ISAIAH 58
FAST
LIFT THE BURDENS. BREAK THE BONDAGE.
May 30 - June 19

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & ACTION
FIELD GUIDE

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Thank you for participating in the Isaiah 58 fast. A term that you will hear on this journey together is: Manumission. This term means “to let the slave go free.” It was widely known and used in the antebellum era of human history but has been lost in the vocabulary of our generation. Freed persons who were enslaved were given “manumission papers” as a legal document which certified that they could no longer be bought and sold. Colonies of white abolitionists who held conviction about the abominable nature of slavery, formed secret organizations. They risked their lives and invested their livelihoods in what would become known as “manumission societies.” Some of these would become integral stops along the underground railroad.

God is still innovating this railroad and your home, church, business, community, or city can be a stop along the new transit system to freedom. Though chattel slavery is over, the people groups of the earth are still enslaved to the bondage of sins which perpetuate generational unrighteousness and acts of injustice. The Father, through His Son Jesus, is challenging the whole household of faith to move out of slavery into sonship. Through this fast, we can step together toward living in our holy identity and receiving our shared inheritance.

Micah 6:8 is a most simple yet incredibly difficult instruction for the 21st century church: DO JUSTLY. WALK HUMBLY. LOVE MERCY. Thankfully, God has given us a clear roadmap for how to live this in a practical way. Fasting transforms us and positions us to be empowered with strength to walk in alignment with God’s will. The Isaiah 58 fast, will empower us to a Micah 6:8 lifestyle.
Civil Righteousness, Inc. is a movement organized as a 501(c)3 charitable organization pursuing reconciliation and restorative justice through spiritual, cultural, and economic renewal. We envision the restoration of all persons, places, and things while pursuing wholeness and moral excellence according to the biblical pattern.

We are accomplishing this work by Engaging Injustice, Building Bridges, Mobilizing Allies, and Restoring Communities.

Inequity demands a Civil Rights movement, but iniquity demands a Civil Righteousness movement. From the mid 1950’s through the late 1960’s, dozens of organizations and coalitions pursued justice for Negro Americans within diverse societal sectors. Their collective actions comprised what is historically known as the Black Civil Rights movement and it defined an era. Today, new organizations and coalitions are emerging with an emphasis on pursuing righteousness with justice utilizing Biblical principles.

We believe that the collective efforts of these autonomous groups represent the emergence of a multi-ethnic Civil Righteousness movement which may define a new era of cultural transformation, led once again by the Christian Church.
» The Ministry of Reconciliation is our stewardship.

» Peacemaking is an expression of our identity. We are called to run toward, not away, from conflict.

» The Table of Brotherhood. We must build it and sit at it.

» Guarded Mouths and Guarded Hearts. Our goal is gaining an Unoffendable Heart.

» Internal Transformation leads to External Reformation.


» Jesus Is Justice. We build our thoughts and actions upon the teachings and life of Christ.

» Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God’s Governance.
A CLOSER LOOK AT ISAIAH 58

1 “Cry aloud, spare not; 
Lift up your voice like a trumpet; 
Tell My people their transgression, 
And the house of Jacob their sins.”

The recurring flashpoint moments in our nation are an invitation for the voice of the Lord to be heard. The generational sins of the nation are being exposed. God has an issue with the “praying church”.

2 “Yet they seek Me daily, 
And delight to know My ways, 
As a nation that did righteousness, 
And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. 
They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; 
They take delight in approaching God.

3 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, 
And exploit all your laborers.”

4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, 
And to strike with the fist of wickedness. 
You will not fast as you do this day, 
To make your voice heard on high.”

The pious acts of the praying church, the gatherings and the groaning for revival are scarcely heard on high when we do not do righteousness. Revival is a people who do not wait for a miraculous sign to love their neighbor; It’s a people who do not fast to gain a revelation that can be weaponized against another human in order to gain a superior posture.

ISAIAH 58 FAST
5 “Is it a fast that I have chosen,
A day for a man to afflict his soul?
Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush,
And to spread out sackcloth and ashes?
Would you call this a fast,
And an acceptable day to the Lord?”

What is your heart’s motivation or purpose for our fasting? Is it for a global awakening? For a global end time harvest? What does that look like to you? When you see stadiums, do you see people? Are you more excited about the miracles and the signs and the wonders than the transformation of people? Or the transformation of the places where people live?

