

Fasting

By Brother Emerson A. Wilson

**This message (Fasting) was preached in 1966 by the late Brother Emerson A. Wilson. It has been transcribed with minor alterations in an attempt to preserve the original burden of the message.*

Transcribed and Distributed by the Zanesville

Church of God
3064 Coopermill Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Print Date: August, 2018

**Please note that this message was delivered in the middle of a series of messages on the vials in the Revelation.*

Revelation 15:1-7 *And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.* I want to clarify that. The seven angels are nothing more than a ministry pouring out a message that is filled up with the wrath of God or that which displeased God right in among Christendom or religion. The deceptive power that is working in religion today would have you feel that if it's religion then God is in it. There are many things that are working (and I want to bring it up closer to people who claim to be saints) that God is actually displeased with.

John said, *“And I saw as it were a sea of glass (the Word of God, at the end of the chart) mingled with fire (the Holy Spirit): and them that had gotten the victory over the beast (Roman Catholicism), and over his image (Protestantism, sectism, groupism), and over his mark (his [beast] spirit), and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.* A lot of people were maybe never in Catholicism or Protestantism but they have the mark of the beast. What is the mark of the beast? The spirit of the beast. Second Thessalonians 2 will tell you what it is: It's a spirit that opposes god, opposes truth and exalts themselves. That's the mark of the beast. There is a lot of it sitting around in congregations that claim to be the people of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. 5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened (The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven is the church of the New Testament): 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven

plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. Chapter 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Vials Poured on the Earth

To boil it down and bring it up to date, we found that this is nothing more than a messenger bringing a message. It's not poured out on the earth (terra firma) but it fell on men. This is the Gospel. You read Romans 1:16-18 and it will tell you right in the Gospel the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against men who hold the truth in ungodliness or unrighteousness. In other words they are holding on to truth but there are some unrighteous things hanging on too. God is stirred at that. Why? It's those things that people hold on to which is not according to God and righteousness that hinders people from seeing the truth.

The devil amplifies the thing that isn't right so that people can't see the right for seeing the wrong around us. You know that's true. We can take it from any sense you want to deal with. You can have two hypocrites sitting in a congregation of 300 and if they are in the midst of the saints, you might think they are hidden. But a new person comes in the midst, sees those two hypocrites and overlooks 298 saints. Why? The devil will amplify and magnify that thing. That is what God is stirred with.

Church, we have to get rid of this business of misinterpreting the Scripture and using it in a different sense than it was ever given, such as sorting the good from the bad. When it comes to God's eternal word there is nothing but good in it. It doesn't need any sorting. That old spirit has been in the hearts of the people so long that they have sorted the truth out until they don't have any truth left. When it comes to the preaching of God's word, you leave your sieve at home. Take it off!

When the angel talked to John in the 10th chapters of Revelation, Christ stood with one foot on the sea and one on the land, with the little book open (not off in eternity, not in the second coming of Christ, but right in the day and age in

which we are living). One foot was on the sea that the beast came up out of and the other was on the earth, where earthly organizations came out of. He stood there with the book open from cover to cover and every seal broken. He said time will be no more. God doesn't have any more time for false religion from Roman Catholicism right on through. He told John to take the little book and eat it all. Eat it all! It doesn't sound like He said, "John, sort the good from the bad. Hold fast that which is good." Everything is good in there. He wants you to let loose of those ideas that are yours and the commandments of men: those teachings and bylaws. I hate bylaws; that's what got me thrown out of the movement. The law didn't get me; the bylaw did. We have so many bylaws now that we can't preach the Gospel! We have so many boards and committees that we can't get someone to the altar without getting a splinter in them.

If we ever get a people back on the sea of glass mingled with fire, we're going to have to cast aside these things that are contrary to God's word and get back to the blessed old Bible. In the parable of the 10th chapter of Luke, Jesus only left two things before He left to take care of all saved souls until He comes: just two pence--the Word and the Spirit. That's all you need. If you needed anymore, he would have left it. We don't need the organizations of men to bring a people together in a group and hold them. If the Gospel won't hold a people, all the organizations that man can set up won't hold them. The Word and the Spirit are the two things that Jesus left. We had better get right back there and trust the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit can bring a people together that you couldn't bring with all the advertising in the country. When He gets them together, He'll have something. That's how I know by the word of God that a lot of these healing campaigns going on over the country are not of God. How do I know? They have to have an advertising committee. Do you ever read in the Bible where Peter set up a corporation and got an advertising committee to travel ahead of him to say, "Peter's coming to town. We're going to have a tent on the corner of West Main and Twenty First. Everybody get out there."? And put it on the radio to advertise for ten days? Why, man, if they were working one real miracle they couldn't drive into town. The people would be in the street and they would be blocked. Come

on! Jesus worked real miracles! He had to tell everybody, "Don't tell it now. Don't tell it." They went and told it anyway. What happen? When they heard He was coming that way, people got in the street and He couldn't get through. He was really working miracles; He didn't have to advertise. These false miracle workers are not really working miracles at all; they are working sorceries, just what the Revelation says they are. You show me a people that's really working miracles and I'll show you a people where there will be more work for them to do. They won't have to advertise. You show me also a man of God that is anointed of God and preaching the Gospel and he won't have to advertise for a place to preach. He'll turn down more places than he can go to.

Honest hearts want the straight goods. People have more sense than you think. Not all the people in the world are being deceived. There are some that can tell when a man is a man of God or not. The people that the Holy Ghost brings together won't have to do so much sorting. If we'll trust the Word of God and the Holy Ghost to bring a people together, we won't have to get up and do so much separating. He will separate them when He brings them. I go right back to the types in the temple when Solomon's temple was built and God gave all of those gifts to men and women. Every stone was hewn out and when it was brought in, it just fit. It went together without the sound of a hammer. The Holy Ghost of God is building a new testament temple. You and I are lively stones! The hammering needs to be done in the brickyard! When God brings the church together every member will fit! We'll have love and care one for another. He'll build it and compact it together with that which every joint supplieth, just as He brings the natural body and hooks it together! Brother, when He hooks the hand on it will fit the wrist bone just right. Thank God! When God brings the spiritual body together every member will fit right in. When that happens, you can throw your programs away. You won't have to plead with somebody, "Can you do this? Will you do this?" It will be spontaneous. The body will get up and start walking. Every member will fulfil its mission. There will be no misplacements like we have today.

The Bible tell us that He gives us grace according to the gift. When He said that, He took the natural body in 1 Corinthians 12 to show us the church: one

body, many members. Somebody may say. "I am the church." No, you're not; you're just one member. He said, "If the whole were one member, where's the body?" You're just one member...and you need to find where your place is in the body. Up until that time, you're misplaced. How do you know when you get to your place? You can do it. When I was starting in ministry, a brother spoke words that I never forgot. I was wanting to learn all that I could and I still am. He said, "The best evidence that a man is called to preach is that he can preach." I never forgot that. The best evidence that a man or woman is called to teach Sunday School class is that they can teach. There are plenty of people who are saved and sanctified, who are living a clean life, but they will never be a teacher. We should not base someone's fundamental ability on the fact that they've been saved so long or lived good so long. God might save somebody, that was only saved a short while ago, that can out teach others ten times over. If you have the Spirit of God, the ones who have been saved 50 years will be willing to sit down and listen to one who has only been saved a year. Why? God has given him a gift and grace according to the gift!

Jeremiah 22:29 *Oh earth, earth, earth hear the word of the Lord.* He wasn't talking to the hillside but he was talking to people like we are: earthly minded people who are tied up with the activities and organizations of this earth. We may be out of Babylon but we have too much Babylon among us. The Bible told us when we came out of Babylon, "Don't bring a stone with you." How come? Don't bring a stone for foundation. Why? The church already has a foundation. Thank God, we don't need to bring a foundation over. We've got too many people saying, "This is the way. This is the way they did it in Babylon." You had better forget that way. If that was right, God would have used it. That's why He called you out, because it wasn't right. He said to not even bring a stone. If I wasn't preaching on the wrath of God, I would also tell you not to even bring that stone your boyfriend put on your finger when he engaged you. You can't wear that in Zion; leave it back over there. Don't bring a stone with you. As God looks down on that which claims to be the people of God and they come in on Sunday morning, as far as God is concerned they look more like they are going to a circus than they do worshipping

God; or a dog race. Anybody that understands, He is telling you to leave the practices.

