

# Forsaking All— Following Jesus

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After we have repented of our sins before God—confessing and admitting our rebellious attitudes—then being willing to forsake all sins of the past—being committed to follow His Son Jesus in faith and in trust every day for everything—the Holy Spirit then comes into our heart to help us forsake all to follow Jesus.

Jesus chose Simon and Andrew as His disciples and said— Matthew 4:19-20 NKJV *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.* Later Jesus said to all the disciples Matthew 16:24 WEY, *“If any one desires to follow me, let him renounce self and take up his cross, and so be my follower.”*

When a man asked the Lord what good thing he should do to receive eternal life, Jesus replied Matthew 19:17 AV *“Keep the commandments”*—be perfected in faith on God—and *“thou wilt enter into life.”* After mentioning other Commandments and the man saying he has followed them, Jesus added Matthew 19:21 AV *“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.”*

The man had to sell, give, forsake those things, and trust on God—that would make him a follower of Jesus. It was valuable advice on financial trust—it would lead to Heaven. It is a promise from God. Matthew 19:29 AV *“Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”*

The disciples thought that this kind of faith and trust on God for every need every day, would not be possible. Matthew 19:26 AV Jesus said, *“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* We just choose to believe first, and then God gives His Holy Spirit second—Who inspires faith in us.

John the Baptist emphasized this same trust and obey system for those asking to be baptized. John the Baptist said Luke 3:8-9 WEY, *“Live lives which shall prove your change of heart; and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our forefather,’ for I tell you that God can raise up descendants for Abraham from these stones. And even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees, so that every tree which fails to yield good fruit will quickly be hewn down and thrown into the fire.”*

Spiritual fruit is daily trust on the living God of the Bible for each day's needs. If we will make the commitment, God will give us His Spirit. Multitudes say they follow Jesus, but are not obeying His commands. 1 John 2:4 WEY *“He who professes to know Him, and yet does not obey His commands, is a liar, and the truth has no place in his heart.”*

James 2:10-12 NLT *“The person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ So if you murder someone, you have broken the entire law, even if you do not commit adultery. Speak and act [do AV] as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.”*

When Jesus ascended, He promised His Spirit to those willing to obey—His Spirit would enable them to follow Him in faithful trust and obedience. Acts 5:31-32 NIV *“God exalted [Jesus] to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy*

*Spirit, Whom God has given to those who obey Him.”*

Jesus did the Father's will no matter what the risk would be, or the seriousness of the persecution at hand, because He was committed to following scripture—John 10:35 AV *“and the scripture cannot be broken.”* Hebrews 5:8-9 NKJV *“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”*

If we are not committed to responding to things as Jesus instructed, the Holy Spirit's power is hindered, and we start falling back to the faithless ways of a rebellious world. If no repentance is made, we would soon be outside the will of God, because of not obeying the Word of God. Those who enter heaven, Matthew 7:21 WEY *“are obedient to my Father Who is in Heaven.”*

Faith and obedience are always connected to believe and trust on God. If we have faith in God, we will obey His Word—regardless of the risk, the temptation, or the persecution because of the Word of God. The Israelites did not keep their faith on God in the wilderness, so they were not able to obey His instructions—which prevented them from entering the Promised Land.

Obeying God's Word brings great spiritual results, so we should be glad to follow the Lord's instructions. The Holy Spirit provides both the desire and the ability to follow the Word of God—we just make the decision to obey it.

God does not ask anyone to obey His Word until He sees that they have a willing heart. We are ready to obey God's Word in faith, when we have confessed our sins to Him in prayer. At that point we are forgiven, and the Holy Spirit is in control. Colossians 3:17 AV *“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”*

The Atonement sacrifice of Jesus enables all sins to be forgiven and all guilt to be removed—when we have confessed them before God. We are then able to follow the instructions in Scripture in obedient faith. Jesus explained how to meet financial problems; physical oppressions; wrong treatment; and injustices. We are to be kind, considerate, and forgiving toward everyone.

Our willingness to follow Jesus enables us to meet insults, partiality, prejudice, and discrimination in a scriptural way. Holding resentment against anyone for any reason is deliberately disobeying the Word of God. We must forgive from the heart because Matthew 6:14 AV *"If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you."*

Joseph's example Genesis 39 shows how to forsake all and follow Jesus. Joseph met very difficult things, and extremely unjust treatment, but he met them in a scriptural way by trusting God in faith for the ability to do His will concerning these serious wrongs.

This willingness to obey removed the pride in his heart—and put humility in its place. When he could have had revenge, Joseph offered forgiveness. Genesis 50:20 NIV *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

When suffering the worst abuse and cruelty, Jesus still 1 Peter 2:22-24 NIV *"Committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him Who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed."*

We are now dead to anger and resentment—we have been freed from hard feelings, grudges, and

bitterness toward people. If we are willing to forgive and forget, God says He approves and accepts us. 1 Peter 2:19 WEY *"For it is an acceptable thing with God, if, from a sense of duty to Him, a man patiently submits to wrong, when treated unjustly."*

Satan suggests that we have a right to be upset over some wrong, or we have a right to resent someone's remarks. He wants us to describe how wrongly we have been treated—hoping someone will agree—It is only right, he says. But the only scriptural right we have, is to follow the right example of Jesus, who did not strike back and did not threaten, but placed everything into His Father's hands, 1 Peter 2:23.

The will of God is plainly stated in the Word of God—that is why we read the Bible every day. We are not to snap back at insults; not be upset when slighted; and not threaten when offended, but instead, are inspired to place the matter before God. Forgiving from the heart is following Jesus by faith, Who said— Luke 23:34 AV *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."*

Many are deceived by the devil to think that a self-righteous attitude makes them right with God. Any scriptural attitude toward anyone or anything is definitely following Jesus, but these have no merit of themselves to justify us. Luke 17:10 WEY *"When you have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, 'There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do.'"*

The believer in Christ, is bound by commitment to trust God in faith. There is no merit because we do such things—it is simply evidence that we truly believe in the One God has sent; Who willingly took our place on the cross, so he could forgive the sins in our life. It is outward evidence of an inward change of heart—it is bringing forth Luke 3:8 AV *"fruits worthy of repentance."*

Where or on Whom we put our trust, defines a believer. Every follower of the Son of God is committed to obey the Word of God. John 1:1 AV *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* If Jesus is the Word, then God is speaking. If we are not following Jesus, then we are following the world. Matthew 12:30 NKJV *"He who is not with Me is against Me."*

If we truly believed Jesus is Who He says He is, we would trust Him and follow Him. John 3:18 NLT *"There is no judgment awaiting those who trust Him. But those who do not trust Him have already been judged for not believing in the only [begotten AV] Son of God."*

Those who do not believe Him will not trust Him, so they would be judged guilty. Verses 19-20 NLT *"Their judgment is based on this fact: the light from heaven came into the world, but they loved the darkness [of the world] more than the light [of the truth], for their actions were evil. They hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness."*

On the other side—John 3:21 NIV *"Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through [trust on] God."* — forsaking all to follow Jesus—is just continuing to trust on God, by the power of the Holy Spirit—leading to an eternal reward. Jesus said Matthew 4:19 AV, *"Follow Me"* — so we have to forsake the world!



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