

OBEY GOD'S ADVICE

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God's Word has perfect advice on every course of action in our entire lives. It tells us exactly what to do, the right thing to do, and the perfect thing to do. God's Word gives us advice from the smallest to the greatest detail of our life. God's Word is not only perfect concerning everything that pertains to this life but also tells us just how to be ready for eternal life.

There are only two kinds of advice in the world. One is God's; the other is directly from Satan. By following God's advice, we will become victorious and happy in everything that concerns our present life and also be truly prepared for eternal life.

We are to live according to God's Word, be delivered out of our troubles, and enter into the great inheritance that Jesus has provided. It is also absolutely necessary for our preparation for eternal life. This obedience to the Word has no merit as far as God is concerned, yet it is necessary for our welfare here and our eternal life hereafter.

Jesus Christ came to deliver us out of the troubles of this present life and to give us eternal life. He also came to give us the light and strength to understand, believe and obey the Word of God. Under the law people had to obey the Word in their own strength; under the Gospel, God furnishes the light and strength Himself.

We can receive the benefits of the Atonement of Christ, and the benefits of God's presence and power, only by meeting the conditions given us in God's Word; our eternal life depends upon our obedience to the Word. 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.*"

The Holy Spirit was sent into this world to guide us into all Truth as Jesus said in John 16:13-15. We are told the same in 1st Corinthians 2:9-16. The conditions of receiving the Holy Spirit and being taught and trained to know and do what God's Word tells us, in everything that concerns our life here, is first a real repentance, confess and forsake our sins. 1st John 1:9. God always forgives and cleanses anyone that does this. The second condition is a real surrender of our entire life and will to God for His Word to be accepted for every detail of our lives, to accept His advice only.

God takes possession by His Holy Spirit of every surrendered life, Romans 12:1,2; Luke 11:13. If our repentance and surrender is whole-hearted and final, we will have a real pardon and cleansing, and a real infilling of the Holy Spirit, which we are to believe that we have received without waiting to see or feel anything. The Holy Spirit will then begin to lead us into the Truths of God's Word, which means we will be led to depend on the living God alone, as Bible Christians did, for everything that concerns our life. This is the great difference between Satan's, which is fallen man's plan of life, and God's plan as taught in His Word. Fallen man is always inspired by Satan to trust in himself or some other human plan or power. God's Word always teaches us to depend on the living God alone.

To make a success of the Christian life, the surrender of our entire life must be final, but our decision must also be final to meet every circumstance of life as it arises, as God's Word directs. Then God's full power can work for us, and we can more and more enter into the benefits of the Atonement of Christ and be prepared for eternal life.

There is a great difference between trouble in the will of God and trouble in the world. Paul tells us in 2nd Corinthians 7:10 that the sorrow of this world ends in death, but sorrow in the will of God does a work that we will never regret.

God will use everything that touches us to perfect us in our knowledge and obedience to the Word and our trust in Him alone. When temptation arises, we can be sure that a lesson of obedience and trust is involved. If we settle it to trust in the living God to fight our battle and to deliver us by His power as we are taught in Philippians 4:6,7, every temptation will be a stepping-stone to becoming Scriptural and to a real trust in God alone.

It is the same in our bodies. The Scriptures teach us to depend on the living God alone for every particle of healing, health, and protection to our bodies as every Bible Christian did from Genesis to Revelation. There are a large number of other things that some may depend upon; for instance, the food they eat, the exercise they take, the kind of air they breathe, the kind of care they take of themselves. In other words, they follow the laws of nature which are not found in the Bible and only serve as a cover for Satan to work under in his attacks.

We do not have to depend on any of these things as the world does. It is the power of God alone that is to make these bodies well and keep them well regardless of human circumstances and conditions. If God could keep His people in perfect health in a fiery furnace seven times hot, He certainly can keep them in any other less dangerous place.

When we are depending on something else besides God, it will permit Satan to attack us, but if we hold steady, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us, as the Bible teaches (Acts 10:38), that every attack in our body is directly from Satan and is not caused by anything natural or physical. He will also teach us that these bodies were created to go by God's power alone, and that He does not need any human help of any kind, from the cradle to the grave. The only thing that ever gives Satan any power to work in any part of our life is a human plan, hidden in our hearts to use in an emergency.

The reason God's true children have financial battles, is that they might learn to trust in the living God and get Him between them and their source of supply, instead of having the human source of supply between them and God. We have fallen heir to God's financial wealth, and it is our Blood-bought right to have all that we would like to have for ourselves and all we would like to give away. 2nd Corinthians 9:8. (Moffatt's Translation) *“God is able to bless you with ample means, so that you may always have quite enough for any emergency of your own and ample besides for any kind act to others.”* This great wealth is already ours, but only as we learn under the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit to become Scriptural, by looking to the living God alone, can God give us these Blood-bought rights.

