

Fasting, The Life in The Lord, Wholly Dedicated

Q: Fasting, What is the purpose? Why would God have us fast?

Three clues:

Context tells us it relates to relying on Him for sustenance and provision, sandwiched by prayer for daily bread & no worries

Scriptures on fasting Isaiah 58, Matt 10:10 (Worker worthy of his food)

Famous fasts Exodus 34:28, Jesus Luke 4:1-2, Daniel 9 & 10, Joel 1 & 2, Acts 27

Fasting relies on God completely, denying ourselves to rest on Him. It also reminds us to be thankful since being able to fast is a privilege for those with prior nourishment. You can't fast if you are starving to death. Many across the globe have no choice.

Q: Why is fasting so uncommon in the church, given that it is frequently mentioned for important purposes in the Bible?

Q: Is it ignorance? Lack of understanding? Complacency and an unwillingness to "suffer."

It seems like it is a mix of all three perhaps most laid at the feet of ignorance of scripture from believers and then from poor teaching from pastors

Q: Storing up treasures where moth and rust destroy? It says "where" not "that," is there a difference?

Where doesn't mean that moth and rust do destroy what Jesus is speaking of. By saying where, he means on earth, not specific types of treasures.

Q: What physical treasures might we have?

Money, houses, clothes, televisions, cars, Bibles (sounds odd but it's not the physical book that matters but the words)

Q: Are there non-physical treasure we store up, not in heaven?

The approval of men (status, respect, fame), knowledge, memories, works

Q: Are these things bad? If yes, how?

Yes and No. If we hoard and store and spend our mind, money and talents to gain them for ourselves than yes. No, not necessarily if they are truly gained through some general means and received according to God's will. (Luke 12:16-21 is our warning)

Q: Rewards in heaven, are there any? What about the story of the Workers in the Vineyard in Matt 20:1-16, does it apply here?

Yes. 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Cor 5:10, Rev 20:11-13 illustrated this for us some weeks ago. Matt 20 applies in that salvation/eternal life is our first treasure, most celebrated. We are sons and daughters coheirs with Christ (Rom 8:17) but the thief on the cross receives less than the worker who worked for 20 years (Luke 15:11-32 teaches us some of this as the faithful son receives all from the father while the prodigal is restored).

Q: Your eye is single, healthy and your devotion to one, what key principle is illustrated here?

The greatest commandment. What dual allegiance we have takes us from what is truly best and most necessary. You truly can't do it all. You can't multi-task. You can only do what asks. God hates the double-minded man. 1 Kings 18:21, James 4:8, Josh 24:15, 2 Kings 17:41 (Samaritans). Mixture is against His will.

Ex 19:5, Isa 52:11, 2 Cor 6:17, 1 John 2:15, Rev 18:4

Q: Do not worry, how does this relate to the Lords prayer and the last section?

Total reliance, a God focused life, with His priorities leads to peace that comes from perspective. What truly matters, in that I am rich (Rev 2:9). This a call to trust to believe what we pray, that we will receive our daily bread. The supply is not necessarily physical either, we have seen that spiritual realities are Jesus' focus alongside and often beyond the physical