

# **A DECLARATION CONCERNING FASTING, AND THE PRAYER THAT GOD ACCEPTS.**

*Given forth by George Fox*

To all you that are keeping fasts, who smite with the fist of wickedness, and fast for strife and debate. The voice has cried aloud like a trumpet against you. Now to you, and to all, that you may come to know the true fast, which is accepted, and the fast which is in the strifes, and the debate, and smiting with the fists of wickedness; which fast is not required of the Lord. Behold, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exact all your labor; behold, mark, take notice, you fast for strife and debate, to smite with the fists of wickedness, you should not fast as you do this day, to make your voice known on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? said the Lord. A day for a man to afflict his soul; is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, to spread sackcloth under him? Will you call this a fast, and acceptable day to the Lord? Consider, all you that do fast, see if yours be not hanging down the head for a day like a bulrush, and is in strife and debate, and to smite with the fists of wickedness, whose voice you make to be known on high, but this fast is not with the Lord accepted; but that which leads you from strife, from debate, from wickedness, which is not the bowing down the head as a bulrush for a day, and yet live in exacting and pleasure, this is not accepted with the Lord, but that which separates from wickedness, debate, strife, pleasures, smiting with the fists of wickedness, that which separates from that, brings to know the true fast, which breaks the bonds of iniquity, and deals the bread to the hungry, brings the poor that are cast out to his own house, and when he sees any naked he covers them, and hides not himself from his own flesh; here is the true fast which separates from them, where the bonds of iniquity are standing, and the heavy burden of the oppressed remaining, and the yoke not broken, who deal not the bread to the hungry, and bring not the poor to their own house, and see the naked, but let him go unclothed, and hide themselves from his own flesh; yet such will make their voice to be heard on high, as Christ speaks of the Pharisees, which sounded a trumpet before them, and disfigured their faces, to appear to men to fast, but the bonds of iniquity were standing, strife and debate were standing, striking with the fist of wickedness standing, that made their voice heard on high, who had their reward.

But that which brings to the true fast, which appears not to men to fast, but unto the Father which sees in secret, and the Father that sees in secret shall reward it openly. This fast separates from the Pharisees' fast, and them that bow the head for a day like a bulrush; and this is it which brings to deal the bread to the hungry, and to clothe your own flesh when you see them naked, and bring the poor to your house, and to loose the bonds of wickedness; [mark,] this is the fast, and to undo every heavy burden; [mark again,] and to let the oppressed go free; this is the fast, and to break every yoke; and you that observe this fast, then shall your light break forth as the morning, and your health shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rearward; then shall you call, and the Lord shall answer, you shall cry, and he shall say, here I am; if you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the putting forth of the finger and speaking vanity, and if you draw out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul, then shall your light arise in obscurity, and your darkness be as the noon-day; the light brings to know this fast, and walking in it, this is kept, and he that believeth in darkness abides not.

Again, the Lord shall guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and make fat your bones, and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring whose waters fail not; these are they which are guided with the light, which comes from Christ where the springs are.

Again, those who shall keep this fast, shall build the old waste places, you shall raise up the foundations of many generations, and shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the paths to dwell in. That which gives now to see the foundation of many generations, is the light which separates from all which is out of the light; and those who go out of the light, though they may pretend a fast, bowing down the head for a time, yet they are far from this fast, and him that does raise up the foundation of many generations, and is a repairer of the breach, and restorer of the paths to dwell in; that which does give to see this foundation of many generations; and these breaches that are to be repaired and restored, and the paths to dwell in, is the light, which brings to know the true fast, and where this fast is known, which is from wickedness, from debate, from strife, from pleasures, from exacting, from the voice that is heard on high, from the speaking of vanity, from the bonds of iniquity which breaks every yoke, let the oppressed go free, here the health grows, where the morning is known, righteousness goes forth, the glory of the Lord is the rearward, and the light rises, and the soul is drawn out to the hungry, and satisfies the afflicted soul, and the springs of living water are known and felt, the waters fail not, here the Lord guides continually, and the foundation of many generations comes to be seen and raised up, and the repairer of breaches is here witnessed, and the restorer of paths to dwell in.