Grace According to Gifts

God gives grace according to the gifts. If you go back to the ark in Isaiah, God showed us that His people became rebellious. As a result, there was a dumbness that came over them until they were dumber than the two dumbest animals He made: the ox and the ass. We have people today who are educated fools. I can show you how much smarter the animal was over the man in the antediluvian age. Every animal that God called came and went in, but God could only get eight of mankind out of a million. Now who is dumb?

Now let's come over to the gifts; I want to show you the workings of the church. God called the animals. I've often said if we would have been living in that day we would have been shaken to the place that we would have believed God. Old Noah was building the ark and warning people everyday and they made light of him. They said there was nothing to it and they scoffed. But one day, to their surprise, there came two animals of every kind out of the woods. Come on, I'll show you why organization isn't any good for this business. There weren't any halters on them, no men leading them, and no men driving them. There came Mr. and Mrs. Elephant with Mr. and Mrs. Kangaroo right behind them. You talk about a circus parade; there was one that went through town that day. I want to show how bad unbelief really gets. They watched those animals march right through town, two of every kind; nobody leading them, nobody driving them, man wasn't in the thing in any way. Instead of turning and going back to the woods, they went right on out to the edge of town where old Noah was building the ark. They just kept marching up the gangplank. Every one of them went right in their own stall. And you don't read where there was a fuss or a growl all the months they rode together. What's that a type of? Brother, God isn't bringing animals in; He's bringing men and women. When He does it in a divine way everyone of us will find our place and get in it. There will be peace and harmony in the church as much as there was in the ark. The animals can teach us lots of things.

Somebody may say, “What caused them to do that?” They had enough sense to own God as their Maker. To prove that to you, I come right over to when Jesus was ready to make His triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Somebody may say, “Brother Wilson, you trying to make us lower than the animals”.) I’m not going to make you anything you aren’t. I want to prove to you that Jesus’ kingdom was not a hand-me-down kingdom; Jesus’ kingdom was not of this world and it never will be. Jesus’ kingdom was not a literal kingdom and it never will be a literal kingdom. Jesus’ kingdom is a spiritual kingdom in the hearts and lives of men and women.

You just might as well throw that old millennium teaching out the window as a another stone that was carried out of Babylon. People who are waiting for a millennium, no matter what kind it is, are waiting for a ship that will never come in. The thousand years they are waiting to take place here on the earth happened back during the Dark Ages. Jesus’ kingdom never was a literal kingdom and it never will be. His servants never did fight with a literal sword and they never will fight with a literal sword. You might as well quit teaching the people untruths and heresies that He is going to come back and ride a white horse and that blood is going to flow in the streets up to the horses’ bits. You better get some spiritual understanding of God’s eternal word. There is nothing carnal. Our weapons are not carnal, earthly or literal. They never were and they never will be. Even the battle of Armageddon is a spiritual conquest. It is fought in the souls of men and reaching right on out into a broader field. It is a spiritual battle all the way through!

When Jesus got ready to go into Jerusalem, He called for a mule that had a colt on which no man had ever sat. (That’s all the text I’d need right there to preach that Jesus’ kingdom wasn’t a literal kingdom.) Study it in I Kings 1:33 and other scriptures. Israel’s kings rode a white mule and nobody ever rode that mule but the king. David was still living when Solomon was crowned king. He grew old and said, “I’m unable to rule over the people. I want to crown my son Solomon king”. He was just a boy. So he called Nathan and said, “How are we going to crown him?” He said, “Get my mule and have him ride into town.” That little boy went riding the mule into town and the people began to say, “Hosanna! Look at

this! Solomon's being crowned king!" Nobody ever rode that mule but the king. Now come on: When Jesus got ready to set up His kingdom, Israel had a king. See friend, we must rightly understand that Israel was to never have a king until Jesus came. He was to be Israel's first King. But what happened? They wanted to be like the other kingdoms. They began to pray to God like people do today, "We're so different from others." My God, deliver the saints from this spirit of being afraid of being different from the world. That's always got people in trouble. "We're so different from the world. They've got kings and they've got a man they can see to reign over them." They pleaded until God gave them a king, but God's plan was to present Jesus Christ as Israel's first King.

When Jesus got ready to set up His kingdom, He didn't ask for Herod's mule. No, He said, "There's a mule and she's got a colt that no man has ever sat on. Bring that to me." What is God teaching us? God said, "This kingdom I set up has never been set up before." They went and got that colt that no man had ever sat on. Anyone who has ever broken any mules knows that you've got a job on your hands.

I want to show you why we are dumber than an ass. They got that mule that no man had ever sat on. I dare any of you to go somewhere and get a mule colt that no man has ever sat on and throw a coat over its back. Goodbye mule! If anything scares them, it's throwing something over their back. Then after you get it calmed down to the place that you can ride it a little with a bridle, a wire bit and maybe some bailing wire wrapped around it to cut him really good, ride him down the street and have people cut branches off of trees and throw them in front of him. Goodbye man and mule both! Here was a colt that no man ever sat on, they threw a coat over him and he just stood still. Jesus got right up on him and sat down, he just started walking. They threw branches in front of him, he never shied. Why? He had enough sense to know that the Man on him was his Creator. He said, "If it had been anybody else, I would have thrown him but there isn't any use in trying to throw Him." The scripture said that mule walked straight into Jerusalem.

We have too many spiritual rodeos today: People getting thrown over this and over that. All you need to do to live a consistent life with Christ is have as

much sense as that mule: Own the fact that God is your Creator. Make sure you have Him aboard. You get Him on board and let Him have the reins and you'll walk as straight into Jerusalem as that mule did.

Earthen Vessels

When he begins to talk about earth [vials poured out on the earth], all we can see are some things around here and the edge but may God help us to go deeper. I want you to realize something that I fear many don't realize. We need to be reminded when he tells us the vials are poured out on the earth that this gospel can get close to anyone of us. Why? Because the Bible tells us that we have this treasure in earthen vessels. We begin to realize that Paul was writing to the saints and he talked about Christ changing our vile body. Well, my body is not vial! That's what you think. Our vile body, our humiliating body... we are an earthen vessel. We've got a treasure but we've got this treasure in earthen vessels. What am I trying say? Since you're an earthen vessel, you'll be human until Jesus changes you at His second coming.

I digress just a little bit to get everyone to realize that there are going to be human feelings that we are going to have to subdue. Why? You're an earthen vessel. Since you're an earthen vessel, earthen things are going to affect you. You're going to be subject to mountain top experiences and valleys. Even though your anchor holds and God is the same, your feelings are going to go up and down. You're even going to be subject to passions. When I talk about passions, don't run off with me. The word passion means *fears, feelings*. Some may say, "Well, I don't think we'll have that." Look out! Elijah was a man of like passions as ye are but he could pray a hole right through to heaven and turn the rain off and on; but he was still a human being.

I'm not advocating discouragement, I believe God wants you to reign over it, but don't ever get too excited if you get a little discouraged some day. There is a way to get out of it. Thank God, the Bible has given us a way to get out of it. Now, I'm not going to preach on that but, I merely want us to see that we are pretty close to something earthly. Amen! We like to talk about the victory we can have and if we're not careful (in fact, I feel there has been a grave mistake been made

here myself), we will paint a picture of holiness and living on the mountain top and never tell the other side. There are two sides to this thing. I'm telling you the vial is being poured out on the earth (and I'm going to pour some out after a bit) but we need to know as we are pouring it out that we are pretty close to the earth. Somebody may ask, "How close?" Just as close as your soul is to your body. We need to realize we are an earthen vessel.