*Isaiah 58:6-* “Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?”

The Isaiah 58 fast is heaven’s prescription for release from the bondage of generational systems of injustice that have been fueled by darkness. There are hard yokes, accompanied by heavy burdens which are from Satan; and easy yokes accompanied by light burdens which are from God. (See Matthew 11:28-30). Many are oppressed by this Satanic burden but the following actions break the bondage.
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

1. SHARE YOUR BREAD: Share what sustains you with those who are in need of being sustained. We often think of this as simply money or food, but this also speaks of spiritual and emotional sustenance. What wisdom, peace, comfort has been given to you that became a source of life when you needed it most?

2. BRING TO YOUR HOUSE THE POOR WHO ARE CAST OUT: Open your door to the person who has been rejected. Make room for them in your life. Can the orphan find family when they find you?

3. WHEN YOU SEE THE NAKED, COVER: You've heard the phrase, “I got your back.” When you see someone’s “nakedness”, maybe their failure, weakness, or even blindspots, do you cover them? Our pursuit of justice cannot be driven by a desire to “expose”, but rather by a merciful desire to “cover”. In a world fueled by vengeance, the distinct motive of our confrontations is not that individuals would be undressed, but rather that they would become clothed in righteousness.

4. DON’T HIDE FROM YOUR OWN FLESH: Have you ever gone out of your way to avoid the homeless person that you see approaching people in the parking lot? Ever hidden from that person that only comes around when they need something? Go to them and treat them as family.
8 “Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.”

5. What can be expected when we do these things?

LIGHT: We will naturally lead with clarity and confidence in times of darkness. We will have direction derived from diligence.

HEALING: the restoration that we all need will spring forth. This language denotes something that begins in the unseen (internally) and is unable to be contained, spilling into the visible (external).

RIGHTeousness: we will display the character of Christ everywhere we go and it will open up a new and living way for us.

GLORY: God himself will be our protection as we walk in the path of righteousness which will often lead us into environments where we may experience fear and uncertainty.

9 “Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ “If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,”

6. These are keys to experiencing the nearness of God. One of the preconditions of answered prayer is consistency between our heart posture and our speech about others. A major Satanic yoke that must be broken and removed from us is the one that compels us to blame, accuse, and speak wickedly of others.
10 “If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”

7. Be willing to be inconvenienced. Sacrifice emotionally, mentally, spiritually and pay the price of doing what it takes to see the afflicted come into “Shalom”. Then God will entrust you with more, replenish, and strengthen you with more.

12 “Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”

8. Become a Builder. In order to build you must become a student of history to understand the foundations and bring stability. Run into the breach to repair it, and utilize the biblical blueprints of restoration.

13 “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, 14 Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
Leader’s Guide

God desires to raise up a wall of righteousness around the nation. Almost every city or small town possesses a place where something tragic and divisive has occurred, or which serves as a dividing line among people in the community. These places and their painful memories influence our ability to live together and love one another across cultural lines. Can you think of any in your area?

As Christians we can put feet to our faith and be agents of righteous redemption in our cities and towns by turning every altar of pain into an altar of prayer, i.e., The Wall. The Wall is holy activism, a unique daily public prayer gathering which is strategically located at an “altar of pain”.

How it works

» Organize a group of likeminded comrades, communicate the ‘Field action’ guidelines
» Meet at an altar of pain.
» Before the event begins, have each person write a word on their tape that signifies their prayer focus, words such as love, justice, equity, healing, equality, unity, etc.
» Have people line up side by side with the white tape over their mouths, silently praying. (Remember to follow social distancing guidelines i.e. 6 feet apart, wear face mask where required by local authorities)
» Because these gatherings are unique and unusual, people will inevitably come up and ask questions. We recommend that you appoint the person on each end of the line to answer the questions. You can also take on that role and also communicate with the media, etc. Remember to use restraint and discernment when addressing divisive topics brought up by the public. You’re there for Jesus and His Kingdom, not any specific political ideology.
» There is no minimum or maximum number of people needed to do The Wall.
» We recommend at least one hour of silent prayer.
» End in group prayer including this: “Jesus, I plead your blood over my sins and the sins of my forefathers. God, tear down wickedness, raise up righteousness, and release healing to America.”
» Take Communion

Supplies Needed:

» White tape (preferably Safety tape but white Duct tape will do.)
» Thick black Sharpies
» Grape Juice, Bread (Communion elements)

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DAY 1: MOURNING

MEDITATION:
War, economic downturns, pandemics, cultural crises. There are moments in human history and in our individual lives where the perplexing crises of life leave individuals, families, and nations with no reasonable response but mourning. As hard as it is, this is a gift from God. There is a tremendous promise on the other side of our tears.