But all such as be from the light which the prophets were in, with which they saw Christ, and such to be in fasts, where was strife, where was wickedness, where was debate, where was bowing down like a bulrush for a day, lifting their voice on high, and the bonds of wickedness yet standing, and the burdens unloosed, and the oppressed not let go free, and the yoke not broken, the nakedness not clothed, the bread not dealt to the hungry, and the foundation of many generations not raised up until these things before mentioned be broken down, on such the light breaks not forth as the morning, and the Lord hears not that, and such have their reward, and such their iniquities have separated them from their God, and their sins have hid his face from them that he will not hear, and such their hands are defiled with blood, and their fingers with iniquity, whose lips have spoken lies, and tongues have uttered perverseness; none called for justice, nor any plead for truth; they trust in vanity, and speak lies, and conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity, they hatch cockatrice eggs, and weave the spider's web; he that eats of their eggs dies, and that which is crushed breaks out into a viper, their web shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their work; [mark and take notice,] their works are works of iniquity, the act of violence is in their hands, their feet run to do evil, they make haste to shed innocent blood, their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, wasting and destruction is in their paths, the way of peace they know not; there is no judgment in their doings, they have made them a crooked path, whatsoever goes therein shall not know peace; [mark,] such go from the light, therefore is judgment far, neither does justice overtake; and here is obscurity, and here is the walking in darkness, and here is the groping like blind men, as though they had no eyes, and their stumbling at noon-day in the desolate places, like dead men, and here is the roaring like bears, and mourning sorely, like doves, and here judgment is looked for, but there is none, and salvation is put far off, for the light is denied which gives to see it, but here the multiplying of transgression, and their sins testifying against them, and the transgression that was within them, and their iniquities which they knew, in transgressing and lying against the Lord, speaking the things they should not, when they knew with that of God in them, they should not speak it; so departing from the way of God, speaking oppression, revolting, conceiving and uttering forth from the heart words of falsehood; here is judgment turned away backward, and justice stands afar off, truth is fallen in the streets and cannot enter; yes truth falls, and he that departs from iniquity makes himself a prey; yes the Lord saw it, and it displeased him.

These are such that are in the fast which God does not accept, and are not in the true fast of them, whose light breaks forth as the morning; but these are such that be in the false fast, who grope like blind men, and that which gives to know the true fast and the false fast, is the light, that gives to see each, where the true judgment is, and the iniquity stands not, nor the transgressor, nor the speaker of lies, but that is judged and condemned with the light, which makes it

manifest; and who be in this fast when they call upon the Lord, the Lord will answer them, here am I; and here truth is pleaded for, and falsehood flies away, but who be out of this fast in the perverseness, their tongues uttering perverse things, are stumbling and groping like blind men, which be from the light, in the iniquity, which separates from God, who hides his face from them that he will not hear; going from the light, goes from the Lord and his face; so this is it which must be fasted from, for this is it which separates from God, and here comes the reward openly, which condemns all that before mentioned, which is contrary to the light, injustice, iniquity, transgression, vanity, and that which brings forth mischief, which hatches the cockatrice eggs, and weaves the spider's web; he that eats of these eggs dies, [mark,] that which is crushed breaks out into a viper; [mark again,] their web shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works of vanity, acts of violence is in their hands, this is all from the light in the wickedness; their feet run to do evil, make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of vanity, wasting and destruction is in their path, this is all from the light. Again, the way of peace they know not, there is no judgment in their goings; they have made them crooked paths, whosoever goes therein shall not know peace. [mark,] who goes in their way, that know not the way of peace, shall not know peace, whose path is crooked, where there is no judgment in their goings; [take notice,] no judgment in their goings; and this is all from the light, which manifests that which is to be judged, where the covenant of peace is known, where all that which is contrary to that before mentioned, is kept out; so all who live in those things before mentioned, contrary to the light in the false fast, they may mark their path, and behold their reward, who be out of the light, stumbling and groping like blind men; and those who be in the true fast, are from all them separated, their words, their actions and fruits, and their fast, whose fast breaks the bonds of iniquity, and whom the Lord hears, and to whom righteousness springs forth, and goes before them; the glory of the Lord is their rear-guard.

