For Works of Mercy

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches that we are not equipped to fully or perfectly discern who is always before us, for what purposes or

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spiritual opportunities; how works of mercy may be presented to us in camouflaged ways, to test our own heart and its purity.

- ◆ For Hebrews 13:2 warns: *“Do not neglect to extend hospitality to strangers [especially among the family of believers—being friendly, cordial, and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously], for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

WE PRAY MATTHEW CHAPTER 25....

Our Lord Will Judge Us

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word is very clear that Lord Jesus will come as judge over people and whole nations, taking an accounting of all of our works of mercy, our demonstration of and realization of holiness.
- ◆ For Matthew 25:31 foretells: *“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and majesty and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”* And Matthew 25:34 proclaims: *“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father [you favored of God, appointed to eternal salvation], inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”*
- ◆ Dear Father God, Your Son Jesus Yeshua taught us to show mercy and do works of mercy, to see Him in the lowliest of people in society, to see others as He sees them, how He treated the lowest in society and was criticized for it. I repent for all the times and ways I missed these opportunities or looked down my nose on those who have been downtrodden by life. There by the grace of God go I!
- ◆ For Jesus taught in Matthew 25:35-36, *“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; I was naked, and you clothed*

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Me; I was sick, and you visited Me [with help and ministering care]; I was in prison, and you came to Me [ignoring personal danger].”

Works of Mercy Are For Our Lord Jesus

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, being committed to doing works of mercy as a way of life IS a way of walking as Christ, The Way, The Truth and The Life.
- ◆ For Matthew 25:40 says: *“I assure you and most solemnly say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it for Me.”*

Sealing Prayer:

*Through all my days, (I shall) keep the Lord in mind,
and not seek to sin or to transgress the commandments.
(I commit to) Perform righteous deeds all the days of my life,
and not tread the paths of wickedness.
For those who act with fidelity, all who practice righteousness,
will prosper in their affairs.
(I commit to) Give alms from my possessions;
and not turn my face away from any of the poor,
so that God’s face will not be turned away from me.
(I commit to) Give in proportion to what I own.
I shall be storing up a goodly treasure for myself
against the day of adversity.
For almsgiving delivers from death
and keeps one from entering into Darkness.
Almsgiving is a worthy offering
in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it.*

Tobit 4:5-11