

God's Instruction and Promises

Isaiah 58:7-14

For every word of instruction there is a great promise from God. The miracle lies in the change that comes into the heart of the obedient servant. The positive result is a natural consequence of applying God's wisdom and the good sense to obey God's words of instruction.

◆ *When God spoke His word of instruction to His people,*

"What I am interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, clothing the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families."

He also gave them His promise.

"Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The glory of God will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' A full life in the emptiest of places."

When you share your food with the hungry, life will be produced both in the physical and spiritual realm. The joy of helping to fill empty places, turns on the lights in your heart and the hearts of those for whom you make provision. This act of obedience sets you walking on a righteous, secure path. When you do this, God will hear and answer your prayers. Why? Because you are accomplishing on earth, what He has already established in Heaven. Now you are on your way to becoming part of the answer to your prayers.

◆ *With every word of correction,*

If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, and if you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,..."

God's hopefilled covenant rang out for all to hear.

...your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest places - firm muscles and strong bones. You will be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, and make the community livable again."

When you make the decision not to go down the pathway of gossip, blame and unfairness, God will always show you how to follow His path and your lives will begin to glow in the darkness. When you are generous with the hungry and give yourself to those less fortunate, God will give you a full life, firm muscles and strong bones. You will be like a well-watered garden, bringing life to others. You will be known as those who can rebuild the foundations and make the community livable again.

◆ *If His people would obey and honor His Word,*

"If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage, but treat the Sabbath as a day of joy and as a celebration, and if you honor it by refusing 'business as usual,' making money, running here and there..."

they would enjoy the blessings of their inheritance.

"..then you'll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I'll make you ride high and soar above it all. I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob." Yes! God says so!"

When you honor God by joyfully respecting His holy day and don't allow worldly distractions to take over your time and energy, you are free to enjoy a close relationship with Him, soaring above everyday worries and being blessed with your inheritance.