



## Praying as families for those who practice tokenism with ritualistic faith.

Day 8

In some churches, occasions like Christmas and Easter draw large crowds, with many attending only once a year to fulfill their annual church attendance quota. While some may attend weekly, the danger lies in the routine becoming mere ritualistic, devoid of God's blessings.

Isaiah 58:5 questions the nature of fasting: "Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?" These verses depict a ceremonial display of humility, with people bowing their heads and wearing sackcloth and ashes as symbols of repentance and sorrow. However, if these acts lack sincerity and are not aligned with God's commands, they hold no value. God is not against fasting or praying by humbling ourselves, but He desires obedience and a lifestyle of godliness, not superficial tokenism of repentance.

Today, many Christians showcase their devotion to God on Sundays but forget about it for the rest of the week. They may believe that their Sunday observance satisfies God, but living in alignment with God's will involves more than occasional displays of worship. He wants us to live every day in the consciousness of His presence and His love and show a kingdom lifestyle, by caring for things that He cares for. Understanding God's desires necessitates knowing His Word and obediently following it.



## LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, we understand that true worship comes from the depths of our hearts. It's not our outward displays of spirituality that impress You, but rather our genuine desire for a deep relationship with You, our love for You, and our commitment to following Your heart that truly pleases You. We repent for seeking Your attention through mere works and rituals. Guide us to live lives that genuinely honor and glorify You, so that our offerings may be received by You as a fragrant expression of love and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