I've heard people preach (and I've preached against it every time I heard it) that you can get so sanctified that if you'd mash your finger, mash the blood out of it, you'll have a shouting spell and praise and glorify God; and if you had a flat tire, you would get out on the road and jump up and down and shout; and if your clothes line broke you'd have a shouting spell right there. Now all you would have to do is follow that man around a little bit and then you wouldn't listen to him preach anymore because we are human. I never did and I never expect to have a shouting spell because I have a flat tire. It makes me feel bad. Somebody may say, "You can have joy." Sure, I can rejoice in the fact that I don't have to get mad and throw the tire tool through the window and have a carnal fit; but I'm telling you right now, it does not make you feel good when reverses come... because we are human. You can feel bad, and sweat while your changing it and say, "My, I wish this didn't have to happen. It's going to make me late" and be just as much a Christian that ever lived. We're in an earthen vessel and since we are, we are subject to a lot of things that are going to affect us. Even though they affect us we can have victory over them. Don't take me wrong. I'm saying we will feel it. Jesus made it very plain when He said that which is earthly is earthy. This outward man always will be. We can understand the teaching of being born again better if we realized this. When Jesus said ye must be borned again He wasn't talking about the outward man. It can never be born again. Since it can never be born again this earthly man doesn't get changed in that sense. I'm not talking about carnality of the flesh, I'm talking about this body in the sense that we have to live in it and it is an earthen vessel. This outward man can't be born again. Somebody may say, "Aren't you going to get a new body?" Yes, sir, but it won't be a born one. The outward man can't be born again. To be born again, we would have to have a daddy and a mother. That new body, the Bible talks about, God is going to speak

it into existence. It will be a spiritual body like unto Christ and glorious. It won't come by a birth a bit more than Adam was born. He wasn't born, he was created. He wasn't a baby and grew up; God made him a full grown man. This outward man can't be born again. We're going to have this treasure in earthen vessels.

Now, God pours out the wrath on the earth. Why? To show us, counsel us and let us see how we've got to be careful in our living since we live in an earthly house. Some may say, "Oh, I don't believe it." Well, you don't believe the Bible; you've been sorting too much. In II Corinthians 5 Paul said if our "earthly house" ... So you can't get too far from the earth and the feelings of the earth because you live in an earthly house. Now, here is where the danger is: We live in an earthly house and the spirit of the age is taking people and pulling them to earthly things on every side. The spirit of the world is to bring forth things that will tempt, try, actuate, and excite the house (It's that way more today than any age.). God sees it as necessary to pour out the vials of God's wrath on some things that are going on so that we may better know how to possess our vessel. I'm not trying to deride or hurt anyone but I want us to see, if you see nothing else in this message, we are closer to earthly things than we realize.

Somebody may say, "Brother Wilson, I wouldn't want to preach that kind of gospel." Well, you better. I've watched some cases where ministers overstepped and got too bold with this thing. They began to get in the pulpit and say, "If you see the devil, you tell him that I hate him and I can whip him on any corner. I thank God I'm saved and sanctified." They forgot they were human. They were saved and sanctified and got to praying for some sick, holding the sick lady's hand a little too long. They weren't careful to take their wife with them when they went into homes where there was no one there but a woman. They freely hauled the sisters around without their wife with them. They were saved and sanctified but they were human. Today they are sitting along the sideline; they committed adultery. Why? They forgot they were an earthen vessel. The Bible teaches the saints to shun the very appearance of evil.

That's why I preach against television (while I'm pouring the vials out). Why? David didn't get himself in trouble with the first look. He couldn't help it when he went out on the housetop and looked across and saw a woman bathing

naked; but when he looked the second time he got himself in trouble. First time was by accident. The second time was because he wanted to. People are bound to hold on to their TV's and say, "Now look, Brother Wilson, you can see just as many half naked women on the street as you do on television." I believe that. (I don't go downtown anymore than I have to. If I had it my way I would never get a sick call, I would just stay right here on the campground. When ten days are over people start telling me, "Did you hear what happened?" No, I didn't; I've been to camp meeting for ten days. I didn't know a thing was going on. I live that way. I went into Cincinnati to hold a revival and I didn't know what happened. The city was all in an uproar, confetti and paper in the streets. I heard the next day, it took hundreds of dump truck loads just to clean up the square. We got there a little bit early. There was a drug store up the street from the church. I had my boy with me and he said, "Daddy, let's get some ice cream." We went in and sat down. That man couldn't wait on us. He said, "Isn't this wonderful!" I said, "What?" He got back and put his hands on hips and said, "What's the matter with you?" I said, "Nothing. Nothing I know of." "We just won the world series!" I said, "Man, I didn't even know there was a ball game on." "What!" I said, "I'm down here to hold a revival just a block up the street. I didn't even know anyone was playing ball." Boy, he threw his rag down, fixed us some ice cream and went on. I knew what he was talking about, "Look at that fellow. He didn't even know there was a ball game on." I didn't want to embarrass him but I could have turned around and said, "Say, did you know the book is open in the man's hand?" He would have said, "What book?" "I know all about it." I'm not saying I know everything that's in the book but I know all about what the scripture means about the book being open in the man's hand.) God help us. So we walk the street and they say there are women out there. I can't help that but, brother, if I'd invite a bunch of them to come up into my living room and dance around in front of me then I'm enjoying it.

Now I want to tell you again, don't get excited, I'm pouring out the vials of God's wrath. Don't be deceived, preacher and layman alike. There isn't one of you who can sit and watch these devilish shows, half nude women twisting around in front of you, and keep your mind clean while you watch them. Somebody may

say, "Brother Wilson, I can." Stand up; I want everyone to see you. Come on, some of you who have them and say, "They don't hurt me." Stand up. I want to tell the audience that you are not normal. There is something wrong with you. Brother, there is something wrong with a man who can stand and watch a woman twist around in front of him and stay right there and watch and keep his mind clean. If you can do that he wouldn't have said shun the very appearance of evil.

You might say, "I thought you were preaching on the Revelation." I am. It's one thing to get up and explain what it means to have an angel pour the vials out and it's another thing to pour it out. Let's go a little farther. When we begin to look at the fact that we live in an earthly house, it adds up to the fact that we are surrounded by and live in an earthly house. The vials being poured out are coming right where we live.

~~*~*~*~*~*

Days of Noah

Did you ever think why Jesus would speak forth and name out certain things they were doing in the days of Noah? He told us they would be doing the same things today. Do you ever wonder why He would mention eating? Why didn't He say they were doing certain things and they'll be doing it in the end too? He named out some things. They were eating, drinking, marrying, and given in marriage. In other words, their minds are going to be taken up with making sure they have something to eat and their daughters have a husband. That's what He said...given in marriage. He certainly names out some things. He said they were eating, drinking, marrying and given in marriage and the next verse says they knew not! I want to show you what kind of blindness can come with this condition if you're not careful. They knew not until the flood came and took them away.

When the animals marched through town that day, it didn't affect the people a bit. Why? They were too busy eating. Somebody said, "Look! Every animal is going through!" "I know it (chomp, chomp, chew). Isn't that wonderful

(chew, chomp, chew)!” “There’s an old fellow out here building an ark. He said there’s a flood coming. He’s quite a preacher. Let’s go out and hear him.” “Yeah, let’s take a basket lunch and make a picnic out of it.” That’s the way people come to campmeeting now. We have to have a few picnic tables around and the richest fellowship is in the dining hall. You don’t believe it? I pull for amens during the message but ten minutes after service its blah-blah, blah, yap-yap, yap, blah-blah, blah.... Sometimes you have to say, “Hush people! Be a little quieter.”

They were eating, drinking, marrying, and given in marriage and knew not. Their eating and drinking and satisfying the flesh so blinded them that an ark was built; a man preached over a hundred years right in their town. They never heard him, they couldn’t see what was going on. They knew not until the flood came that God was going to destroy the earth.

Now Jesus brought that thing right up to date. I’m not bringing it up to date; He did. He said it would be just like that. We’ve got a world all around us here. That’s why I’ve advertised to the extent in the newspaper, to try to wake up a people that ones are coming clear from California and the west coast to get their soul blessed. Others are living within a mile of it and don’t know there is a thing going on. We can take it right into the ranks of Babylon and compromising church of God. They’re so busy with their banqueting and whatnot that God is sending His angels with a trumpet and gathering the elect and they don’t know there is a thing going on. The sad part is unless we do something they won’t know it until it’s too late, when destruction comes and carries them away.

Profit to Your Soul

I don’t want to hurt a soul but I don’t want to withdraw from pouring out the vials of God’s wrath. Let’s face facts: You’re good people but there are going to need to be some changes made if we ever do the work that God intends for us to do. That which we have being doing is good but it isn’t good enough. *Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. (I want to tell you, if these things are grievous to you, there is something wrong with you. Profess what you will.) 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. 3 For we are the circumcision, which*

worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

He said nothing more than this, that anything that would hinder my knowledge of God, it's no profit to me. I better let loose of it. Anything that will rob me in my prayer life and my reading God's word, it's no profit to you. Let loose of it. Paul said, "I count ALL things." That takes in the TV and anything else that will work against you getting a greater experience and knowledge of God. It's not profit to you, it's a loss.

