

## Letting Go of Personal Gain

When you let go of personal gain you are in the will of God. We tend to do things according to what we think is right in God's eyes thinking that God will be pleased, God will be happy with us. Personal gain. Can we just not do things just because? Can we not just step out and just be all that God is without question and without thinking and without benefits? He has taken me to Isaiah 58, which talks about fasting. When I first came to the Lord, He was training me and preparing me for what He wanted me to do. He took me here to teach me about fasting. I was asking many people because I wanted to understand and He took me here and He started to teach me Himself.

I wanted to show you something after I had closed my bible. I asked, "Lord please give me another word for the direction I am going." It's in **Job 22:1-3**. This is what Eliphaz who was accusing Job of his wickedness. Even though they were coming against Job, the adversary was using Job's friends to come against Job. There is truth to what they say even though it wasn't pertaining to Job. There is truth to us today.

*v.1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:*

*v.2 Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself?*

*v.3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?*

That is what God showed me to confirm what I'm going to talk about. When I saw that, talk about being on the money Lord. That's exactly what we're talking about. When you let go of personal gain, you are in the will of God. **Isaiah 58:1-10**

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

*v.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.*

*v.3 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'*

Now here you have the people saying that God is having something against them. How can God have anything against them when they seek Him daily? They walk in His ordinances of justice. They take joy in approaching God daily. How can God find anything against these people when they're reading their bible, praying every night, when they were falling on their face crying, when they listen to Christian music, and watch Christian TV shows. How can God find anything against them? How can God find anything against those things? And yet he has fasted. We fasted for 41 days, didn't you see me? We have afflicted our souls and You take no notice of us. We have allowed our own bodies not to take food and drink so that it may be pleasing to You. Why have You not noticed us God? What does fast really mean? We know what it means in the religious area, but what does it mean to the world? I'll read you four explanations, but they only expounded on these four, but I took the main four. Let me tell you what fasting means in the Webster's Dictionary. Fast: 1. A movement, to take effect quickly. 2. A character, unrestrained or immoral conduct (like a reputation, conduct) 3. A fix, not easily moved or secure (fixed to, or attached to, be secure in, to be fastened) 4. Deception, to engage in unexpected, or unfair, or deceitful behavior to achieve one's goal (He pulled a fast one on me.) 5. Religion, to eat nothing or sparingly of certain kinds of food, a religious observation.

They say, "But we have fasted and You have not seen." "We have afflicted our souls and You have not noticed." Which fast are you doing?

*v.3 continued: "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.*

*v.4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, ("That sounds like deception to me.) And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.*

*v.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?*

We fast for many reasons. We fast because we need something from God. I'm going to fast because this person needs healing. I'm going to fast because I need prosperity. I'm going to fast because,

because, because. We're doing it for personal gain. We're doing it for personal pleasure. Is this the kind of fast that God has called us to? No it's not because let's read what it says from v.6.

*v.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?*

*v.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?*

*v.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.*

*v.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,*

*("You know what the yoke is? The yoke that he talks about here is what I said, personal gain. If you're doing things to receive something that is a yoke upon your neck because you think I need to do this to gain this. It is a burden and it is not right. It become a yoke to you.")*

*The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,*  
*v.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.*

*("That's when I stopped and said, "What are you talking about?" I didn't understand what God was saying. The Lord repeated, "When you let go of personal gain you are in the will of God." When we do things because we feel like it's going to achieve something in our relationship with God it becomes a yoke. It's for self gratification and satisfaction. Those things come from the emotion or the soul of a man. Those are the things that satisfy us personally. But the Lord says if you will do things not because to satisfy your own soul, but if you put your yoke aside and you just take what makes you happy and make someone else happy. If you just take something that gives you patience and give patience to someone else. In other words, it's not personal gain; it's what you're pouring out. It's what you are giving away without thought of personal gain. Then you can pour into another man's soul and they shall receive. Then God started to make comparisons.*