Matthew 5:4 - “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Ecclesiastes 7:2 - “It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.”

ADORATION: The God who Sees

2 Kings 20:5 - “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. I will surely heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the house of the LORD.”

New Living Translation

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”
INTERCESSION:
Father, open Your ear and release divine joy across the land.

Psalm 39:12 - “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. For I am a foreigner dwelling with You, a sojourner like all my fathers.”

Psalm 126: 5-6 - “Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.”

REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for where we have despised and rejected the grace of mourning. We have short circuited your work in our lives by failing to pause and weep. Please cleanse us with the gift of tears.

ACTIVATION:
DAY 2: PEACE

MEDITATION:
When Jesus commanded the storm to stop he said, “Hush, be still!” His words released a “divine presence of God to bind the leader of chaos.” In a moment, the tumultuous, dangerous waters stilled. (Mark 4:35 - 41, Luke 8:22 - 25, Matthew 8:23 - 27). The peace that he brings is not passive. It is powerfully proactive. It brings conflict to what conflicts with His love. We are now invited into the peacemaking ministry of Jesus. Peacemakers release power which destroys the chaos inside an individual, atmosphere, and/or situation.

Matthew 5:9 - “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.”

ADORATION:
You are the PRINCE OF PEACE and You give peace to Your people.

Ephesians 2:14-18 – “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Psalm 29:11 – “The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.” (NIV)

Isaiah 26:3 – “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for failing to access the peace that you give and springing into action without allowing you to calm the storms within us. We turn from being led primarily by our emotions, we repent for embracing leadership that doesn’t reflect your heart, and we long for your peaceful direction.

INTERCESSION:
God, we resist and renounce the dark spirits of confusion/chaos/strife/division in our hearts and in the earth. Give me the mind of Christ and release a supernatural measure of your peace in every place.

Romans 16:19, 20 – “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.”

Philippians 4:8-9-8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

ACTIVATION:
Reach out to someone with whom you have been at odds and find a way to bless them today. Ask if there is any way that you can serve them. If you feel anxious about it, continue to ask God for peace and strength as you step out of your comfort zone and do it anyway.

DAY 2
ISAIAH 58 FAST
MEDITATION:

We are all wounded from the journey of human history. We have scars from the sins of our foremothers and forefathers. There is no people group on the earth that hasn’t suffered from the fall of man which causes us to violate the image of God within humanity. Our hurt can cause us to seek retribution outside of God’s goodness and go our own way. But God is in control of our history, our present, and our future. Nothing we have been through will be lost for nothing in the plan of redemption. Today we respond to the prophet Hosea’s admonition:

Hosea 6:1 - “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.”

ADORATION:

You are the HEALER God.

Exodus 15:26 – “I am the Lord who heals you.”

Psalm 147:3 – “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

Isaiah 53:4-6 – “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for hurting and wounding others with our words and our actions.

INTERCESSION:
Bring healing to the hearts of every people group on the earth. Heal us from the wounding of our past, help us to navigate the present with wisdom and compassion, release hope for the future. Show us the glory and the beauty of our eternal home.

Jeremiah 30:17 – “But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD.”

Revelation 22:1-2 - “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations [ethnic groups].”

ACTIVATION:
Do something creative to express and capture some of your deepest areas of pain. It could be simply handwriting a letter or drawing with a marker, or as complex as crafting a song, a sculpture, or an oil painting.
MEDITATION:
Forgiveness is painfully difficult and contrary to our natural wirings as humans. Yet it is absolutely necessary in order to access the healing that we need from heaven. It is a primary trait of those who have experienced the mercy of God. Through the act of forgiveness, we eschew human nature and embrace Christ-likeness.

ADORATION:
You are the FORGIVING God.

