

The Word Means What It Says!



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When someone talks to us in a way that we know *they mean what they say*, we listen—they have something important to say—and *God* has more important things to say. Our being *unrighteous* from the start of life means we do *not* meet the requirement for God’s kingdom—thus, we are *compelled* to deal with this situation.

The heart attitude we have from birth is opposed to obeying God and following the instructions of His Word. Therefore, everyone has to be *reborn* to believe and obey God. When we want *God’s will* to be *our will*, His Holy Spirit inspires faith in us. James 1:22 “*Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*” God requires that we walk by *faith* in Him and walk in obedience to His Word.

This total *submission* to the will of God is required to be *kept* by His power. We are to be *glad* to obey His Word because *He* gives the ability—we just make the choice. Opposition to the Word comes from an unwillingness to have Jesus be our Lord. Obedience to the will of God is for those who want their faith perfected in Christ. Abraham obeyed God on a very difficult issue, and James 2:22 “*By his actions his faith was perfected.*”

Obedience under the *New Covenant* is just as necessary as obedience under the *Old Law*. This obedience is *not* a matter of *merit* but a matter of *faith*. Obeying *God* eliminates *self*—the Holy Spirit is now in control.

New Testament instructions were written to save us from the flames—nothing can be rejected without serious results. We cannot be rebellious about one thing, because it is the same as disobeying God in everything James 2:10.

Jesus said to Matthew 5:44-45 “*Love your enemies, bless those cursing you, do good to those hating you, and pray for those accusing you falsely, and persecuting you, that ye may be [true] sons of your Father in the heavens.*”

The Lord said Matthew 6:19-21 “*Do not lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth, but amass wealth for yourselves in Heaven.*” Our salvation hinges on whether we love God enough to obey Him on money issues, and not compromising on any other faith issue—healing, avenging wrongs, daily supplies, forgiving from the heart, etc.

Deuteronomy 4:2 “*Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you from the LORD your God. Just obey [keep] them.*” King Saul did *not keep* the command of God, so he compromised on the *Word* of God. That began his fall from God’s grace—Satan took possession of him and God’s Spirit left him—that was the serious result of *disobeying* God’s command, *not* repenting, and *not* getting back in the will of God.

The king had no peace from that moment, he met with one trouble after another and finally committed suicide—heading for the flames. That all came from just two acts of disobedience; 1—refusing to obey God’s command to destroy the Amalekites; and 2—offering the sacrifice himself instead of waiting for the prophet. God means what He says!

The king obeyed *part* of the command to destroy the Amalekites—but that was like obeying God’s Word on healing, but not on finances. It was *unbelief* and *fear* that caused King Saul to be rebellious and disobey God’s Word.

The Philistines were ready to attack but the prophet had not arrived. The king decides to compromise and offered the sacrifice—something he was *not* appointed to do. God had earlier caused the *Philistines* to panic when Samuel was sacrificing the offering 1 Samuel 7:10, but this time *King Saul* was terrified of the enemy and offered the sacrifice himself since the prophet was delayed.

Immediately after disobeying God’s command—the prophet arrives. 1 Samuel 13:13 “*Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.*”

Millions have made that *same* mistake and used that *same* type of excuse—like, God wasn’t answering my prayer, so I had to do something.

Obeying God on fellowship is important—He says not to be closely connected to those who *profess* but do *not possess* God’s Truth. 2 Corinthians 6:14 “*Be ye not unequally yoked together [be in close association] with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion [what partnership] hath light with darkness?*”

Spiritual *light* is *obedience* to God’s Word; and spiritual *darkness* is *disobedience* to the Word. The apostle added 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 “*Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*”

Obedience to the *Word* of God and faith on the *power* of God, are always connected. James 1:22 “*Prove yourselves obedient to the Message, and do not be mere hearers of it, imposing a delusion upon yourselves,*” because Matthew 7:21 “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter*

into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

Stealing is a crime and a sin, but holding *resentment* is just as serious—as it would keep someone out of heaven. Matthew 6:15 “*If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*” If we do not truly *forgive* people from the heart—due to not having God’s *love* in our heart—we would land in the flames—make *no mistake* about that!

With the unforgiving servant Matthew 18:34-35 “*His master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.*” God’s Word *means* what it says!

It is not *our* place to avenge wrongs—it is God’s place to do that. Romans 12:19 “*Avenge not yourselves...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*” Disobeying God by resenting *wrongs* reveals a wrong and unrighteous attitude in our heart.

Jesus said that whoever *heard* His teaching and put it *into practice* would always stand. Trials and tests would not cause our spiritual house to collapse. Matthew 7:26-27 “*But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice [is not doing them] is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [When a test was met] “Great was the fall of it].”*”

Our response to insults, injustices, loss, or theft is to *not* retaliate and *not* seek vengeance, but to place the matter before God. We do *not* keep money in banks for our future in obedience to God’s Word in the Bible. Any possession that is financial security is transferred to Heaven by giving to the poor. Matthew 19:21 “*If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*”

Jesus said Luke 6:35 “*Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.*” These instructions were written for our obeying them. It is *not* works but is *love* for God; *faith* in Christ; and *trust* on His Atonement Blood for the salvation of our soul. These are real-life issues for real *live* people.

1 Peter 1:13-16 “*Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be [ye] holy, because I am holy.’”*

The *life* of the *believer* is so *different* from the *life* of the *unbeliever*—since an unbeliever does *not* trust God and does *not* listen to God about anything. Being reborn means given a *renewed* attitude that *wants* to trust God for healing, money, peace, protection, provisions, justice, and everything else. We are to be *glad* to obey His Word—it is all part of loving God. Hebrews 12:14 “*Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord.*”

The *old* life is ended, and a *new* life is beginning. The apostle focused on the *CROSS* Galatians 6:14 “*By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*” He did not do things in *disobedience* to God’s Word anymore. Outward things avail nothing, Galatians 6:15 “*But a new creature,*” or a new *attitude* that wants to obey God’s Word means everything.

This big *change* in our heart is the big *difference* between spiritual *light* and spiritual *darkness*. 1 Peter 1:15 “*As He who did call you is holy, ye also, become holy in all behaviour,*” by a willingness to obey His Word through the power of His Spirit. We are *required* to obey New

Testament teaching—to “*Be holy in all manner of conversation.*”

We are saved from eternal suffering by our trust on the atoning sacrifice of Christ. Our obedience to the Word is evidence that our faith is on the Atonement Blood Jesus shed for us. It shows that we truly *believe* that He *forgives* us and His Blood *cleanses* us in heart. 1 John 1:7 “*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

1 John 2:4 “*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*” Anyone who is not willing to obey God’s Word on one issue, is being as disobedient as someone who disobeys the Word on many issues—like someone who steals, lies, commits adultery, resents a wrong, or keeps laid-up treasure on earth.

The Bible is written so plainly that any Spirit-filled believer can understand it and can apply its divine principles of trust. God inspires us to walk in the light of His Word—by His Holy Spirit within. The only question we must settle is this: Does God’s Word really *mean* what it *says*!

When God speaks plainly, we are to obey without question—like Abraham and Noah did. It does not matter if the entire world disobeyed God’s Word, and every person who ever belonged to a church disobeyed the Word—we, as an individual believer in Christ, are to *believe* God, *accept* the Atonement of His Son as the value paid for our sins, and to *walk* in obedience to the Word. It is *required* for righteousness—*God’s Word means what it says!*



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org

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