The soul is always temporary, the Spirit is everlasting. The patience you think you have because you are Godly is actually tolerance in your soul. I am tolerating this person because I am Godly and I have God patience. You know that, that's a soul thing. My mind is telling me that I have Godly patience. No you don't, you tolerate. The Lord says if you take away personal gain, if you will take away the tolerance, than I will give you true patience because it won't be thought of, it just happens. It's just like your happiness. I'm happy, I have a good husband, I have a good wife, I have a beautiful car, a beautiful home, I have many things. My life is happy. But guess what? I can take that happiness away and you will be hurt, but if you forget about your happiness I can give you everlasting joy. Happiness is temporary; joy is everlasting. How do I know that? It's in *Galatians 5:22-23*. It's the fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, longsuffering, goodness, faithfulness. These are all fruits of the Spirit. He says these are everlasting. These continue to grow and flourish. These produce even more, but ours is temporary. He says I will take tolerance from you and I will give you true patience. You act different towards people. In children you act one way, you have a tolerance for children, you have a tolerance for elderly people, you have a tolerance for your neighbor, you have a tolerance for your co-workers. You think that's the same patience? No it's not. It's different tolerances at different levels for different people, but God's patience spans them all. "I will take your happiness and I will give you joy." That's greater than happiness. Happiness is temporary, joy is everlasting.

And then He says I will take away your infatuation. Oh I love what I do, I love my car, I love my family, I love, I love, I love. I saw a car yesterday. I was driving back from Kapolei and I saw this tractor trailer. This tractor-trailer had this huge lion painted on the back, airbrushed, everything. The truck was bust up. I looked at it and said, "How did it get that way?" I saw it when he first got it. This driver first got his brand new tractor-trailer, he had it painted, he had it airbrushed with the lion on the back. He probably had it polished all the time, clean and everything. Now I see it all broken, and busted, and dented. Where's the love? The love was temporary. It was an infatuation with what he just had. I'm looking at the end result. It faded away. Infatuations fade away, but God says My love lasts forever. It's everlasting, it will be on going. It doesn't change. In fact it gets greater and greater. He says I will take your quietness and I will give you peace. Everything runs deeper, but all those things that God gives is nothing that you think about. It's nothing that you're assured of. It is nothing that you have to actually say if I do this then I'm going to gain this. No, you just push it forth. You give somebody else God's peace and God gives you more. You give true love and God gives you more love. You walk in the joy of the Lord, nothing can

disturb you. You walk in human humility; God says give me your fake humility and I will give you longsuffering, kindness and goodness. Those things are traits of humility. Break it down. This is love, this is happiness, this is tolerance or our peace because we do have a peace of our own. He says I'll take away your peace and give you true self-control. If we eliminate the things we know are for personal gain. Ok, God is testing me on my tolerance here. God's testing my patience right now. God does not test your patience. God gives you patience, patience overcomes. Tolerance cannot handle. And it says God is testing my patience. If you truly had the patience of God, it isn't going to bother you. If you truly had the love of God, you can give. If you truly walk in the joy of the Lord, nothing can take your happiness away. Do you see the temporary? That was God is saying in Isaiah.

*Isaiah 58:10 If you extend your soul to the hungry...* ("Take away what you think is yours and is temporary, the things that make you happy. The things that you are infatuated with and give it to someone else and make them happy. Make them have joy. Give them that then I will multiply what's inside of you and take away what is of your soul and give you what is of the Spirit. I will take that what is temporary and will give you what is everlasting. *And satisfy the afflicted soul...* Someone who doesn't have joy, someone who doesn't have peace, someone who doesn't have love. Unconditionally without a second thought pour it out to them. When you let go of personal gain, you are and will be in the will of God. You will be because you will be walking in the things of the Spirit.

Go to Luke 17. This will make it a little easier to understand. *Luke 17:5-10*. I remember getting this from God one day when I was going through what I consider trials in my head, but in actuality it wasn't. It's funny because only now I realize that we say we're going through because we need to learn something. It's that gain? God's putting me through right now because He's trying to teach me this and trying to teach me that. Can't we just not go through without thinking what the gain will be? Can we? That's what I'm talking about. Can we just go through things without looking at personal gain? The moment we say oh it's to teach us, oh to give me more patience, oh God is teaching me how to love, God is teaching me how to longsuffer. God is not teaching you that, God gave you that. You're just not walking in it. You see the division right there? We are not walking in it so we think we're being tested forth. You already have it. You have patience; you have God in your life. Just do it. God tells me get up and get back to work. He didn't boo hoo with me at all.

*Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."*

*v.6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.*

*v.7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat?'*

*v.8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink?'*

*v. 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.*

*v.10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'*"

It was nothing about personal gain. It was all about doing just what to do. After you have labored all day and after you have gone through your patience, gone through your tolerance, gone through your time of joy, peace, happiness, and other things. And you have overcome the day, guess what? The day is not over because we continue. You go in and you still got more to do. It's not going to stop. Trials are not going to stop and patience is not going to stop. But what is God trying you for? He is not trying you to teach you how to have patience. He's not trying you to teach you how to have joy and happiness. He's trying to find out if you can. If you actually have it. If you have it, you can push forth. If you don't have it, you feel like you're being tested and you cannot handle. That's flesh. The mind is saying wait I'm getting tested because I don't have enough patience. You have too much human patience in your soul and you have too much tolerance, it's not God. So when God puts something before you that should bring the God out of you, you cannot handle because you're fighting with yourself. Trials are not to make you grow in a place of what He's already given you. It's to bring what's inside of you to flourish. Bring it out of you for some other afflicted soul. Stop looking for the personal gain. There is no personal gain, you got it. You folks are doing what you should do; you're commanded to do. Push forth.

Love your brother as you love yourself, the greatest commandment. No man could love as much as one who would give his life for his brother. What does that mean? What does it mean when He says when you love you will be separated from mother, father, you will have division between your family. What does that mean? That you're a believer and they are not a believer? That's not what it's saying. He

said you will be so different that you will walk in the constant patience and joy and love of God that you will be able to pour upon them the very thing that they lack. It will be a division because they will be looking for a personal gain and you're not. You have a God, you have a salvation, you have an eternity promise, you have that, that's all you need. Everything else is added to you. If you look for the personal gain and when we go through trials this is where we get divided. What is God trying to teach me, what is He trying to show me, what is God saying, what do I lack? You lack nothing, but what you have is more than God needs in you. Your personal gain and what you think your soul needs in order for you to overcome, the Spirit overrides. But we're looking at the soul and saying, "What is it?" "What is it that God is trying to show me?" "Oh God is testing my patience, man." God is not testing your patience; God wants it to come forth in patience for that person. God wanted to use you as a vessel of patience. God wanted to use you as a vessel of love. We wanted to use you as the vessels of joy. He wants to use you as the vessels and He wants to push you forth and push you out, but you cannot if you're looking at that personal gain. What is God trying to teach me? He's trying to work on the inside. What is He trying to work on the inside of me? Why, God is perfect and isn't He in you? Isn't what's inside of you perfect? What He's battling with is the soul or the flesh of a man. He wants to have control of your life. He wants you to be a servant that can just work, work, work and it doesn't matter what comes your way. Just do what you're supposed to do for the glory of God. Do what you're supposed to do without gain, without second thought. Just because of who He is to you.

*Mark 10:35-45* talks about the *Greatness Is Serving*.

*v.35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."*

*v.36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"*

*v.37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."*

*v.38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*

*v.39 They said to Him, "We are able."*

*So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;*

*v.40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."*

*v.41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.*

*v.42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.*

*v.43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.*

*v.44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.*

*v.45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Do you see it? It wasn't about personal gain at all. He knew what He had. He was the Son of God. He was the Son of Man. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served. I didn't come here for personal gain. I did not come to earth so that you folks could be under My rule and My authority. No, I came so that I can pour into you something that is everlasting, something that you can take beyond Me, something you can take beyond you and pour onto others and be a servant to them. When you get rid of personal gain and you stop looking at what God is trying to do and just do what God has given you, then guess what? You move quickly. Then your fast that we talked in Isaiah becomes a quickening. Things happen quickly. You receive revelation quickly, you receive insight quickly, you receive quickly because personal gain is out of the way and it's not all about you. It's all about Him.

Didn't we just sing that song? When it's all about you Jesus. I'm sorry Lord for the things I've made it. This is what we've made it. We've made it into something that it shouldn't have been. Just like in Isaiah 58. It's not about personal gain. It's about what's inside of you and what He has given you and what are you going to give to others. It is not about the patience that you need to learn about. It is not about the happiness of your life. It is not about those things. God replaces all of that with the fruits of the Spirit. Love is there, peace is there, goodness, longsuffering, you name it it's there. All He's trying to do is pull it out of you.