*Micah 7:18 –* “Who is a God like You, Who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy and loving-kindness.” (AMP)

*Psalm 86:5 –* “You are forgiving and good, O Lord; abounding in love to all who call to you.” (NIV)

*Daniel 9:9 –* “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving.” (NIV)

REPENTANCE:
Forgive us, Lord, for where we have failed to extend forgiveness and harbored vengeance in our own hearts. Lord, we have not longed to be merciful.

*Matthew 5:38, 39 –* “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”

*Psalm 68:5 –* “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and You forgave the guilt of my sin.”
INTERCESSION:
Give us the grace to forgive our enemies and those who sin against us. Uproot bitterness across the land and release our cultures from unforgiveness.

Matthew 6:12,14,15 – “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

CONFESSION:

James 5:16 – “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

ACTIVATION:

Who do you need to forgive today?

Make a list and release forgiveness over them in prayer.

Simply say, “Father, in the Name of Jesus I forgive ____ (insert name).”

> If possible, contact them and confess your heart to them. Trust God to release the grace of forgiveness.
MEDITATION:
Because God works all things according to the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose, even the most painful parts of our human history possess great value in His plan. For over 400 years those who were enslaved cried out for freedom. Do you think their faith ever wavered? Of course! But, there was a consistency to their prayer life and a purpose to the delayed response. Eventually, a great day of liberation came and every prayer of faith that had been stored up in the bowls of heaven were poured out on one generation. A quick answer to prayer doesn’t necessarily produce an enduring faith. However, their prolonged trials married with persevering prayer produced an overcoming faith which is our corporate inheritance regardless of ethnicity.

Hebrews 11:1-2 “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”

Hebrews 11:30 - “By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.”

James 5:15-18 – “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”
ADORATION:
You are the God who is ATTENTIVE to my prayers.

2 Chronicles 7:15 – “Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to all the prayers offered in this place.” (NIV)

Psalm 34:15 – “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry…” (NIV)

1 Peter 3:12 – “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer.” (NIV)

REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for doubting that You hear and respond to our prayers.

Psalm 34:6 – “This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”

INTERCESSION:
God, raise up a praying church in this hour that possesses a prevailing faith that continues to believe in the face of adversity.

2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Ephesians 3:20,21 – “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

DAY 5
ISAIAH 58 FAST
MEDITATION:
Through the long and storied history of chattel slavery, people of African-descent tapped into an understanding of supernatural hope beyond what the world could conceive. Today it is easy to give in to despair in the midst of the continual cycles of bad news. Hope is not only a power, it is a place of protection that we can access in God. Scripture is filled with strong language persuading us to persist in it.

2 Corinthians 4:18 - “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

ADORATION:
You are the God of HOPE.

Psalm 38:15 – “For in You, O Lord, do I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.”

Lamentations 3:24 – “The Lord is my portion or share, says my living being; therefore will I hope in Him.”

Romans 15:13 – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for putting our hope in other saviors. Forgive us for seeking temporary solutions for eternal problems.

Deuteronomy 11:16,17 – “Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the LORD’s anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.”

Exodus 20:3 – “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

INTERCESSION:
Bring hope to those who have no hope. Deliver us from our iniquities and give us an eternal perspective. Help us return to the stronghold of hope as a nation.

Psalm 130:7,8 – “O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”

ACTIVATION:
1. Praise God in song and/or dance. Praise is a mighty weapon we can use for combatting hopelessness!

2. Contact someone who you know is incredibly discouraged or heartbroken over the condition of society and the ethnic tensions. Speak words of encouragement and blessing over them today.
DAY 7: LOVE

MEDITATION:
Love is not just an emotion or a good feeling. It is power. It is what must motivate and compel all of our action. Without it, we are simply noise makers and busy bodies.

Matthew 22:36-38 – “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.“

Mark 12:31 - “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

ADORATION:
You are the God who is ZEALOUS.

2 Kings 19:31 – “For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and a band of survivors out of Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.” (AMP)

John 2:17 – “His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’” (NIV)

Isaiah 9:7 – “The zeal of the Lord will perform the promises made.”
REPENTANCE:
Father, forgive us for not loving You in a wholehearted way. Help us to love our neighbors and even our enemies with the zeal in which you love us.

