

#### **PSALM 63:1-4**

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

# **PSALM 63:5-8**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

IN TERMS OF A DEFINITION, WE COULD SAY THAT FASTING MEANS WE STARVE OUR STRONG DESIRES IN ORDER TO FEED OUR DEEPEST DESIRE.

#### **MATTHEW 6:16-18**

And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.



'Grace is not opposed to effort, but it is opposed to earning.'
DALLAS WILLARD











#### **JOEL 2:23-25**

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you.

#### **JOEL 2:26-27**

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

### **JOEL 2:28-29**

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit.

## **JOEL 1:14**

Announce a holy fast; proclaim a sacred assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the temple of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

"In churches across society something amazing is happening, challenging long-held predictions about the future of Christianity in the twenty-first century. Where we once saw ageing congregations and a steady decline in attendance, we now see dramatic growth, led by the young. Where we once saw apathy or even hostility to Christianity and the Bible we see increased openness."

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"This is the clearest trend we've seen in more than a decade pointing to spiritual renewal — and it's the first time Barna has recorded such spiritual interest being led by younger generations."

**BARNA GROUP, USA** 