#### THE PROMISE OF GOD PROCLAIMED:

*Which is Christ, the everlasting Covenant of God to the Jews, Gentiles, and all People upon the Earth, of which God spoke by his Prophets, and was preached by the Apostles, and by his Servants and Messengers, sent forth since for Barbados, New England, Virginia, the East and West Indies, and the South and North Parts of the World, to go to them all.*

—By G. F.

The promise of the most high God, that lives forevermore, which he promised to the Gentiles by his prophets in the days of old, *Isa.* 11:9-10, the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea, [mark,] and in that day, [mark,] there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign

of the people, to it shall the Gentiles seek, [mark,] to it shall the Gentiles seek, and his rest shall be glorious.

Behold, said the Lord God, that lives forever, behold my servant, whom I uphold, mine elect in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him, and the isles shall wait for his law, he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles, [mark,] judgment to them, though they lived as the wild beasts; this is the promise which sets up judgment in the earth, and the isles shall wait for his law. He that creates the heavens, the Lord God, and he that spreads forth the earth, and that which comes out of it, and he that gives breath unto the people, and spirit to them that dwell therein, and has called his covenant in righteousness, and will uphold his hand. I will give you for a covenant of the people, and a light to the Gentiles, to open the blind eyes, and to bring the prisoners out of the prison, and them that sit in darkness, out of the prison house. Isa 42:1-7.

The Lord he will not give his glory to graven images, and his covenant of light is a new thing, he will bring to pass in the earth, who measures the waters in the hollow of his hand, and metes out heaven with a span, and comprehends the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighs the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance, the mighty God of heaven and earth, that is the God of the spirits of all flesh, who has all souls in his hand, God that lives forever and ever, whose hand is his power, all nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are accounted as the dust of a balance. Behold he takes up the isles as a very small thing, all nations before him are as nothing, and they are accounted to him as less than nothing, and vanity, then to whom will you liken God, that lives forever and ever. Isa 40.

And the living God said, concerning Christ, his covenant, is it a light thing that you should be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved of Israel? I will give you for a light to the Gentiles, [mark,] the heathen, which shall gather Israel, and be my salvation to the ends of the earth, to him that the nations shall abhor, and man shall despise, but you shall say to the prisoners go forth, and to them that be in darkness, show yourselves, then the heavens shall sing, and the earth shall be joyful, Isa 49. I will lift up my hand, said the Lord God, that lives forevermore, to the Gentiles, [mark,] the heathen, and set up my standard to the people, verse 22 You shall break forth on the right hand and on the left, and your seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and the desolate cities shall be inhabited, Isa 54. [mark,] the Gentiles shall inherit the seed, and so become heirs; and this is the covenant, said the Lord God, that lives forever, my spirit that is upon you. Isa 59:21.

Arise, shine, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen, the Gentiles shall come to your light, and the kings to the brightness of your rising, and you shall see and flow together, and your heart shall fear, and be enlarged,

because the abundance of the sea shall be converted, [mark the sea,] unto you, and the force of the Gentiles shall come unto you, and these shall show forth the praises of the Lord, that lives forever, and the isles shall wait for me, said the Lord. Isa 60:2,5.