*Revelation 2:4,5 – “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”*

INTERCESSION:
Pour out Your Spirit and revive a love for Jesus in our hearts. Let Your love be made known in the hearts of our enemies.

*Matthew 5:44 - “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”*

*Psalm 119:25 – “Revive me according to your Word.”*

*Psalm 119:40 – “Revive me in Your righteousness.”*

*Psalm 119:149 – “Revive me according to Your justice.”*

*Psalm 143:11 – “Revive me, O Lord, for Your name’s sake!”*

ACTIVATION:
Find another “enemy” to serve today. Who annoys you the most? Spend time with them today!
YOU DID IT!
CONGRATULATIONS!
WEEK 1 IS IN THE BOOKS!
GO TO CIVILRIGHTHEOUSNESS.ORG
AND DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE TO WEEK 2.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS CRITICAL AND
THE DOORWAY OF HISTORY IS
SWINGING ON YOUR OBEDIENCE.
IF THIS HAS IMPACTED YOU OR THOSE
AROUND YOU, PLEASE POST ON SOCIAL
MEDIA AND TAG US.
@CIVILRIGHTHEOUSNESS
#ISAIAH58FAST
#JESUSISJUSTICE
DAY 8: STRENGTH

TIRED may be the word that most adequately captures how many feel in relation to racism in America and the problems of injustice in our world. However, in scripture we find a powerful prescription for our collective exhaustion: Wait upon the Lord. The measure of strength in which we operate is commensurate with how much we trust in the Lord.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

MEDITATION:

Psalm 18:32 – “It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.”

Psalm 28:7 – “The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.”

ADORATION:

You are my STRENGTH.

Nahum 1:7 – “The Lord is good, a Strength and Stronghold in the day of trouble…” (AMP)

Psalm 59:17 – “Unto You, O my Strength, I will sing praises for God is my Defense, my Fortress, and High Tower, the God Who shows me mercy and steadfast love.” (AMP)

Psalm 73:26 – “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the Rock and Strength of my heart and my Portion forever.” (AMP)

Psalm 28:7 – “The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in Him and I am helped, my heart leaps for joy.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for leaning on our own understanding and pursuing change in our own strength.

Proverbs 3:5,6 – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

INTERCESSION:
God, give us supernatural strength to hold fast and stay the course, even as we wait for the fullness of your love to be made known in and through us.

Ephesians 3:16-21 – “…that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
“Who can stand against the Lord? No one can, No one will.” Gospel singer Todd Dulaney presents the question and the answer before belting the chorus, “Victory belongs to Jesus.” It is critical for us to keep our eyes on the finished work of the cross. Consider these words from Jesus, “In this world we will have tribulation, but take courage, for I have overcome the world.”

**MEDITATION:**

1 Samuel 2:1,2 – ““My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. “No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.”

**ADORATION:**

You are the VICTORIOUS God.

1 John 5:4 – “For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.” (AMP)

Zephaniah 3:17 – “The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior He will exult over you with joy. He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.” (NASB)

Habakkuk 3:18 – “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation!” (AMP)

Psalm 45:4 – “In Your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness.” (NIV)

Isaiah 25:8 – “He will swallow up death in victory.”

DAY 9: VICTORY
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for looking to the hand of man for our salvation and deliverance.

Psalm 33:16-19 – “No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

INTERCESSION:
Break through in this hour with a mighty display of your power and might.

Acts 4:29-31 – “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all led with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”
DAY 10: DEFENSE

Search for: *Jesus Be a Fence* by Fred Hammond, listen and look at the lyrics. Songs like this have helped black believers grasp and remember crucial truths about God throughout our storied journey. Truly, He is a fence around us.

**MEDITATION:**

2 Thessalonians 3:3 – “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

**ADORATION:**

You are the PROTECTING God, our Defense.

1 John 5:18 – “We know that anyone born of God does not practice committing sin, but the One Who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him…” (AMP)

Psalm 59:9 – “O my Strength, I will watch and give heed to You and sing praises; for God is my Defense.” (AMP)

Psalm 91:14 – “Because He loves Me, says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him and honor him, for he acknowledges my name.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for operating in fear, suspicion, and doubt. Remove our tendency to self protect.