You may think I shouldn't put out that way. I've seen too many robbed. I was in a home where there is sadness within the past two weeks. There the grandmother lives with her son, his wife, and three little children. They don't serve God. She brought the children to Sunday school every Sunday. I was there the other day and the television had come in the home. The grandmother, with tears told me the story. "Brother Wilson, my bedroom is upstairs. Every night when the mother gets the children ready for bed, they can hear me praying by the bed. I can hear three little footsteps coming up the stairway and they get down beside me. When I would get done praying I would look up and there they were, all lined up on their knees. They were ready to go to Sunday school with me every Sunday." She pointed across the living room and said, "Grandma prays alone now. The little children never come up anymore. They are sitting and watching the television. Sunday morning comes but I'm not getting them out; mama won't get up to dress them." Don't tell me it's not doing its work. Right there, it's robbing three little children of the gracious, unsearchable riches of Christ and Christian principle from being in placed in their little hearts. In place of it, the devil has made an inroad.

I want to say that I love everybody. I prayed this morning; I laid awake all night. I said, “God, if you ever put a golden girdle on me, put it on me this morning. Help me keep myself out of this but let me pour out Your wrath. Let me pour out those things that are displeasing to You. Make it positive, that people don’t go away and say, “That’s what he feels.” God, I want You on the scene, convincing people that it’s You speaking to them.”

Anything that will hinder your knowledge of God and your experience with God is no profit to you. And since it’s no profit to you, it has to be a loss. Philippians 3:8 says *8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.* Brethren, we do not have the new body yet. That’s the prize of this thing. You can be saved and sanctified but you do not have the real crown or prize of Christianity. When Paul said, “There is a crown laid up for me, and not only for me but for them that love His appearing”, he wasn’t talking about a golden crown that would be put on his head. No, what is the crowning operation of this salvation? A new body, that’s the prize; thank God, eternal life. Oh, how many slow up on the way. They feel they’ve reached the apex. Paul tells you, who was down the road farther than we what to expect. Thank God! He gained the victory. He had enough grace to lay his head down on a chopping block and go straight to Heaven. He writes saying, “Here is the way to live, people, if you want to be victorious.” He said, “I have not attained to the resurrection of the dead yet.” Somebody may say, “Is that the prize?” Read Philippians 3:12 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind (forgetting those things which are behind), and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* That prize is the resurrection. We

haven't got it yet. We're still on the track. We're still fighting the battle. We're still running the course. We are still attaining to that perfection that God wants us to have.

Right here is the reason that you see people coming down from the mountain. Why? They felt when they got to Zion they had reached the apex and they began to trust in the mountain instead of trusting in God. You haven't obtained yet. I care not what our degree of understanding of God's word is; there is more for us to know. I care not how deep you are in your spiritual life; there is a deeper depth. I care not how close you are to God and how much God is using you; there is a greater work for you to do. The apostle Paul writes down at the last and says, "I haven't obtained yet. I'm pressing toward that prize."

Can't you see, saints? People who want to run a race and win do not let up on the last quarter. They go harder than they ever did. When I was out in sin, I watched enough horses run. They saved them, if it was a good horse and they knew what it could do. When they let him out, they saved his wind to the three quarter mark. Then they started letting him loose and he began to take the field. We're on the last quarter! We are pressing toward the prize! This is not the time to relax our efforts and slow down into a walk! We need to press like we've never pressed before and put forth a harder effort than we ever did in our lives! There is a prize, right out ahead. A lot of people are running, but Paul talked about running to win. He said he wasn't beating the air. A lot of people think they have it made because they are on the track. "I'll get to Heaven; I'm on the track." No, sir! You've got to run to win. You can talk about a lot of people running, but just one will gain the prize. Can no one be saved but one? That one can be everyone of us if we run to win. How do you run to win? You strip. A lot of people can't run too fast; they've got an old TV on their back and they are loaded down with other things. The Bible calls us to strip for the race.

Forgetting the Things that are Behind

There are two ways of getting more power in your experience. I tell people this when I work with them and they say they need more power. There are two ways of getting it. One way to have more power is to unload a few things. If you

are sure that you are completely unloaded then you definitely need some higher octane in your soul. Some of you have high enough octane but you're carrying too big a load. So unload, unload, unload. Brethren, I count not myself to apprehend. I haven't made it yet but this one thing I do. Paul was a specialist; he didn't mess around in a dozen things. "This one thing I do." What did he do? "Forgetting the things that are behind". I preached from that text some time back on Paul's waste basket. He threw a lot of things into the waste basket that saints are holding dear to them. He called it dung. "Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching forth". That's why they put those weights on the front shoes of trotting horses. Have you ever seen them? They are little round weights on the tops of their shoes. They get the shoe weighted all they can, then they put a weight on the foot above the shoe so they can reach forth. Just reaching that much farther ahead may win the race.

Philippians 3:13 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule* (That is simple enough, isn't it? If you have ever gone anywhere on the highway of holiness, there was a rule that you had to follow. Now don't ever let the deceptive and apostosicing spirits make you feel that you can get on some other way. Paul said if you're going forward, you're going to have to keep the same attitude you had when you came this far. New converts will have to keep the same attitude everyday they had at the altar. That's the way to keep your experience. When you begin to get another attitude, pride and other things begin to work. That's when we grow cold, compromise and go away from truth.), *let us mind the same thing* (Let us mind the same thing. Let us mind the same thing. "Well, days are different." Let us mind the same thing. When it comes to the principles of holy living and staying close to God and being overcomers, it's going to take the same kind of truth for us that it took people in every age. Don't believe these fellows that say there are new ideas and new ways. Let us mind the same thing). 17 *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them*

which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (Who are these enemies? Let's get them pointed out. May God help us.) 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

I'm afraid we've got some enemies. *19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation (our citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

Belly Gods

You may disagree with me (I would say that it's your privilege but it's not. You can't be saints of God and have that kind of a privilege. I haven't told you anything that isn't Bible truth.) We are in a day (everybody is not guilty but it won't hurt us if we're not to hear about it) of belly gods. Joshua talks about worshipping the gods that were before the flood. What kind of gods were there? One of them was the belly god. You don't believe it. "They were eating and drinking..." Again, if you're not guilty it won't hurt us. Belly gods are worshipped at least four times a day. Instead of eating to live, people are living to eat. We are in a world today where restaurants have to stay open 24 hours a day. You know as well as I do, when I was growing up, after restaurants fed the evening meal, they closed up until breakfast. There is so much more eating done now between 1 and 4 o'clock in the morning that they had to put on an extra crew. We are eating right around the clock. Eating four times a day and taking pills so we won't get fat. Don't tell me we're not in a mess and confused. Don't tell me the spirit of the age isn't getting a hold [on us]. All the doctor would have to do is open up an office and say, "I've got a means of reducing people where you can eat all you want as often as you want. It will cost \$500 and I guarantee you'll lose weight while you're eating." He would become a millionaire in a week's time. "We don't want to be fat and sloppy but if we have to give up eating to get that way we ain't doing it." You may think, "That's the strangest Revelation preaching I've ever heard." I think it is

myself, I'll admit; but, brother, there are more gods than are up on the [Revelation] chart. I ask you to go back and study what the gods were before the flood. He named extra ones: the gods of the Amorites and the people they were among. He also named out those gods that were before the flood: the god of self. Let's go a little father. I'll try to make it as painless as I can.

Jesus shows us the spirit of this age in Luke 12 when He told us about the rich man that made greater barns. All we can see is some man that had so many fields and so much crop coming in he couldn't hold it. So he tore down his old barns to build greater. Jesus was trying to get a spiritual lesson to his disciples. He told about the condition that the world is in, even the religious world, building greater barns. When He got down to His disciples, He said, "Gird up your loins." While the world is letting their belt out you take yours up. I'm not talking about eating right now, but spiritual things. While some people are taking in more of the world, building greater barns, you gird your loins up. Live closer and take less of the world. Just look out and see the picture of a people who claim to be God's people, even those under His name; they are building greater barns and taking in more and more and more of the world. The true people of God are girding up their loins. They want less of it. One kind of the spirit or the other has got a hold of us.

