



“Consecrate to Me all  
the firstborn, whatever  
opens the womb  
among the children of  
Israel”

*Exodus 13: 2*

**“CONSECRATE A  
FAST”**

*Joel 2: 15*





## HIGHLIGHTS

1. The acceptable consecration.
2. 'Why have we fasted,' ... 'and You have not seen?'

# I. THE ACCEPTABLE CONSECRATION

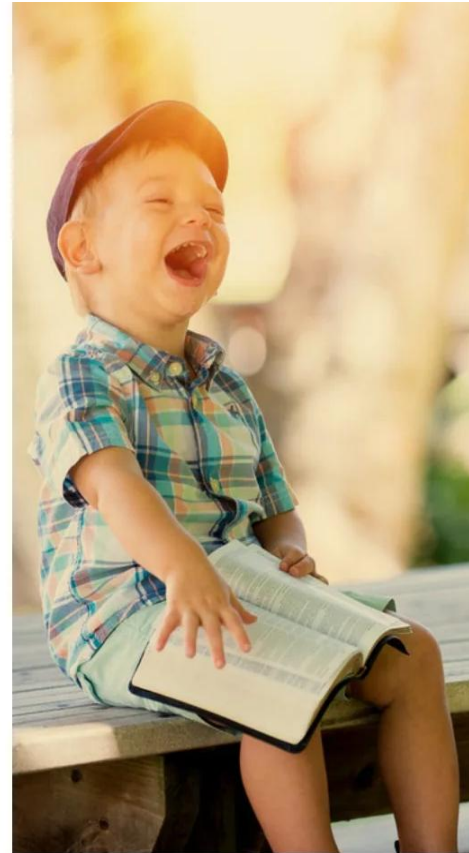
*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God”*

*Romans 12: 1*



1. Offered with Joy:

- “Serve the Lord with gladness” *Psalm 100:2*
- Compare to: “You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ and you sneer at it” *Malachi 1: 13*



Serve  
the Lord  
with  
gladness

*Psalm 100:2*

2. With a change of heart:

- “Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands”

*Jonah 3: 7 - 8*



3. The best I can:

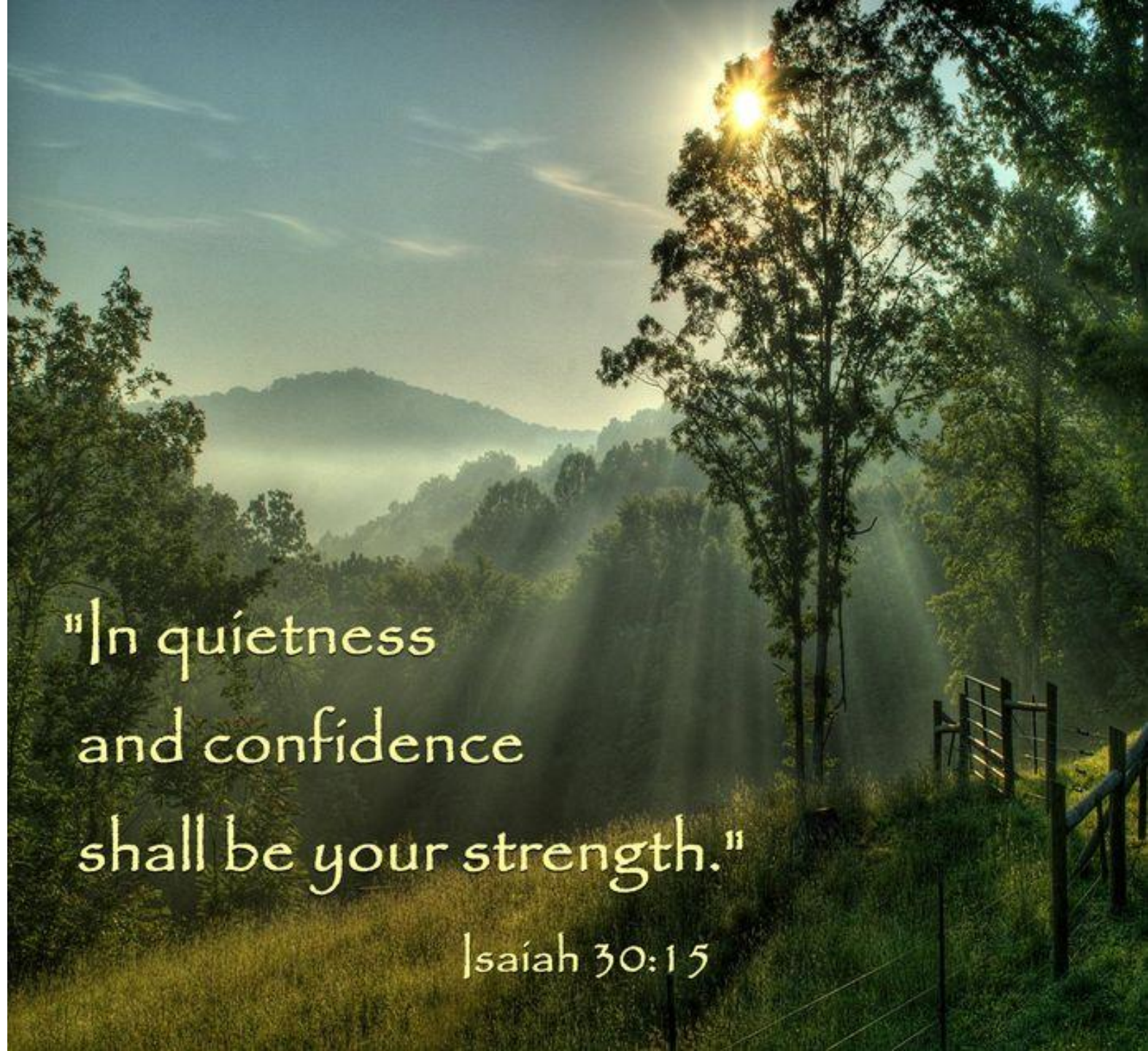
- “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering” *Genesis 4: 4*
- “But if there is a defect in it,.... you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God”