INTERCESSION:
Break down every self-defense. Remove every dividing wall. Release the glory of divine protection and governance upon our hearts and the cities of America. Manifest the glory of your nearness in the midst of crisis as the Defender and deliverer.

Psalm 64:1 – “Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy.”
Psalm 12:7 – “You, Lord, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked…”
Psalm 32:7 – “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”
DAY 11: INCREASE

Our help and our abundance comes from the Lord. Among communities with low socio-economic status, the ancient prayer of Jabez stirs excitement. When wielded out of context, however, it has caused some misunderstanding about the nature of God. It is right to look to Him as a Father who desires to bless us.

1 Chronicles 4:10 - “Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain! And God granted what he asked.” (NIV quest)

MEDITATION:

Genesis 12:2,3 – “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

ADORATION:

You are the God Who BLESSES me.

Deuteronomy 15:4 – “But there will be no poor among you, for the Lord will surely bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance to possess.” (AMP)

Psalm 29:11 – “The Lord blesses His people with peace.” (NIV)

Romans 10:12 – “The same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for not being thankful for Your blessings or stewarding them well.

Romans 1:21 – “although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Psalm 100:4 – “Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

INTERCESSION:
Bless your people, O God. Enlarge the tent of your dwelling place in historically oppressed communities both domestically and globally. We pray for the nations.

Psalm 28:8,9 – “The LORD is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed. Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, and bear them up forever.”
DAY 12: FATHER

All God ever wanted was a family. This divine longing is present in all of us as His offspring and is satisfied through His Son who unified the families of the earth on the cross. Doing justice is not about a voluntary and friendly thing to do, it’s the family business.

Psalm 68: 5-6 - “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing;”

MEDITATION:
Isaiah 1:17 – “Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.”

ADORATION:
You are the EVERLASTING FATHER.

Ephesians 4:6 – “One God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.” (NIV)

1 Chronicles 29:10 – “David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assemble, saying, ‘Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.’” (NIV)

Isaiah 9:6 – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for rejecting the family business.

*Isaiah 1:2,3 – “Your princes are rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them.”*

INTERCESSION:
Be a Father to the fatherless, bring justice and defend the fatherless.

*Psalm 82:3 – “Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.”

*Hosea 14:3 – “For in You the fatherless finds mercy.”

*Psalm 146:9 – “The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.”*
DAY 13: BUILD

The Tower of Pisa is known for its centuries-old lean. Its foundation was laid on soft, shifting ground, which caused it to lean by the time they added the third floor just a few years later. Various builders continued to add floors over the next two centuries. One even experimented with increasing the size of the opposite side of the floors from the lean to purposely overcompensate and thereby correct the lean, but nothing worked. The building has continued to lean more and more over the years, all because of shifting ground. As we build our lives, on what ground are we laying our foundation?

Matthew 7:24 - 27 - “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

MEDITATION:

Revelation 5:12,13 – ““Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

“Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

ADORATION:

You are the BUILDER, God.

Psalm 127:1 – “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” (NIV)
Hebrews 11:10 – “For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” (NIV)

REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for building our own kingdoms instead of building Your Kingdom.

Matthew 6:9,10 – “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”

INTERCESSION:
Establish Your Kingdom on the Earth.

Isaiah 62:6,7 – “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes, And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

Psalm 102:15-17 – “So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer.”
Another incredible week is in the books! Thank you for your faithfulness. Your involvement is critical and the doorway of history is swinging on your obedience. Please consider sharing a testimony as to how God has encountered you during this fast of prayer and action.

Post on social media and tag us @civirighteousness.
#WeHearYou
#JesusIsJustice
#PeacemakersArise
#Isaiah58Fast
In the midst of the chaos and the confusion of these times, it is critical that we are able to ascend beyond the noise and lay claim to the promises of God. Our own pain and frustration, when combined with the commentary and language of society, can create a toxic mix of confusion that can easily lead to deception. Christ is the center and cornerstone of all truth. The Word of God is not dead. The Gospel is not an archaic set of ancient documents with no relevance or solution for today. This morning, we turn our attention to Christ, the Living Word.

MEDITATION:

1 Chronicles 16:25-27 – “For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; he is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him.

ADORATION:

You are the God whose WORD is true and a lamp to my feet.

John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (NIV)


Psalm 119:105 – “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet.”
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for exalting the opinion of man above the Truth of Your Word.