~~*~*~*

By Fasting

This is a subject that I have talked about many times, put it in part of a message and tried to instruct on it once in a while. I hate to confess that I've never preached a message on it but once. I've never heard anyone else preach on it with all the traveling I ever did. I never read about anyone preaching on it but one man. Yet I believe it's Bible and it's the answer to many of our problems in the day and age in which we are living. I'm glad that I can say that I practiced it lots of times but I feel I didn't practice it in a systematic way until God showed me. This world that is waxing worse and worse and sin is abounding with all its affliction, heartache, and misery. The result of sin is opposing itself on mankind. The

powers of unbelief are making it harder and harder to work the works of God. Everyone that loves God and His truth agrees that we need a greater way in which we can humble ourselves before God and find His pleasure. I thank God that He has made a way through His word where we can quickly add fervency and depth to our prayer and faith. How? By fasting.

Now you may disagree, and I'll let you for a while, that fasting is a doctrine of the New Testament. Then I believe it ought to be preached and people need instructed in it as much as repentance and other doctrines of the New Testament. We have gone along and kind of left it in the people's lap. I've learned from being a pastor, that the things you leave in the people's lap, it stays there. In fact, that is what He called the ministry for: to preach the doctrine and give understanding. You may say, "Well we have understanding about fasting." I believe you do, but I want you to help me try to teach someone who doesn't know. God has given us a way whereby we can quickly add fervency to our prayers and bring faith to it.

Matthew 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation (I want you to realize that we are living in the same kind of day: Not only faithless but perverse. The thing has got right in among us. Paul warned us in Acts 20:28 when he told the elders there at Ephesus to take heed to the flock which the Holy Ghost made them overseers to feed the church of God which he purchased with His own blood. He said, "I know after my departure grievous wolves shall enter in not sparing the flock and men of your own selves will rise up speaking perverse things." What are perverse things? Things that are contrary to sound doctrine and truth. We are dealing with a faithless and perverse generation.), how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this

mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

I heard a preacher get up and testify among the brethren how he went to the hospital and had surgery. He said that there was a day he wouldn't have done it for anything because God healed his body and his trust was in Him. He said that he just didn't have the faith anymore. He said he didn't think God would hold it against him. Let's quit petting our unbelief and making room for it! We'll never get any help for it as long as we are willing to sit in it. God has ordained a way in this teaching here, whereby we can add fervency to our prayer and drive away unbelief. He said, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Turn over to Mark and read the same thing; I want you to understand 'this kind'.

The first thing He tells us is that it will drive away unbelief. The second thing is that there are certain kinds of conditions that go out no other way but by fasting and prayer. You can pray all you want and anoint all you want. We have those kinds around. You'll see Matthew and Mark speak of the same condition. Mark brings it out a little clearer and he lets us know what kind can't go out without prayer and fasting. In Mark 9:25 he tells how Jesus charges him. He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. If you backup and read the same fellow got down and wallowed and had no control over his body (As far as I am concerned, it's a living example of epilepsy before us). He not only had that but he had a dumb spirit (he couldn't speak) and he had a deaf spirit (he couldn't hear). It was a spirit, an actual inflicting spirit. There was a spirit of infirmity in there that was blocking his hearing and his speech. It was throwing his body around so that he couldn't keep himself out of the fire. He had no control over himself. The devil had vexed him and taken hold of him so that when he wanted to walk around a fire he would end up in it. When he wanted to miss the water hole he would get in the middle of it. He had lost complete control over himself to a spirit of infirmity. Jesus said this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Situations to Glorify God

I feel there are people today who are just as much bound with the spirit of this age as that young man was. He just couldn't control himself. I run into people, who when I begin preaching about the belly god, they get all excited. I just ask them to put him to the test. Somebody may say, "The flesh doesn't bother me. I can handle my humanity." You can? Just make a little vow and tell the ol' boy that you're not taking him to the table until tomorrow this time. I'll show you how big your belly is. He'll growl. Don't you think he won't. He'll make your head thick. There are just too many people walking around thinking they have everything subdued. All you need to do it put a little test to see.

I do not preach this to make people feel bad but this is where we are. We've got some of these conditions. Everyone of them is an opportunity but there is a condition to meet. I fasted lots of times, especially for messages and different sicknesses that people had but I never did it systematically. I never saw it as a doctrine. I never saw the richness of it. Sometime back God began to show me that there was a way that I could make this a part of my life, my weekly living; and through that I would be lifted to victory.

We are all faced with situations that need to be moved. Jesus gives us the secret but I wonder if we overlook how we can move some of these things. By these mountains being moved, God is going to be glorified. Peter healed one sick person and the whole town (Acts 9) gave themselves to the Lord.

Systematic Tithing

Some may disagree with me on this thought (and that's your privilege if you can't see it clear in God's word. I'm not trying to cram anything down anyone's throat) but I still believe that Bible tithing, done in the right way, brings a blessing. I know there are good brethren who say it went out with the law and I don't misuse them and I don't want them to misuse me. I never did teach tithing in a legalistic way because it wasn't given in a legalistic way. It grew out of the heart of a man in appreciation to God. It came right through the Law and right on over. I'm not preaching on it but there is a blessing in it. The word of God said, "I'll pour you out a blessing that your soul can't contain."

I know I'm confronted with people who say there is nothing to it and that it's just in my head. But I just grin. I don't care what they feel as long as I'm getting the blessing. I know what I'm getting. That would be like me, if I were on the old age pension and you come around and bark, "You can't get it" but every month I go out to the mailbox, get it and spend it. You just keep barking. I'm getting the blessing. I don't fall for what man says might work; I fall for what I know works. I could have person after person testify that line up with God. They didn't have a house, furniture, or anything but they did square business with God. Some may say, "Everything I own belongs to God." That's good; that's full consecration. God still has a system. You don't need to preach to me that the church of God is as complete as she is and then have no system of finance. You don't need to tell me that God just threw it into the laps of men to just give what you feel a bit more than He lets you do what you feel about some other lines. He tells you what to do. Tithing is a beginning place. You bring your tithe in, then over and above that you can be just as free in the Lord as you want with your free will offering.

Just as there is a blessing given in the thought of Bible tithing, there is a blessing given in Bible fasting. Those blessings cannot be derived in any other way. I am fearful that we are looking for some things to happen that can't happen until we meet some conditions.

Bible Fasting

In Isaiah 58, the chapter is given almost entirely to fasting. *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. (Unless we can get a hold of something whereby we can convict the saints, we are never going to convict sinners.) 2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. 3 Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. 4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. 5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush,*

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? 6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? 7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? 8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.

In the third and fourth verse, He deals with hypocritical fasting. That's no good. On down in the sixth and seventh verse, He shows us the fast that God has chosen. He never changed His mind. In scriptures eight through twelve He gives us the many promises to Bible fasting. Glean your eyes over some of them.

Reasons for Unsuccessful Fasting

First, when we begin to think about fasting, if we are going to reap the harvest God has promised, there must be the right motive in our fasting. That was the thing that God was dealing with here in the hypocritical fast. They didn't have the right motive. How do we know? Verse 3 the people said, *"Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Why? The motive wasn't right. Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.*

Go back to Leviticus 16:29 when God first proclaimed a fast among Israel. He told them to afflict their souls and to fast and nobody was to work. Don't get excited. I'm not going to ask you to lay off a day's work but let's study Bible facts. Nobody was to work. "Afflict your soul and pray." So there went Israel, they were fasting and they said, "After we fasted it didn't do any good. You didn't take knowledge." God said, "Here is why I didn't take knowledge." You found pleasure in the day you fasted. You laid off work and said this is the Lord's day. I can't work today so let's go over to the zoo. You found pleasure. You couldn't work so you took advantage of the fact that you couldn't work and decided to go on a pleasure trip. Even though you prayed, God didn't answer and you wonder what good it did you to fast. You didn't have the right attitude and the right motive.

