

Isaiah 44:19

And no one considers in his heart, Nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"

I just love, love, love the last sentence in today's devotional verse.

Shall I fall down before a block of wood?

It sounds so crazy, yet how many actually do this? They will bow down to money (paper made from wood), looking to it to save them. But to get the full effect of today's devotional verse, we need to read it in its entire context.

† **Isaiah 44:12-19** *The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint. The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!" They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, And their hearts, so that they cannot understand. And no one considers in his heart, Nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"*

I have read this many, many times and when I was reading it again in my devotional time, I thought that it speaks for itself, and there isn't really anything I can add to it, because it is so clear how we make up our own little gods and worship them, calling out to them for help. Or even the world makes these little gods (Just look at advertising) for us to worship and we bow down to them, looking for them to help us. They will make us skinnier, or live longer or healthier or will make our life so much easier. They will turn back the hands of time as far as our appearance. Or, if your old god ain't workin right, go out and buy a new one, because every

company makes a better, newer and improved god each year... Hey look at Apple and how many flock or drool over what their newest release is (I do have to admit, I'm an Apple guy myself). Yet how much effort do we put into working hard so we can buy our new and improved god, or work extra hours to fit more of our god into our bank account?

Verse 12 sounds so much like the world and its false manmade gods: ***The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint.***

We put our all into these false gods, yet how much time do we put into our relationship with the True and Living GOD?

Change the name Jacob to your name in the verse below then follow the instruction in the last sentence and stop ***falling down before a block of wood.***

† ***Isaiah 44:21-22 "Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."***