

Transforming community by healing and nurture through faith in Jesus

Isaiah 58 is our anchor for our vision statement. Having wrestled with this scripture I saw that we the church members can do with a bit of transforming before we can transform others.

Isaiah 58 verses 1 to 5 establish the fact that there is no lacking in effort in Israel's 'vertical' religion (toward God) but verse 6 questions our 'horizontal' religion (towards people).

I believe the transformation required is that spoken of in Romans 12 which is transformation by the renewing of our minds. Faith resides in the mind. We cannot transform 'through faith' without continuous renewal of our mindsets and motives.

We need to address some of the wrong mindsets surrounding:

- **Serving God** (Isaiah 58 verses 1 to 3): If the mindset is wrong our 'fasting' will be wrong, our seeking God will be wrong, our good deeds and tireless efforts will be wrong. Romans 12 verses 1 and 2 define the type of worship that can fulfil God's perfect will or vision. ***Our perception of serving God.***

- **False humility and pride** (Isaiah 58 verses 3 and 5): Godly humility or meekness is not a measure of our esteem (low or high) it is a measure of how highly God is esteemed in us. Romans 12 verse 3 tells us how to do this measuring when we think of ourselves. ***Our perception of our self.*** We wrongly present ourselves as grasshoppers and perceive that as humility but Joshua and Caleb are perceived as arrogant (Numbers 13: verse 25-33). Joshua and Caleb have measured themselves with sober judgement in accordance with the measure of faith that God had given them not in accordance with their own judgement. The other 10 however arrogantly did their measuring themselves and esteemed themselves low.

- **Relationship with each other** (Isaiah 58 verses 4 and 9): We need to honour one another above ourselves with devoted brotherly love (Romans 12 verse 10). Honour does not mean we like the person but that we respect and esteem them not because of who they are but 'Whose' they are. ***Our perception of others.***

This change in mindset will help us towards walking TOGETHER in God's perfect will, His vision for us individually and corporately as a church.