You not only find pleasure in the day you fast but you exact all your labors. You masters that are running the farm take the day off but you're very careful the night before to get all the servants lined up and say, "Now you do this. And be sure you get this work done." In other words, they were taking advantage of God and thought they were getting by with it. "I can't work today so I'll give plenty to the servants to do so they can keep this thing rolling. I've got to take a day off. We'll go on a pleasure trip but we'll keep the work going." God said this was the reason He didn't hear. Right down in the heart, they were trying to cut corners on God. You can't do it, friend. The motive has to be right.

The other reason He didn't hear them was (verse 4) *4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.* The other reason they fasted was so they could tell everybody. If you fast and then toot your trumpet, you're not going to get anything. You just fast to lift your voice on high. Let me tell you, there is old pride in the heart of many people who claim to be saints. They are proud they are not like other people. They fast and do something for God and are just as proud as they can be. God said the reason He didn't take any thought of them was because they did it to lift their voice on high.

You may say that's Old Testament so let's go over to the New. Matthew 6:16 *16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.* This is the reason God won't give them anything: they just did it for men. That's why a lot of preachers don't get any reward from God. They just preach for the people. The people pat them on the back, hug them and say, "Wonderful message! Wonderful message! Wonderful message!" Then they go out, begin to pray and seek God's face and they don't get a bit of blessing for their efforts. Why? They got it all before they left the tabernacle. They were preaching for the applause of the people and they got it. If you preach for the glory of God you can get that too. *17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.* Back then the Pharisees, Sadducees, and hypocrites put ashes on themselves. They had sackcloth and ashes with their

hair over their eyes. The Pharisees didn't want to spend it in vain so after they had fasted a day before God they came right out in public with the ashes all over them, their hair all messed up, so everybody would say, "Look, he's been fasting. Isn't that wonderful?" Jesus said before you come out, wash the ashes off your face. Put some hair oil on your hair. Anoint your head. Wash your face, comb your hair (It's a good thing to preach once in awhile to some people who haven't even fasted. They come to church without washing their face and combing their hair. Some of you could spruce up a little. God said so. Some people are so afraid of carnal pride that they are down right slouchy. It wouldn't hurt them to take a bath. People could sit beside them easier.). Then no one will have any idea that you have been fasting. God said if nobody else finds it out, then I'll reward you. This fast is an individual thing between you and God. Nobody else knows anything about it in that sense.

Right Motive

What is the right motive for fasting? Isaiah 58:6-7 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? 7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry---* Yeah, don't go without eating today so you can say to the wife, "That's \$6 we can put in the bank." No, if you save \$6 eating today, give it to someone who is poor. "Uh, I didn't see that in there before." It's in there. ---- *and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?* Isn't that 100% opposite of the way people fast today? A God chosen fast is for other people and their needs. Then, last of all, don't forget your own flesh and blood.

When do people fast today? The world can die without God and in too many cases a brother right in the congregation can be dying but you can't get the saints to fast. When do they fast? When catastrophe comes to their house. "My daughter has almost been killed. Brother Wilson, I'm fasting. Will you fast with me?" God won't hear you if you've been passing up other people's needs. We can't get pressed to place of fasting until it's for our own needs or our own little circle. God said He would not hear you; you can starve yourself to death. Old selfishness!

Isaiah 58:6 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness---Here is the motive and reason to fast.--to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?---*A lot of saints have never learned that lesson. The Bible tells you, and it's doctrine, when you are going to fix a feast, don't call your relatives, friends, or close members in the church. Call the poor and needy who you are dead sure can't invite you back over to their house. It's Bible. Saints are going along and wondering why they don't have any victory. Let's get down where the trouble is. They hit the altar, and try to do this and that. We are saved to give ourselves for the world. We are the body of Christ. Jesus didn't have anywhere to lay His head but He had blessings for every man that came around. Saints can have big feasts time and time again. They have their own little click: same ones. I get so sick of it I pray God to put some spiritual dynamite in it and blow the table up sometime. Why? It seems the preaching won't awaken them so maybe it will take something else. There isn't a bit of good done. All they do is make their bellies bigger. Then after dinner, the women get together and gossip and run people down. Then afterwards, half of them have to hit the altar and beg God and somebody else for forgiveness. Why did you get in trouble? You disobeyed God. There is nothing wrong with a family reunion but when your fixing a feast for someone and really want to give out something, Jesus said call that poor man that you know can't pay or invite you back. Tell them you fixed a feast today and you want them to come. Then while he is eating and enjoying himself, tears of joy will flow down his cheeks as he thanks God for people like you. Pretty soon he'll notice that you didn't sit down and eat. You'll say, "Brother, I don't want anything today. I'm just so filled, I can't eat."

If we see more conditions like this we will see a city set on a hill which cannot be hid. The world is sick of religious doctrine, preachers and church services. There is not a person in the world who can't recognize that there is some God in you when you begin living like the Bible says you should live. I've seen it happen time and time again. There is a little boy who lives up on the hill. They have had trouble with him. He is adopted and has been tossed around. I don't

He speak against his parents but there is not a real love. He was down to the house and I had some old car radio parts. He has an old car and he said, "Reverend Wilson, I'd like to buy some of those old radios. I'll give you a dollar for that good one." I said, "Well, son, I'd just let you take them all." "No, I want to give you a dollar." I said, "If you're going to give me a dollar then take all three of them." He said, "Man, there isn't anyone who would do that over to our church. They're hypocrites. They don't give you nothin'. They are just trying to get everything you've got." See, even that kid knows. You're not fooling the people. Let's not fool ourselves. There is a light that can shine that the powers of the darkness of this world can't dim if its the real light. What is the real light? John 1:4 says, *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* The life of Christ is the light.

It's God's chosen fast. What are we fasting for? Everybody else and their burdens. Then he said don't forget your own flesh. Wouldn't that be something, to be so sold out to others that we forget all about our need that God would have to remind us? Are we like that, saints? Do we get so wrapped up praying for others that God has to speak from Heaven and say, "Don't quit praying yet; you haven't even prayed for yourself or family."? I'm telling you why God isn't hearing in a greater way. Here are the prayers: "Lord bless me, my wife, my son John and his wife." Amen. I've learned something from experience. If you want God to help you, help others. You can do less sitting around and pleading for God to help you. If you really want your prayer answered, jump up and start working for others. Just give yourself. I've seen people so burdened for their children to get saved that they said they couldn't hardly live--- praying, fasting. I said, "Look. Maybe you're too selfish. Forget about your children now and start praying for somebody else's children. I mean really mean it!" They started laboring for somebody else to get saved and in walked theirs and got saved. The motive has got to be right.

Let's face the fact that we are driven to fasting today. It doesn't come from self-denial, privilege or doctrine. We are driven to it! The very fact that we are driven to it is wrong. So we have to have the right motive. What is the right motive? Read Isaiah 58:6-7 again.

Systematic

The next thing the Bible would have us believe, for it to be a great blessing, is that it has to be systematic. Somebody may say, “Brother Wilson, that’s taking a big leap.” Well, God help us to take it. Let’s look at Luke 18:10. We read about this Pharisee and we ridicule him. I wonder sometimes if we say, “I’m glad I’m not like him.” That’s the same spirit he had. The scripture says, *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Now the real lesson of the thing is this: Jesus was not speaking against the fact that the man fasted twice in a week. There is nothing wrong with that. He never said a thing against the fact that the man had paid tithes of all that he had. He never said a thing against that. How do you know? He told us what He had against him. He had the wrong motive: he exalted himself. The thing he did was alright. So let’s not throw everything he did overboard. It was the way he did it!

In Matthew 9:14-15 *Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast? 15 And Jesus said to them, Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. Or will they? “My disciples can’t fast now while the Bridegroom is with them. But the day is coming when the Bridegroom is going away. Then they will fast often just like John’s disciples.” Or will they? His disciples will. He said so.*

Role in the Morning Church

Fasting played an important part in the morning time church. Second Corinthians 6: 4-5 we see it was an important part in the approval of a minister: *But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in*

watchings, in fastings. Paul said he proved himself to be a minister of God. One of the ways he proved it was by fasting. In another place he said *in fastings often.*

In Acts 13 it played an important part in selecting the right man for the right field of labor. Here is where we have a lot of confusion today. We don't take these things serious enough. You know you have to take something pretty serious before you fast over it. We are messed up today because we have the wrong men in the wrong fields. Not in every case but in too many cases. Acts 13:2-3 *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.* There wasn't any confusion. The whole bunch was fasting and praying and the Holy Ghost spoke to them. They were saying "Do you want us to send Brother Peter or Brother Kain? Or should we send Brother Wilson or Brother Myers?" After they fasted and prayed for a while, the Holy Ghost spoke, "Send Barnabas and Paul." There wasn't any confusion whatsoever. It wouldn't have done any good for anyone else to go; God had called Barnabas and Saul. The ministry didn't know who had been called. So they all fasted and prayed. "God we don't want to send one You haven't called." The Holy Ghost spoke from Heaven, "I've already called Barnabas and Paul, so be sure and send them. If you send anyone else it won't do any good."