We come to serve. Many people always ask me, "Pastor Shirley, what's my call? What am I supposed to do? What kind of gifts do I have?" Does it matter? "What is my call?" Who cares? You find out when you get there. Can't you just be? Can't you just walk with God and let Him do what He wants to do? If it comes out as a prophecy. Hey! If it comes out as healing. Wow! That's all His doing, not yours. But if you're putting a gain in it, you are already lost. You have not become the servant; you have come to be served. Isn't that what it is today? Who's coming here to be served? I came to serve Him. Now are you being served, or are you folks going to serve somebody else by what you receive? For the afflicted souls out there don't understand. The souls that cry out to know God more they don't understand. Most of them if not all of them are tired of hearing the gospel in a manner that is tickling to the ears. What they want is a heartfelt God. They want a God who can touch them in a place that no one else can touch them. They want a God who can actually look into their soul and give them what they need. They're afflicted, they're hurt, they're broken, they're busted, and they need a light in their darkness. The only way you can do that is by being selfless. No personal gain, none whatsoever, God will do everything He can for that person, not for you.

This may sound like personal gain, but it's not. Everytime God runs through you and uses you for somebody, He leaves a residue. The Spirit of God cannot use a man and not leave a mark. The more you keep letting God be in you and just push forth and just be, you become more and more like Him. That's what they need, they need the example. They need to be served and you folks are the servants. We all are.

We're going to close in **Matthew 10:34-39**. It talks about *Christ Brings Division*.

v.34 *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth,..."* ("Wait a minute, aren't you the loving God? Aren't you the God of peace? Aren't you the God of joy? Aren't you our healer? Aren't you our abundant provider? You mean you didn't come to bring peace on earth? We have the wrong conception of God because He just said, 'I didn't come to bring peace on earth.' He said it in His own words and we have left it in that place of peace on earth. And we want to gain from that. He brings peace on earth so what are you going to give me so I can have peace on earth? I didn't come to bring peace on earth.")

v.34 *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth, I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

v.35 *For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';*

v.36 *And 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*

v.37 *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

v.38 *And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*

v.39 *He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."*

We use it so many times about walking with God. This is about dividing you between soul and Spirit. I am going to take your peace and give you joy. I am going to take these things from you and I will give you everlasting. I came to divide your life because everything for personal gain is not going to help you. You're trying to please your mother and your father; you are not worthy of Me because what I'm trying to for your mother and father you are getting in the way. I need to divide you and separate you. If you pick up your cross and walk with Me that means you have let everything else go and you're trusting in Me. And you will let me do what I need to do. But if in your thoughts, or in your Spirit, or in your emotions you feel like it's going to hurt somebody or it's going to do something, God is not one who hurts. He corrects when He needs to correct, but He corrects the ones He loves and He destroys your enemy because if they are against you, they are against Him. He's your protector that's what He does because He loves YOU.

If He has come to divide you, soul and Spirit, He has. Isn't that why you're here? We're divided in our lives. We need to know, we want a greater, we want gain, we want to know how to be more patient, more tolerant, more loving, more kind, more generous, more gentle. We want to know how to long-suffer. We want to know these things. Don't we want to know these things? We want to know because we need to satisfy our souls, but can't you just sing in the house of God, singing praises to Him together? Isn't that the God in you that causes you to raise your voice to Him? Don't you already have the patience and the tolerance, and the peace, and the joy, and the love? You have it already. What are you trying to gain? It's not what you're supposed to gain; it's what you are supposed to lose. That's why He's dividing you. That's why ministries are around. Not to help people gain anything, but to lose what God don't want in their life. It is for your good purpose to be a servant to others. It is not about gain. What you gain is what God determines. That is not our business because He knows. The more you start letting go and the more you start letting God and the more divided you become, you know you are on the right track. You know

you are because God is trying to remove what is hindering His truth and happiness to come out of you. Who needs peace? Who needs love in their life? Let go of the old peace, let go of your tolerance and let go of your humility. Let go of your old love and let God use what's inside and it will attract more, abundantly. It is a life of servitude when you pick up your cross. It's never about personal gain and it will never be about personal gain no matter what. He who finds his life will lose it. Have you folks found your life in God? If you have found your life in God then your life is lost to this world. If you have found true happiness and joy and peace in the Lord then you have lost your soul life. And he who loses that life for the gospel has found true love. God is dividing soul and Spirit.