

Isaiah 58 And The Church



Training Pac

"Isaiah 58" Series

INSTRUCTIONS

This TRAINING PAC has a text and a separate Workbook that contains exercises for the text. Follow these steps:

1. Read through the entire text to obtain an overview of the text content.
2. Become familiar with the Objectives at the beginning.
3. Then reread the text while completing the exercises in the Workbook.

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This has been transcribed from a taped message by Rev. Agnes Numer, director of Sommer Haven Missionary Training Center, during her training seminar called "Isaiah 58".

Prayer

Father, we thank You. We praise You, Lord Jesus, that You've given unto us Your light that we might live. Lord Jesus, we praise You, we thank You. You not only died for us, but You gave us a way of life that even in this world we might know how to walk with You, to keep Your Word and obey You. Lord Jesus, we ask You tonight to make this Word real to us as You have given it to us. We ask you to renew the vision before us, Oh God, this night, for Your glory. And in Your name, Jesus, we ask it, Amen.

I. His Call By His Word

Many years ago, the Lord gave me a scripture. I'm going to read it. Habakkuk, Chapter 2. He gave this to me many years ago when I was a teenager: *"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."* Many, many years He burned this scripture into my heart. I did not know, except that I knew it was from God, and one day He would make real to me what the vision was. Down through the years He added a few scriptures. *"Is it not yet a very little while and Lebanon shall become a fruitful field and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest."* (Isaiah 29:17) Then He gave other scriptures. *"Behold I do a new thing and even now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert... To give drink to My people, My chosen. This people have I formed for Myself; they shall shew forth My praise."* (Isaiah 43:19-21) Pretty bold, isn't it? *"They shall shew forth My praise."*

Years and years these scriptures burned inside of me. God called me to minister by His Spirit. I did not know about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I did know Jesus – I had Him in my heart, in my life and I knew how to be led by Him, and I knew these words came from Him. And I knew they were a part of my life. Many years went by, and He called me. He called me to Africa to be a missionary. He called me, and I was very excited. I was ready to take the whole world for Jesus! Oh, I was ready to go, only He wasn't ready for me to go, and I wasn't really ready to go. But I thought I was. After all, He called me, so I was ready to go. Then one day I was ironing clothes. I was standing at that ironing board and I said, "Lord, if You've called me, then I need to go." He said, "Agnes, it took Me forty years to train Moses in Pharaoh's court." I said, "Forty years, Lord?" He paused for a minute and He said, "It took Me forty years on the backside of the desert." I said, "God, eighty years?" That's exactly what I said to Him. Then I said, "Lord, if it's eighty years, then eighty years it will be." And right at that moment, I settled it in my heart that God had charge of my life and about Africa and everything else. I just settled it right there with the Lord, and I never asked Him again.

One day a pastor spoke to me and he said, "Agnes, whatever God permits to come into your life from this moment forward, you take it as a part of the preparation for the call, the work, that God has called you to do." Eighty years, that's what He said. So I wasn't to be any different from Moses. I was to be trained. I was on the East Coast and God brought me to the West Coast, and guess where? On the desert. I had

not been in California very long. I came in 1943, and in 1954, He set me on this land. He said, "This is My sanctuary, and this is where you'll be." Little did I know it would be forty years, except when I remembered what He said to me. It was forty years on the desert for Moses.

This is our 40th year. But from the time that the Lord called me, God began to change my life. Amen. When we have our confidence in Him, and we put our trust in Him, then we can depend on Him, and He will bring to pass that which concerns us. So I never grew weary of His training. It was not easy, because God had to do for me what He has to do for everybody else. He has to take out of us the traditions, and bondages, and all the things that we accumulate all our lives and was handed down from generation to generation. He has to take it out of us, so He can fill us with Himself, His love, His peace, His joy, His righteousness. So He gave me a scripture: Ezekiel 1, 2 and 3. Ezekiel 1 was the revelation of Jesus Christ to Ezekiel – a mighty revelation of Jesus. And Jesus has revealed Himself to us as the mighty Christ. The Giver of life – the Giver of our life. That He brings us to the place in Him where we can also share that which is given to others.

II. "... The Vision That Tarried No Longer Tarries. "

One day the Lord told me, "...the vision that tarried no longer tarries. It's here." You know when He told that to me? 1967. Anybody recalled what happened in 1967? I think it was probably June of 1967. We had the Six-Day war in Israel. He said, "...the vision no longer tarries: it's here." In 1954, I was living in the Tujunga area, and I asked the Lord a simple question. Lord, do you want us to buy property down here? And He spoke to me by the Word. He said, *"Is it not yet a little while and Lebanon shall become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?"* I said, "God, what does that have to do with what I asked You? He said, "Go and read Isaiah 58." So, as I dried my hands, and walked from my kitchen into my living room, the Spirit of Revelation came upon me. I never experienced anything like it. It felt like my mind was moved out of the way, and the Spirit of the Lord came and began to unfold this word to me. And as I began to read it, He unfolded it. *"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,..."* I'm reading Isaiah 58. *"...shew My people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins.*

2. Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God.

3. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

4. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

5. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

6. Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7. *Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

8. *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; and the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.*

9. *Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I Am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;*

10. *And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:*

11. *And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*

12. *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.*

13. *If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:*

14. *Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

"Cry aloud, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgressions." Why does He use the word "shew" here? You could raise your voice, and let it sound like a trumpet, but it wouldn't necessarily show anybody anything. Would it? So there has to be a demonstration of what He's talking about. *"Shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."* Now let's go back a little bit, and let's look at the Christian world today.

Let's take the Jewish people for a minute. He's talking about His people, the Jews. They make long prayers, He said... and when Jesus came, and everywhere He went, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, the hypocrites, and they all followed Him. But they only followed to criticize Him. "They daily sought Him, they delighted to know His ways..." What was the problem with the children of Israel down through the centuries? What was it? They did what they wanted to do: they did not do what God wanted them to do. Every once in a while God had to send them off into a strange country, because they weren't hearing what He was saying, and they were not doing it. So He sent them off into other countries, hoping they might tell the heathen about Him. But they didn't. So He says here, you're doing all of this you're still saying you're doing My will, and you aren't doing My will at all. You're saying you're a righteous nation, and you're keeping God's ordinances, but you're not at all.

III. Is His Church Doing His Will?

Here we are today. We all know these are the last days. I believe this is the last generation before Jesus comes. All things point to the coming of the Lord. But something has to take place in the Christian world before Jesus comes. He's talking about all the things they profess to do and to be, which they are not. He says you do

all of this, but that's not what pleases me. He says this is not what I have chosen for you to do. Then comes all the denominations, and each denomination has a different theory, a different way. And they all build their castles. But Jesus said, "I am the way, I am the truth, I am the light, I am the life. No man can come up any other way." He's the Giver of life, but He has a way for us to go.

The Lord told me when He gave me a revelation of Isaiah 58, He told me He was going to deal seriously, heavily, with every church that professed His name. All the doctrines of men, He was going to deal with. He said, "I am sending the Spirit of Truth, and as the Spirit of Truth comes, it's going to go into the churches, and the Spirit of Truth is going to speak. And if they hear it, they will receive the truth, but if they do not hear it, they will go into deception – never to come out of that deception. For God is moving today with the Spirit of Truth throughout the world. The Spirit of the Lord is pouring out upon all flesh everywhere in the world. He's not depending upon the church world, He's depending upon the power, and the glory, and the kingdom of Jesus Christ to take the Word by the Holy Ghost into the nations of the world. But He's preparing a people. These people He has chosen for Himself, and He's preparing that people that they would not be like the children of Israel. They will not be like the people out there that profess to be Christians, but don't know Jesus. He said, "I'm going into the churches. I'm going to speak the truth by the Spirit of Truth." He said it's going to be so straight that nobody will be able to deny it – so mighty that no one would be able to stand up and say anything to God. Right here He is stripping from these people the pretense that they were following God. They weren't pleasing God.

"Behold I do a new thing," saith the Lord. "And shall ye not know it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert to give drink to My people, My chosen that I have formed for Myself." (Isaiah 43:19-20b) He's forming us in His own likeness, in His own image. It's Jesus and nothing else. When He finished telling them what they were like, He said, *"It is such a fast that I have chosen?"* Then He said, *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free and that ye break every yoke?"* When you go into the churches today, do you see this power? Do you see it being done? Where are the people that need the help? There's a lot of them in the church, that's true, but there's a lot of them in the road. Nobody cares whether most of them out there are living or dying, hungry or no place to sleep. I believe with every fiber of my being that God has intended for this scripture to be the church's way of doing things. I believe it's God's way for His church. You followed Jesus when He walked the earth. Where did He go? He met the needs of the people where the people were. He has a church. It's a church without spot, it's a church without wrinkle, and it's His body. But they're going to do what He wants them to do, and they're not going to be affected by the traditions and bondages of men. Remember one thing: the Spirit of the Lord gave me this by the Spirit of Revelation. Not by man's wisdom, or knowledge, or counsel, or direction, but by God Himself, He gave it to me according to his Word. *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free and that ye break every yoke?"*

Then why are we not seeing it done today? You're not seeing it done in the churches too much. Now, I'm not against churches, I want you to know that, but I'm giving you the Word as God gave it to me tonight. When His church rises and obeys Him, something mighty is going to happen in this world. And He's getting His church ready. But we have to remember it's by the Spirit of the Lord, not any other way, according to His Word. *"Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the*

poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" You see when God gave us this Word, He gave it for this day. He didn't give it to me for 1954. He gave it to me for now. And this is why we have what we have in this place. This is why we obey the command of the Lord and this is why the Lord meets our needs – not man – God meets them. *"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shall thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am..."*

