

The Lord Remembers
Giving Acceptable Gifts
Zechariah 7-8

“No man gives anything acceptable to God until has first given himself in love and sacrifice.”

-A.W. Tozer

I. The Fasting Problem

II. The Future Promise

Into the Bible

Despite Israel's stubborn faithlessness, God promises to change their hearts. The people had "made their hearts like flint" in stark rebellion against God. What does God promise though through the prophet Ezekiel? (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

In Zechariah, God's promised blessing on a restored Israel in the future was not predicated on their current status and definitely not on their past behavior. In like manner, our own past does not determine our future thanks be to God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 provides us with a reminder of that truth.

Application

Fasting is somewhat of a lost practice in our contemporary Protestant evangelical culture. In Matthew 6:16-18, Christ admonishes his disciples not to follow the practice of the Pharisees regarding fasting because they did so to appear spiritual. Are there “religious” things we do that can become ways to increase our spirituality quotient? How do we avoid this?

For Families

Talk with your children about God’s ability to change our hearts.