

# The Silence of God (Isaiah 58:1-9)

*Need Direction? – Part 1*

Life Church St. Louis – August 24, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*James 1:5-7 (NIV) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;*

## 1. Why is God \_\_\_\_\_?

*Isaiah 58:3a (NIV) 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'*

### 1A. People say they \_\_\_\_\_ God

*Isaiah 58:2 (NIV) For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.*

### 1B. God says they are in \_\_\_\_\_

*Isaiah 58:1 (NIV) "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.*

## 2. What is \_\_\_\_\_ worship?

*Isaiah 58:3b (NIV) "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.*

## 2A. Wrong worship is \_\_\_\_\_ only

*Isaiah 58:4a,5 (NIV) Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. ... Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?*

## 2B. God is \_\_\_\_\_ toward wrong worship

*Isaiah 58:4b (NIV) You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.*

## 3. What is \_\_\_\_\_ worship?

### 3A. Worship with \_\_\_\_\_ to God

*Isaiah 58:6 (NIV) "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*

### 3B. Worship with \_\_\_\_\_ for others

*Isaiah 58:7 (NIV) Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

## 4. How does God \_\_\_\_\_ right worship?

### 4A. God \_\_\_\_\_ your path

*Isaiah 58:8 (NIV) Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

### 4B. God \_\_\_\_\_ your prayer

*Isaiah 58:9a (NIV) Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

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Intro. According to Romans 12:2, what is a necessary condition for knowing God's will?

What is God's promise for those seeking godly wisdom (James 1:5-7)?  
What is God's condition for guidance in these verses?

How can wanting a certain response from God on a question keep someone from actually hearing God (John 7:17)?

What do you think are a reason(s) for God being silent when asked for direction?

1A. How did the people think that God should have responded to their worship (Isaiah 58:2-3a)?

1B. What are some clues in Isaiah 58:1-3 about why God was silent for the Israelites?

1C. According to Psalm 66:18, what is the consequence of unconfessed sin for prayer?

2A. What was wrong with the Israelites' worship of God (Isaiah 58:3b-5)?

2B. What effect did their worship have on their relationship with God (Isaiah 58:4b)?

2C. What types of wrong worship today would cause God to be silent?

3A. Describe the type of obedient worship required by God in Isaiah 58:6?

3B. How should right worship impact our serving other's needs (Isaiah 58:7)?

3C. What kinds of worshippers does God seek and speak to today (John 4:23)?

4A. What kinds of blessing does God promise for those who worship rightly (Isaiah 58:8)?

4B. How does right worship affect how God speaks (Isaiah 58:9)?

4C. Is there anything in your worship of God or service of others that may be hindering your relationship with Him?