IV. Why Are We Christians?

Why are we Christians? Why are we called by His name? That we might know Him and walk with Him and obey Him. Or are we doing it just to be called Christians? But He said, "if you do this, then your light shall be as the morning." You know, I don't mind what other people do. I don't mind what other Christians do. But what I want more than anything else in this world is to know that when I call, God hears me and He answers me. Amen. It doesn't matter how somebody patterns their life. It doesn't matter how churches are formed. Jesus formed me, and I'm His church.. He's in you, and you're the church. Amen. He said, "...when you call, I will answer." Then He said, *"If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke..."* What is the yoke that binds us? A lot of yokes? *"...the putting forth of the finger..."* What's that? Judging one another. *"...and speaking vanity;"* How many vain things do we speak continually? Then put it away. *"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:"* We're not walking in this way alone. We're walking this way because it's God's way, and God is with us, Jesus is with us, and He ordained for us to go this way according to His Word. *"...thy darkness shall be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."*

I hear people say to me, "Oh, you have a 'helps' ministry." No I don't have a 'helps' ministry. I have everything God said for us to do. He's doing it! I didn't start this, God started it, and He's the One who's going to finish it. Amen. How glorious it is when you walk with Him, and you know that He hears you, and you know that He's with you, and you know that He's going to finish the job that He's doing. Amen. If we'll obey Him. That's why we must be careful how you treat the provision that God brings in this place. God has a way that we must go to have His blessings, to have rivers of living water inside of us, and to be satisfied in drought. And out there are multitudes on the streets, multitudes that are hungry, and don't know Him, -- the homeless – those that have bands of wickedness binding them and heavy burdens they cannot be free from – the oppressed cannot free themselves.

But the Lord will sift and clean us. He will sift and clean according to His Word, if we obey Him. People read this book, this chapter, and say, "Oh, that's on fasting." No. It's on obedience. Obedience. If we will do this, God will do this. If we don't do it, we can't expect God to do anything. I remember one day, after many years, when the Lord started sending me the food. But God trained us in it. He taught us how to sort out the bad and find some good. Even though we ended up with a handful of good, we learned how to sort out the bad, and throw it away. We couldn't even feed it to the animals – we had to bury it.

I didn't know where we were going to get the food, but I obeyed the Lord, and the Lord told me: "You go into the markets, and you tell them what you are doing, and I will cause them to give unto you." When they got the courage enough to go and talk to the people in charge, God began to move on the hearts. We did not beg. We said, "This is what we're doing, we're obeying God, we're feeding the hungry," and God took care of it. He's still taking care of it, fourteen years later. Amen.

V. *We Must Be Trained*

He said, "*They that shall be of thee shall build up the old waste places:*" Now the vision was not given just for local people. It was given for the whole world, and that's why He didn't give it until the end of time. If you know anything about the conditions of the world, they are all starving to death. Aren't they? God has a plan to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh, and He told me one time: "If I don't have it for you, I will create it for you." And I believe it. Amen. This Word never fails if we obey it. But we have to be obedient to Him. But if you are listening and by the Spirit of the Lord, He will train you in the way He wants you to go. But if you're not listening, then that's not His fault, that's yours. But He said, "*...they that shall be of thee shall build up the old waste places; shall raise up the foundations of many generations;...*"

He sent us into the villages in Africa, in India and in other parts of the world. He sent us when they were hundreds of years behind time, and they had nothing. He sent us there with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to give them something to live for. And to give them hope. To be "*the restorer of paths to dwell in*". Then He goes on to say, "*...if we turn away our feet from the Sabbath to do our own thing...if we will honor Him, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasures, nor speaking our own words.*" When Jesus came, there were three things that He did. He did not come to find His own way. He came to go the way of the Father. He did not come to please Himself, but to please the Father. He did not come speaking His own words, but speaking the words of the Father. Jesus wants us so filled with Him that these three things shall become a part of our life, that you can't separate it from our daily walk – that we know this is what God has put within us. That we, too, may do what He's called us to do. That if you will do this, if you'll delight yourself in the Lord, He said, "*I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth.*" God has something moving. He has Ezekiel's wheel ready to take off. And the only people who are going to ride in that wheel are the people who are trained by the Spirit of the Living God. Not anybody else. We'd better be trained by the Spirit of the Lord, because he's getting ready to take off across this whole earth. We aren't going to go hungry while we're riding. Because while we're riding on the high places of the earth, He's going to feed us "*with the heritage of Jacob, thy father. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*" Isaiah did not say it. God said it. So your sure place is in Jesus Christ, who only does the will of the Father, only speaks what the Father speaks and does what God has called Him to do. No pleasure of His own, but to please the Father. "*For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*" That's how positive it is.