Let's face some facts. I speak with kindness: there are too many mistakes today. The Holy Ghost isn't making these mistakes. Somebody goes preaching somewhere for a month, six weeks or two or three years. Then they say God called them over here, over here and over here. The Holy Ghost is not making any mistakes like that. We have got so far from the pattern that preachers are going now and 'trying out'. That's a million miles from fasting until God separates you. The preacher runs here preaching but doesn't say anything about God being finished with them. "My kids don't want to live in this town anymore. So the best thing I can do is keep my family together." "It's getting on my wife's nerves so I guess I better leave." This, that and the other. We are going to be in one mass of confusion if we don't get settled down and get the mind of God on some of these things. I know just how some pastors have felt that moved out. I've felt like moving out a hundred times. Some may say, "You shouldn't feel that way." Well,

you've never been a pastor. I know because you wouldn't have said that. I'm human. Sometimes you feel the best thing to do is just move out but you can't move until God gives you some moving orders. God has to teach me over and over that people are the same everywhere. It doesn't make any difference where you go, the same devil is going to be there and there will be people like there are here. Let's get the vials poured out of this earthly part, settle down and see what the Holy Ghost wants. Fasting played a part in the morning church right on through.

Danger of Missing a Spiritual Awakening

We are making mistakes today. I am seriously afraid that if we do not get straightened out on some of this spirit of eating, drinking and living to the flesh that God is going to bring a spiritual awakening; we are going to be so busy eating and drinking that it will all be over before we find out about it. We've got a living example of it in the Bible: Jesus went down through Samaria and they left Him. The scripture says it was the sixth hour. That's 12 o'clock noon. (The Jew's day began at 6 o'clock in the morning and there were 12 hours in a day until 6 o'clock in the evening.) They told Jesus to sit down on the well curb because it was noon, dinner time. They said, "We're going to walk into town and get some groceries. You wait here until we come back." Now I want to show you what a revival took place during the noon hour. Glory! Man, there was a spiritual awakening that saved a whole town. They no more than left, then the woman came up to get a drink. Jesus looked over and said, "I wish you would ask Me, I'd give you a drink and you'd never thirst again." She turned around and said, "Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well? This well is deep and you have nothing to draw with." He said, "Look, sis. The well I'm talking about is deeper than Jacob's and you don't have anything to draw with. But if you'll ask Me, I'll give you a drink." I want you to see the world doesn't have anything to draw with. If they ever get a drink, we'll have to give them a drink. Too many people are wanting them to come and taste, and get a drink themselves. They don't have anything to draw with. Give them a drink. He gave her a drink, the glory hit her soul, and she ran into town---I don't know where the disciples were. They must have become intrigued in the supermarket---up and down the streets saying, "Come out and see a Man Who told me everything I ever did! He saved me! He spoke peace to my

heart!” The Scripture says the whole city came out to Him, got blessed and went on their way rejoicing. A spiritual awakening shook a whole city and about the time it was all over here came the disciples. “Come on, Jesus. We got the groceries.” He said, “I’ve already eaten. I have meat to eat you fellows don’t know anything about.” “Well, let’s see, one, two three, four, five...Everybody is here. Who brought you something?” “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me and finish the work that He has called me to do.” A spiritual awakening happened, a whole city was shook loose for God, and the disciples missed the whole thing---they were too busy getting groceries. Amen.

Legalistic?

You may wonder if I’m trying to press the thought on you that you ought to fast twice in a week. I’m not trying to press anything in any legalistic manner by saying you have to fast twice a week or what days you have to fast. I am telling you that the Bible teaches a systematic way of fasting where it becomes a part of you. Some may say, “Why should it be systematic? I don’t like that word.” You ought to. The things that we do not do systematically, we don’t do. If you’re going to save any money, it’s going to have to be in a systematic way. When you just do it when you feel like it, the dollars never get in the bank. Come on. I wouldn’t press the thought of fasting twice in a week but it is a shame and disgrace when some may have to own it before God that they haven’t fasted twice in a week, a month or, no doubt their are some people who haven’t once in the last year. That’s why it is necessary to be systematic.

Let’s come up to our day. I found an inscription from part of one message from the only man I could find who preached on tithing. John Wesley preached this message in Ireland. His title for the message was “The Cause of Inecstasy or No Results in Christianity”. I quote(so don’t say I’m saying this), “It would be easy to show in how many respects the Methodists are deplorably wanting in their practice of Christian self-denial. While we were at the university of Oxford the rule was fasting every Wednesday and Friday in the year. We chose this as an

imitation of the primitive [morning time] church.” Another ancient writer said this practice existed so much among the primitive church that they just felt that the whole world fasted the fourth and sixth days of the week it was so well established. Here is the reason the Pharisee came along. Where did he get that ‘twice a week’? It carried right on up through. Don’t get silent on me; I didn’t tell you that you have to fast on Wednesday and Friday. I’m telling you it needs to be systematic.

I merely brought John Wesley up for the this reason: He set nations on fire. The secret of his preaching was not the fact that God poured something out on him all the time. He paid the price for the glory that he had. Not only him. Read what you can find about Brother Warner and others that were used greatly. They had a systematic way of fasting and spending time [with God]. In Wesley’s quote, he said on Wednesdays and Fridays all of his ministry he never touched food or drink until after 3 o’clock. Why after 3 o’clock? It was Bible. It was the practice of the morning church. The tenth chapter of Acts said Cornelius fasted until the ninth hour. “I was praying and fasting till the ninth hour”. When was the ninth hour? It was 3 o’clock in the afternoon. Why 3 o’clock? Act 3:1 Peter and John went up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the hour of prayer being the ninth hour. Why the ninth hour? That was the time of the Old Testament sacrifice, the evening sacrifice. Those brethren followed the primitive church and they had primitive church glory. It’s going to have to be systematic.

I found that it pays; that’s why I’m telling you. I’ve had more people in the congregation come to me with tears in their eyes and thank God for the message preached on systematic fasting. People who were having trouble getting victory said, “Brother Wilson, God showed us while you were preaching: here is where we fell short.” Some sicknesses that have been stubborn cases are already better. Systematic, staying right before God...may God help us to see it.

I wouldn’t take time to widen out on it but look at the Catholics. In his darkness and departing from the faith, he still got a slight shadow of an old primitive teaching of the church back there in teaching his people to deprive themselves of meat on Fridays. Instead of staying away from food and fasting, they got away from the faith but still have a glimpse of the teaching from way back

of the morning church. I know what some of you have already fixed it in your mind that it is just a supposition. Call it what you may but if it will produce good, I want it. It's very easy to say it's a supposition (no truth). If it's a supposition, then we need some suppositions.

Voluntary Vs. God Inspired Fast

I want to repeat, do not say I am telling you that you ought to fast on certain days. I'm saying you ought to set it systematically in your life. Whatever you do, don't criticize it until you try it. I've run into people who say, "If God wants me to do it, He'll put it on me." There are two kinds of fasting in the Bible. One is voluntary where you deny yourself. You voluntarily take on the burdens of others and get sincere under them.

I've shown you that we are in an earthen house and the spirit of the age is to put all the time in on this house. We realize that the need is for the inner man to get under real travail. Now, as long as the wheels of this machinery of the outer house is working, your time and thinking are going in there and the soul does not get to progress as it ought. So here is what you do in a fast: You just serve notice. This machinery can't run if you don't put something in the belly. I'm not saying your brain will quit working or that your eyes will quit seeing. I'm talking about the machinery that puts the food out into the bloodstream and through your body. There is a working that goes on when you feed it, just like when you feed a furnace. So you just serve notice on the ol' boy and say, "Look, Brother, I'm not putting anything in today. Just shut the factory down." I told you what would happen. He'll begin growling. Just let him growl.