This financial question has a most important bearing on our eternal life. Jesus said in the parable of the unjust steward in Luke 16:1-15 that if anyone did not obey the financial teaching of the Scriptures, they would not receive the true spiritual riches here nor get eternal life. By starting right with a real repentance and full surrender, holding steadfast and making our decisions final to meet things as God's Word says, we will grow rapidly and get the results that come from obeying the Word; which will mean receiving the full benefits of the Atonement of Christ for this life and the next.

We will also receive the full benefit of God's presence and power, who is with us and for us, as free for our use and for our benefit as our own hands or anything else we own. We will also grow and develop into the full knowledge of God, really come to know Him as He is, which is the most valuable knowledge that any human being could ever receive.

Another most valuable result will be that we will be conformed to the image of Christ. What could be more valuable than having the very life of Jesus Christ in all its fulness of love, mercy, power, and wisdom within, the very life that God's Son lived when He was here on earth?

Through our learning to do as the Word says, our faith will become perfect as we are told in Romans 10:17. We also will become perfectly happy, having everything we need and desire. And everything within and without as we would like it to be. In reality, we will be back to the Garden of Eden. Our first parents lost the perfect happiness they had in the Garden of Eden through accepting Satan's advice and rejecting God's. We are to get back to the Garden of Eden by reversing this, rejecting Satan's advice and accepting God's.

Another most valuable result is that we will become perfected in our love to God through learning to obey His precious Word. This, of course, is the first and most important teaching of God's Word, that we are to love God with all our heart. This is the mark of perfection and carries everything we need and desire with it, but best of all, it is the real and true preparation for eternal life. In 1st John 2:5, we read: *"whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."*

In the 3rd and 4th verses it tells us that the only way we can know that we know God is by keeping His Word. It also says that *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his word, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*

No one could obey the Word without having the supreme love for everything but God destroyed and the perfect love of God to take its place. Take for example the financial plan. The natural man has great love for money. Anyone who obeys God's Word financially would have this great love for money destroyed and their love for God made perfect. Anything we put ahead of God by refusing to do as His Word says concerning it, is a practical and positive proof that we love that thing or that person more than we do God.

We have some very important examples that show us how valuable it is to always do exactly as God's Word says. Paul tells us in both Romans and Galatians that Abraham is an example for us and that they that walk in the footsteps of faithful Abraham will be blessed with faithful Abraham. Abraham did according to the Scriptures in the various circumstances of his life and each time he did this it was turned into a rich blessing. His final test of obedience to God's Word is recorded in Genesis the 22nd chapter, where he was told to offer his son as a burnt sacrifice.

Abraham obeyed this command without hesitating as he did in all other cases. Nothing could be more valuable in our attitude to God. To prove that his decision was final to do what God's Word said, he raised his knife to slay his son. God then intervened, saved the life of Isaac, and showed him another sacrifice to offer instead. This was Abraham's final test and lesson in obedience. It proved that his obedience was perfect, that God's love had become perfected, that his faith in God was perfect and, of course, all other things that go with such an attitude.

The results also were perfect, for God took an oath that in making people happy He would put Abraham first on the list and instead of losing his only son, his descendants would become as the stars of Heaven in multitude. Abraham never had any trouble after this. Everything he desired he received and enjoyed, was perfectly happy and protected in everything, and Jesus told us that Abraham was in Heaven.

Another valuable example is found in the 3rd chapter of Daniel, where the marks of a true Christian are revealed very clearly. These marks consist of obedience to God's Word and trusting in Him alone. A golden image had been erected by the King of Babylon. Everyone was commanded to trust in this golden image as their god. A penalty was attached that whoever did not accept this image as their god would be burned to death in a fiery furnace seven times hot.

The three Hebrew children refused to do this, were brought before the King, and given a second chance. They told him that they did not need a second chance, that the God they served was able to deliver them and would, but if He would not deliver them, they would not disobey His Word or trust in anything or anybody but Him. They were thrown in, and the flames were so fierce that the strong soldiers who threw them in were killed, but these men walked around in the midst of the fire without any harm and came out without even the smell of fire on them.

This surely was a great manifestation of God's power. It reveals to us the conditions by which anyone can receive the full benefits of God's presence and power, and of the Blood of Christ, which is perfect deliverance and protection from every evil thing.

These wonderful miracles that happened in Bible times can happen exactly the same today, wherever God can find anyone who will give their lives to Him and allow Him to teach, train and develop them to trust in Him instead of man or his devices, the same as these Bible characters did. To receive the full benefits of the Atonement for this life, and to be really and fully prepared for eternal life, we must come to the place where we would rather die than disobey God's Word, and we would rather die than trust in anything or anybody but Him.

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