And said the Lord, that loves judgment, that makes the everlasting covenant with the Jews, their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people; rejoice in the Lord my soul, and be joyful in God that lives forever, for he clothes me with a garment of salvation, and covers me with the robes of righteousness, who causes righteousness and peace to spring forth before all nations; the Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory, and righteousness shall go forth as brightness, and salvation as a lamp that burns, the Lord God shall be an everlasting light unto you, and your God your glory, and the Lord God shall be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended, and your people shall be all righteous, and they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hand, that it may be glorified forever, a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation, I the Lord will hasten it in its time. Isa 60,61, 62.

I will gather all nations and tongues, said the living God, and they shall come to see my glory, and I will set him for a sign among them, to the isles and them afar off, that have not heard my fame, and those who heard my glory shall declare my name among the Gentiles; as the new heavens and the new earth, that I make shall remain before me, said the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain, Isa 66:19,22. For you O Lord that made the heavens, the Gentiles shall come unto them from the ends of the earth, and say surely our fathers inherited lies, wherein there is no profit, Jer 16:19. Here the Gentiles come to see their own vanities, with the light that comes from God; proclaiming among the Gentiles, said the mighty God, let the heathen be awakened; come all you heathen and gather yourselves together, let the heathen be awakened and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will judge them round about; for the harvest is ripe and the press is full, and the sickle is ready, Joel 3. and my name shall be great among the heathen, said the Lord of hosts, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, shall my name be great among the Gentiles; in every place shall incense be offered to my name. Mal 1.

Mat 12:20, He shall show judgment to the Gentiles, and he shall not strive, a bruised reed he will not break, nor the smoking flax he will not quench, and shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles; and Simeon prophesied, who said his eyes had seen his salvation, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel. Luke 2:29-32.

The Lord sent Paul after he had opened his eyes, and had chosen him to bear his name among the Gentiles, and many of the Gentiles received the word of the

mighty God through Paul, and God granted repentance unto the Gentiles unto life, and the Gentiles glorified the word of the Lord, as many as knew the life eternal, and the Gentiles besought the apostles to preach the word, *Acts 13*. And Christ suffered and rose again, that he might show light to the people and the Gentiles, according to the prophets, *Acts 26*. So many of the Gentiles were called in the days of the apostles, and came to see the glory of God.

And the Gentiles that did not seek after righteousness, have obtained the righteousness of faith, and the Gentiles did by nature the things contained in the law, which judged the Jews, that had the law, *Rom 2*. For both Jews and Gentiles were concluded under sin, that he might have mercy upon all, and God was the God of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews, *Rom 3*. So glory and honor is to the Jew and Gentile, that does seek the glory and honor and eternal life; and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy, as it is written, for this cause I will confess your name among the Gentiles, and sing forth your praise; and Isaiah said, there shall be a root of Jesse, [mark,] that shall arise and shall reign over the Gentiles, and in him shall the Gentiles trust; and God revealed his Son in the apostle, that he might preach him among the Gentiles, who is now revealed that he might be preached, and the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that they might receive the promise of the spirit through faith, *Gal 3:14*, that the Gentiles should be heirs and partakers of the promise of Christ by the gospel, *Eph 3*, to whom God would make known what is the riches of his promise to the Gentiles, Christ in you the hope of glory, *Col 1:26-27*. Great is the mystery of godliness, God manifested in the flesh, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, *1 Tim 3:16*. that it might be fulfilled that was written, the land of Zebulon and Naphtali by the sea coasts beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, those who sat in darkness and the region and shadow of death, to them light sprang forth, *Mat 4*.

Paul in his confession said, he was sent to open the eyes of the blind, and to turn people from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, this he confessed before the heathen rulers, for which they thought he had been mad, which preached to the Gentiles repentance, to turn to God from dead works, *Acts 26:18*. And Paul declared in the midst of Mars-hill the unknown God, which set all the heathen in an uproar, *Acts 17:22*.

And the Lord put on righteousness as a breast-plate, and the helmet of salvation upon his head, and the garments of vengeance, for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. *Isa 59:17*.