



## **Crisis in the Church Part 2... The Cure**

**Thursday Night Teaching – The Crisis, (outline) – 6-16-2020**

**Elder Thomas A. Woods Jr. - Teacher**

### **Isaiah 58**

**Isaiah 58:6-11, 14** (NirV)

God clearly states and tells us what kind of fast or sacrifice HE REQUIRES. As New Testament followers of Jesus Christ and as servants of God, the Spiritual requirements are unchanged from the old to the new covenant.

LISTEN to ME, HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT of THE MOST HIGH GOD IS SAYING TO US!!!!

In this passage of scripture (**Isaiah 58:6-14**) The Word of the Lord goes forth telling us His people what HE WANTS.... NOT ONCE..... NOT TWICE....BUT THREE TIMES !!!! Three Times!!! IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE!!!! God is REAFFIRMING HIS WORD TO US MAKING IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR HIS REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS TO PLEASE HIM!!!!

The next question is what is it that God wants from us? What is the CURE to the Crisis in the Church? (Ecclesia). Let's examine this passage of scripture and draw out what it is saying to us TODAY!!!!

**Isaiah 58:6**- First and foremost Intimacy and Deliverance!! Personal and then in the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God; deliverance for others!!!!

Personal deliverance and devotion in **Isaiah 58:1-5** - the man of God spoke out against ritualistic and religious relationships with God. **John 4:24** - Jesus said the Father sought TRUE worshippers, those who worshipped God in Spirit and Truth!!!! That means as we are born again and transformed from sinner to saint. Our relationship with God is to be intimate and evolving in deeper and deeper intimacy!!!!

Jesus said eternal life was knowing (to understand, be well acquainted and familiar with intimacy developed by applying oneself with effort and consistency). The ONLY TRUE GOD and JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT!!!---**John 17:3**

Intimacy - is not automatic; I say again intimacy is not automatic!!! Can you have what I have just defined as intimacy by once a week interaction, by going to someone only when you need something or are in trouble? While ignoring a person on a daily basis, and not considering or consulting with them on any small or significant decisions in your life? We won't have intimacy with a person doing that.... WHY would we think it will produce intimacy with God? (**Job 23:12**) – WE are putting God first; He is our priority even over our necessary food as **Job 23:12** states!!! We can't consistently and effectively minister (serve, help others) without first establishing and continuing our own intimate relationship with God!!! (**Matthew 7: 5**)