There is a fast that comes on that God puts on you. The difference between the two is when God puts a fast on you, you won't even get hungry. When you voluntarily fast, you'll hunger but you deny, deny, deny to prove your sincerity and that you are really burdened. You want to undo the burdens of the oppressed. You want to see the powers of wickedness broken.

I know what it is to have both kinds. I've have burdens hit me. I didn't have to worry about denying food---I couldn't eat. A certain man's wife called me one time to tell me that he had a cancerous tumor on the brain and his mind was

affected. I had been to see him. She wept on the phone. My wife had dinner ready and some of the family had already sat down. She had Swiss steak----I wouldn't trade all the chickens in the world for a beef cow--- but anyway everything was fixed. This man's wife said, "Brother Wilson, he is going to die if we don't get help. He is losing his mind. He has to have help." When she spoke, there is something that came down over me like sickness. When I went to the kitchen going to the phone, that aroma stirred me way down inside and I had myself all fixed. When she spoke those words there came a sickness down over me that I couldn't even eat if you had put it on a golden plate. I lost all appetite. I didn't have any appetite until the next day when I felt I had prayed through. She called back and said, "God has moved. He is normal." My appetite came back to me that quick. That's when God puts one on you. The one I'm preaching about now is a voluntary fast that you take on and deny food to prove your sincerity before God, to reach and uplift burdens.

Results of Fasting

In Isaiah 58, He tells you what kind of fast to take. Then in verse 8 He says, *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning*, (Thank God! We are having trouble getting the light out. Would you like it to break forth like it did in the morning where it overshadows the dragonistic powers? the powers of atheism? and casts the dragon down, even Communism? Where it reaches the souls of honest hearts? Here are some of the results of the Bible doctrine of fasting.) *and thine health shall spring forth speedily* (Thank God! It will work on soul and body.): *and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.* 9 *Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.* When? When you take the fast that God has chosen. Do it in the right attitude: reaching to help others. He said He will answer you. He'll say, "Here I am. You don't have to seek and search, hunt and plea. I'm right here."

Poor ol' Daniel went to praying, fasting, and chastening himself. The poor fellow would have starved himself to death. He was holding right on for weeks. God looked down and said, "That poor man is under such a burden that he is going to fast himself to death." He sent an angel out of Heaven who went down and said, "Daniel, don't do this. Go ahead and eat. God said He heard you the

first day you began to chasten yourself.” When did He hear him? The first day he began to chasten himself.

Isaiah 58:10 *And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity* (Oh, see that scripture, Church. How the church of God needs to rise in the midst of obscurity!), *and thy darkness be as the noon day: 11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.* A watered garden? It takes special care, it's not way down in the field. It's right at your back yard. You watch it closely. You'll be like a watered garden. God will give you special care, Church.

12 *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places* (We've got too many waste places among us.): *thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach* (Praise God! Everything we want to see happen is listed right here. And God said He would do everyone of them if we'll choose the fast that He has chosen. Oh, how the breach needs to be repaired. You're not going to do it preaching. That's part of it but you're not going to do it completely. You'll be called a repairer of the breach when you get under a burden, fast and travail before God.), *The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

People say that if God wants us to have these fasts, He will proclaim it. He will. The only way He ever did proclaim a fast for His people was through His leaders. That's what we're doing. Joel 1: 14-15 *Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord, 15 Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.* This is the reason they called a fast. Go to the second chapter and the fifteenth verse. **15** *Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.* (We could turn over to 1 Corinthians 7. Paul tells us to live close to our wives, preachers and laity alike. He said to never separate yourself from them except for prayer and fasting. Then come back together again, lest you be tempted. That's Bible.)

The Spirit of the Age

Proclaim a fast. Cry out. Why? They called the fast back there because they saw terrible impending conditions. Don't tell me that there isn't power in it. Do you know what the spirit of this age is? "The thing is too far gone. There is nothing we can do." That's the spirit of this age. Communism has you so brainwashed, telling you how many years until they take over, that you believe them. And because of that, there isn't any need to do anything. One preacher said he sees where the world won't take the Gospel and he is just preaching to save himself. You can't preach to save yourself without saving somebody else.

I'm talking about the spirit of the age. "It's too late for revival. There is no chance of revival." I want to show you what a liar the devil is. God had already spoken judgement on Nineveh. She had ten days over a month and God was going to wipe her out. We as America have more than a month [*in 1966*]. I'm sure by prophecy. I do not know the day or the hour that the Son of Man cometh but I believe we have more than forty days.

With only forty days, it wasn't too late for a revival. God had an awful time getting Jonah over there. When He finally got him over there, he went to preaching, not messages like you've heard here, but "just forty days". Somebody went into the king and said there is a crazy looking fellow over on the west side of town. He is hollering that Nineveh is going to be destroyed in forty days. To their surprise, instead of the king laughing, he began shaking and said, "This thing is of the Lord. I see the handwriting." He proclaimed a fast for man and beast. God, Who gave Nineveh forty days, gave her 120 years.

If a wicked king can see the handwriting and impending danger to the place that he would proclaim a fast, it is time for the church of God to see judgement hanging over. It's time for the leaders to proclaim a solemn fast among the people---peradventure God will change his mind and have mercy on the lost and dying world out here.

I believe, and you may not agree with me, that this is one reason God didn't put a definite time to destroy the world. Why? If He put a definite time it wouldn't do us any good to pray. How long the world has to get right is resting on

our shoulders. How hard we will plead with God and how much effort we'll put forth to awaken and reach the world has everything to do with how long. Some disagree with that, but He prolonged when He had already set a time. He prolonged it because a people got down to business before God. May God help us.

Judgement is hanging over our heads. Can we see the handwriting of God? Have we been caught in the spirit of the age? Have we been saying our prayers instead of praying?

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

The following text is a transcription of the altar call from the camp meeting service in which this message was preached. It has been transcribed with minor alterations with an attempt to maintain the burden of the speaker.

Somebody may say, "You're letting that thing have too much of a hold on you." Well, it's got so much of a hold that I am going to proclaim a fast. No individual is duty bound to take part of it but I've already told the cooks that tomorrow at noon the dining hall will be shut down. If there are sick people or sinners on the grounds that do not want to partake in the fast, the lunch stand will be open but the dining hall will be shut. Somebody may say, "You shouldn't rise up and say it." I've got to. I'm responsible to proclaim a fast.

Let the ministers weep around the altar. Let there be a deeper concern come over the hearts of the people. Let's quit telling God we are concerned. Let's show Him we are concerned. Let the cooks and dishwashers come out of the kitchen. Get at the altar. Look up to God in Heaven. He is waiting for His people. He is waiting for His people! He said, "If you choose My fast, the very day you cry, you'll hear Me say, "Here I am." I'll show you how to repair the breach that has got among the people." Groupism, my God, what a breach! "I'll make you a repairer of the breach."

How many believe that there ought to be a systematic way of fasting? Let's own it. Get down right where you are. Say, "God, we not only want to hear Your word but we want to be doers of it." Lord, we've always loved You but we want to love You in a greater way. Lord, we've tried to carry a burden but we want to carry a burden in a greater way. We want to be able to undo the burden. My God, how You are looking for a people that will really get under a burden. You already said what You would do and we believe it. We believe just what you did for Nineveh, You'll do for this world. My God! Take the covenant that comes from the lips of your people. Honor it, we pray. Help everyone to become more systematic and make this thing a part of their lives until they prove defindently self-denial; Not just of meat but of food and drink to prove our sincerity to You. I believe this is a turning point. I definitely believe we are going to see things happen because Your people are moving. My God, when a people will move for You, they will go forward with banners flying. My God, solemnize each heart. Oh, help us to see how and where we live. Help us to know how to live everyday that we may keep our bodies under, as

Paul said, lest after we have preached the Gospel to others we can end up being a castaway. My God, move on every heart! See real humility. Answer the cry and prayer of every heart. Let the thing be impressed upon the heart. May we take hold of it in the right way. In Jesus name we pray. Thank You for Your word! Thank You for Your Spirit! Let the pillar of cloud and fire rest over the old tabernacle. Let your glory be in midst. Let the temple be filled with smoke until the priests can't minister. We believe You will take over in such a way that the preacher will never reach the pulpit and God's people will be saved and healed. In Jesus name...