John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

INTERCESSION:
Father, in all of the noise, we ask that you exalt Your Word and Your Name In This Hour.

Psalm 138:2 – “I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

Philippians 2:9-11 – “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
DAY 15: SHEPHERD

Jesus is the Great Shepherd. He is also the King of the heavens and the earth. Historically in America, it has been incredibly easy to profess faith in Him, despite failing to display the fruits of a surrendered life. This has caused tremendous heartache, frustration, and damage throughout church history. Is it possible that the Shepherd is using the current topics of cultural crisis to distinguish between those who are truly His, and those who have followed a Shepherd fashioned in their own image? We are in a moment of distinction. Read the following and ask: Which side would Jesus put you on?

Matthew 25: 31-46 - “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

ISAIAH 58 FAST
“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

ADORATION:
You are the GOOD SHEPHERD.

Psalm 23:4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Revelation 7:17 – “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (NIV)

Psalm 23:1 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.” (NIV)

John 10:16 – “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (NIV)

John 10:11,14 – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep….I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for going our own way and doing our own thing.

Isaiah 53:6 – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

INTERCESSION:
Establish Your leadership in our hearts.

Psalm 23:1-3 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

ACTIVATION:
Ask the Lord to show you where to go today to do an act of justice. Pray for a divine appointment then go look for it. Put yourself in a position to be used by God!
DAY 16: ANSWER

Why? This is one of the primary questions which can be found in the depths of every single human heart on earth. Life events, circumstances, and situations produce this question and many others over and over again. Global pandemic, blatant injustices, and civil unrest in our day have only served to provoke more questions than answers. God not only appreciates us asking the question, he invites us to call upon Him with the promise that He will respond.

MEDITATION:

Jeremiah 33 - “Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, “Thus says the Lord who made it, the Lord who formed it to establish it (the Lord is His name): ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’”

Psalm 20:1 – “May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;”

ADORATION:

You are the God who Answers Me.

Psalm 59:17 – “Unto You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my Defense, my Fortress, and High Tower, the God who shows me mercy and steadfast love.” (AMP)

Psalm 34: 4-7 I sought the Lord, and He heard me,

And delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for failing to believe that you will respond to us. Help our unbelief.

Psalm 7:10 – “My defense and shield depend on God, who saves the upright in heart.” (AMP)

INTERCESSION:
Let the nation see and know that you are the Lord of breakthrough. Answer and vindicate your people.

Psalm 43:1-3 – “Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! For You are the God of my strength; Why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.””
Near the beginning of this devotional series, we spoke about the faithfulness of God throughout the generations. This is a revelation of God in which our enslaved ancestors deeply understood. This morning we continue to set our hearts on the steadfast hope we find in Jesus.

MEDITATION:

1 Kings 8:56 – “‘Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.’”

ADORATION:

You are the FULFILLING God, who fulfills Your purposes in my life.

1 Kings 8:20 – “And the Lord has fulfilled His promise which He made; You are a father to the widow and the orphan.” (AMP)

Nehemiah 9:8 – “And You have fulfilled Your promise, for You are just and righteous.” (AMP)

Psalm 57:2 – “I cry out to God most high, to God who fulfills His purposes for me.” (NLT)
REPENTANCE:
America has a history of broken covenants and treaties with the Native American tribes. Forgive us for giving up on Your Word and Your Promises, as well as failing to keep ours.

Hebrews 6:15 – “And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”

INTERCESSION:
Father, cause your character to be established in us and in our nation. May our governmental leaders and spiritual leaders possess your promise keeping character.

Numbers 23:13 – “God is not a man, that He should lie…”
2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
Gospel singer Hezekiah Walker recorded a song decades ago with these lyrics:

Trust in the Lord at all times
Pour out your heart before Him
Power belongs to God

God has spoken once
And twice have I heard this
Power belongs to God

Who can search His understanding
His thoughts higher than ours
All power’s in His hands for my life He has a plan

God is our salvation
We find refuge in Him
Power belongs, power belongs to God

MEDITATION:

Psalm 147:5 – “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”

Job 38: 31-37 “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth? “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you? Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, ‘Here we are!’? Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,”
ADORATION:
You are the MIGHTY God.