*Deuteronomy 15: 21*



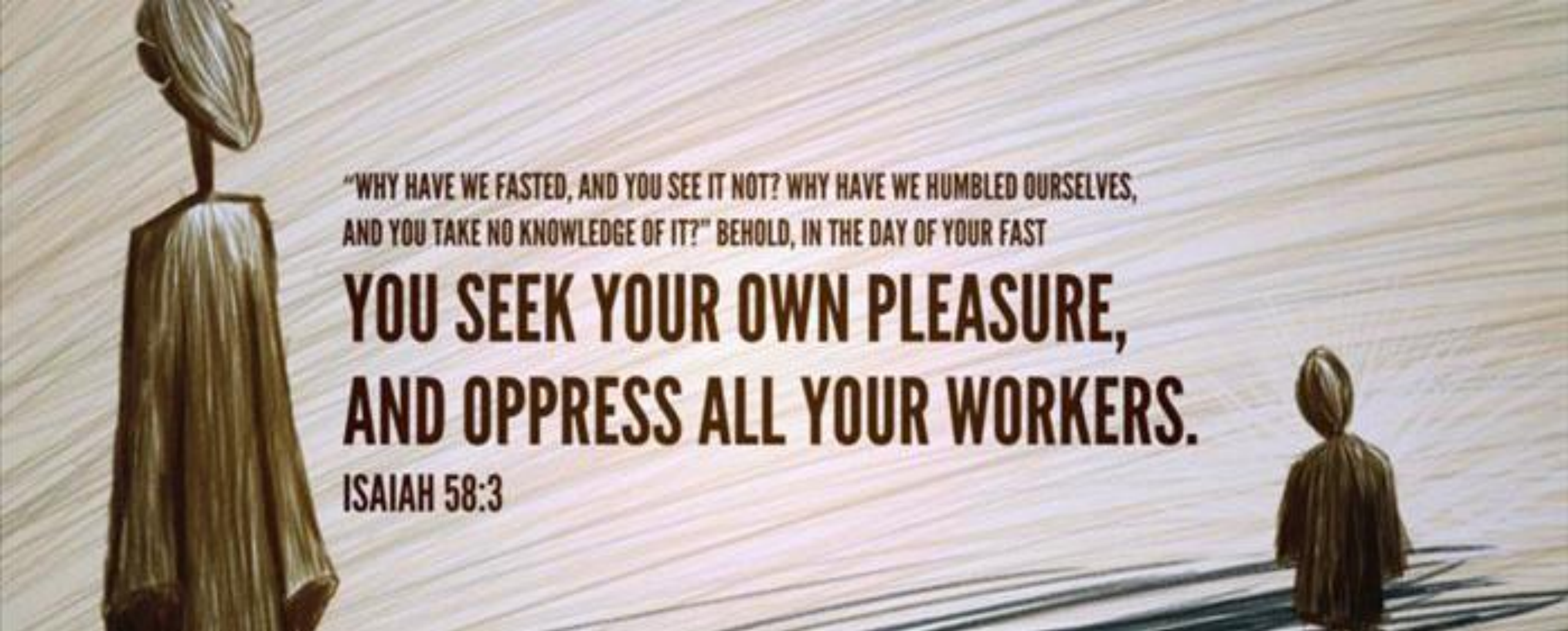
4. With returning to God and stillness:

- “In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” *Isaiah 30: 15*
- “Be still, and know that I am God” *Psalms 46: 10*
- “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers” *Isaiah 58: 3*



“In quietness  
and confidence  
shall be your strength.”

*Isaiah 30:15*



“WHY HAVE WE FASTED, AND YOU SEE IT NOT? WHY HAVE WE HUMBLD OURSELVES,  
AND YOU TAKE NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT?” BEHOLD, IN THE DAY OF YOUR FAST

**YOU SEEK YOUR OWN PLEASURE,  
AND OPPRESS ALL YOUR WORKERS.**

ISAIAH 58:3

II. ‘WHY HAVE WE FASTED,’ ... ‘AND  
YOU HAVE NOT SEEN?’

1. I can do better:

- “But cursed *be* the deceiver  
Who has in his flock a male, And  
takes a vow, but sacrifices to the  
Lord what is blemished”

*Malachi 1: 14*

- Between the widow with the two  
mites and Cain.
- The test: “Offer it then to your  
governor! Would he be pleased with  
you?” *Malachi 1: 8*



2. An offering of form without meaning, appearance without heart:
- “Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *months* during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me? When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves? *Should you not have obeyed the words which the LORD proclaimed*” *Zechariah 7: 5 - 7*





3. A careless offering isn't "partial credit"; it is considered evil in the sight of the Lord:

- “And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil?”

*Malachi 1: 8*