If you don't believe it, that's fine with me, because I believe it. I believe every word of it because He's proved it. He said, "*Shew My people their transgressions.*" The church today is so jealous of what God is doing, but they won't do it themselves, and they are going to come up short, because they failed to hear what God is saying and do what God says. He said, "*Shew My people...*" What is Sommer Haven doing? We are just obeying the Lord, to shew the people what God wants them to do. Amen. Do you

hear it? If we will delight ourselves in the Lord, we will ride upon the high places of the earth. *"For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."* God began this Training Center, God is in it, and God is going to finish it. It's the Lord that gave it to us, it's the Lord that's doing it, and it's the Lord that's getting the glory for it, and not man. We have to come the way of the Spirit of God and be trained by the Spirit of God, so that God can receive all the glory and man will be blessed by having let God have His way. *"Behold I do a new thing and even now it shall spring forth, and shall ye not know it. He'll make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert to give drink to My people, My chosen – that I have formed for Myself, and they shall shew forth My praise."*

All we need to be concerned about is our obedience and allowing Him to have His way in our life. Let Him form us that we might be as He is in this world. It matters that we line up with God. The Word says He never fails, His Word never fails – never fails! Hallelujah!

VI. We Only Have Time To Run!

So we give to you the Word of the Lord that you may take it, receive it, run with it and give it wherever the Lord sends you to give it. *"For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."* The vision no longer tarrys. We don't have time to play around; we only have time to run. *"That they that run may read it as they run."* We only have time to put together what God has called us to do, and pick it up, and run with it, and give it all over the world where He's called us to go. He gave this vision that we might fulfill it according to His Word, and according to His Word, He is with us, He will be with us, and He will meet our every need. And He has done it: the impossible has been done in this Training Center because God is doing it and not us leaning on the arm of flesh, not us leaning on the almighty dollar, not us leaning on the people who have millions. That's their problem. We have God. Amen. We have Him.

I've never gone hungry in my life. Even during the depression I never went hungry. God picked me up from my hometown and set me down in Kentucky in a little school where they had plenty to eat. And He kept me there when the rest of my family were going through the soup line. Only because I honored Him and obeyed Him, I never went hungry in my life, because He's been my provider.

God loves us tonight. That call, that vision, is still before us to run with it. We need to enjoy every minute that we're working with the Lord on these things and forget about our flesh and forget about the gripes, and give it to the Lord, and He will handle them. But run, because our time is short. We have a whole world to reach before Jesus comes, and He's pouring out His Spirit, so we need to get ready to run. The vision does not tarry. It shall come to pass, and it is coming to pass. It's coming to pass right on this land, right now – what God promised.

VII. The Key Is Obedience

We're showing the people, no matter who they are, what God's way is, and if they will do it, they will have the same blessings of God in their churches, with their people, if they obey God. If they don't obey Him, they won't have it. But one day they're going to stand before Him and He's going to open up the book and He's going to say, *"I*

was hungry and you didn't feed me. I was naked and you didn't clothe Me. I was sick and you didn't visit Me. I was in prison and you didn't come to Me. Depart from Me you workers of iniquity." (Matthew 25:42-43) It's not how great we are, but He was hungry, and we didn't feed Him. He was naked, and we didn't clothe Him. He was sick, and we didn't visit Him. He was in prison, and we didn't go to Him. They said, "Lord, when saw we thee hungry?" "If you did it unto the least of these, you did it unto Me." (Matthew 25:45) We can talk about every doctrine of men. We can talk about all these things, but here's the finale right here – the final thing before God: Did we do it? The rest of it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter who we think we are. It matter who we think Jesus is, and let Him become the supreme ruler of our lives and watch Him do the impossible for us every moment of the day.

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank You for the Word tonight. We thank You, Lord, that You've imparted it to each and every one of us, that we might hear it, and that we might obey it, and that we might show forth this which You have given unto us; that we might show to all Your people by the Spirit of the Lord the way that You would have each one to go. Lord, we thank You, that it's not by might, and it's not by power, but it's by Your Spirit. Lord, train each one of us by Your Spirit that we may walk in the way that You would have us to walk. That our pleasures would be to please You, our words shall be Your words, that we shall give to others if they may hear it, receive it and do it. God, I thank You tonight for this Word. Let it ring inside of our every being, oh, God, and let us fulfill it according to this which pleases You. We give You glory. Bless everyone that's here tonight. Mighty God, I ask You to open every one of our hearts, open our ears to hear, to receive, and to obey the Word of the Lord tonight. God, we thank You that you've chosen us, that You might be exalted in all things, and for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, we ask it. Amen.