Job 36:5 – “Behold! God is might, and yet despises no one nor regards anything as trivial; He is mighty in power of understanding and heart.” (AMP)

Deuteronomy 3:24 – “O Lord God, You have only begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand…” (AMP)

Deuteronomy 10:17 – “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, the terrible God, Who is not partial and takes no bribe.” (AMP)

Psalm 24:8 – “Who is this King of Glory, the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” (NIV)

REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for darkening your counsel with human wisdom and forgetting who we are dealing with while standing in the gaps. Power belongs to you.

INTERCESSION:
Demonstrate Your might and Your power.

Psalm 62:11 – “God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.

Psalm 66:3 – “Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.”

Isaiah 59:16-17 - “He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;

And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
DAY 19: MERCY

One of the most powerful stories brought to the silver screen in 2019 is “Just Mercy.” The movie is based on a 2015 autobiographical book by attorney Bryan Stevenson. The book captures his relentless pursuit of justice for death row inmates who have been wrongly convicted, and clemency for those who are guilty. The story is riveting for many reasons, but especially because it captures the heart of God in a way that is contrary to our natural human wirings. In general, humans do not bend toward the pursuit of mercy in the face of guilt. Yet, mercy is one of the most powerful manifestations of God’s character.

MEDITATION:

1 Peter 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

ADORATION:

You are the MERCIFUL God.

Exodus 22:27 – “When he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious and merciful.” (AMP)

Deuteronomy 4:31 – “For the Lord your God is a merciful God; He will not fail you or destroy you or forget the covenant of your fathers, which He swore to them.” (AMP)

Nehemiah 9:31 – “You in Your great mercies You did not utterly consume them or forsake them, for You are a gracious and merciful God.” (AMP)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for not showing mercy to others.

*Micah 6:8* – “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

INTERCESSION:
Show Your mercy and your kindness.

*Psalm 85:7* – “Show us Your mercy, Lord, And grant us Your salvation.”

*Psalm 6:2* – “Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled.”
DAY 20: VISION

Entering 2020, many people declared that this is a year of “vision.” It doesn’t take anyone super spiritual to connect this year to such a phrase. Racism is a vision issue and these times have revealed the depth of our vision problems. We cannot understand the beauty of God until we can see Him in one another. Yet, we cannot understand or see one another without the ability to see Him. May we not leave the crises of this year without gaining eyes to see.

MEDITATION:

Acts 26:18 – “To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God so that they may thus receive forgiveness and release from their sins and a place and portion among those who are consecrated and purified by faith in Me.” (AMP)

ADORATION:

You are the OPENER of our eyes.

Psalm 146:8 – “The Lord opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.” (AMP)

Isaiah 42:7 – “To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and those who sit in darkness from the prison.” (AMP)

Psalm 119:18 – “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your Law. I am a stranger in the earth. Do not hide Your commands from me.” (NIV)
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for not fixing our eyes on You.

Psalm 121:1,2 – “I will lift up my eyes to the hills, From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.”

INTERCESSION:
Give us spiritual eyes to see.

Ephesians 1:17-19 – “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power…”
The Day 21 devotion from the Isaiah 58 fast initiative is titled "POSSIBLE." It reflects on the completion of the fast and the challenges it presented. The text acknowledges the singular power of God to change seasons and times, highlighting His steadfastness and faithfulness. It draws upon scriptural references such as Job 5:9, Luke 1:37, Hebrews 6:18, and Psalm 78:13 to underline the theme of impossibility with God. The devotion concludes with an adoration praising God as the God of the impossible, emphasizing His reliability and power.
REPENTANCE:
Forgive us for failing to believe that you can heal, restore, and reconcile all things.

Matthew 13:58 – “Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

Mark 9:24 – “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

INTERCESSION:
Stir faith for the impossible in hearts. Reconcile our hearts to you and to each other across every divide.

Matthew 17:20 – “if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 5:21-24 – “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there, remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

PRAY THIS WITH US:

Jesus, I plead your blood over our sins and the sins of our forefathers. God, tear down wickedness, raise up righteousness, give us justice, and heal our land.

*Encouragements/Meditations/Prayers written by Jonathan Thomas and Jim Stern
*Adorations adapted from Adoration Prayer Book by Bob Hartley. (BobHartley.org)
*All verses NKJV except where noted