



# TAKE UP THY SWORD



A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)*

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## If You Obey, God Will Repay

*And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven... and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws (Genesis 26:4-5).*

Although there's a controversy about using the word "obey" in modern-day marriage vows, we must not forget that we (the Church) are the Bride of Christ and cannot omit that word from our Christian vocabulary whenever it's inconvenient or unpopular. But isn't it much easier to compromise than to remain on that straight and narrow path of righteousness? Perhaps Samuel's speech to King Saul can influence our desire to remain submissive:

*And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king (1 Sam 15:22-23).*

In verse 24 of that same passage, King Saul admitted that he obeyed and feared the people instead of God's commandment. Sometimes we have to learn the hard way that there are consequences for our actions; the reward (recompense) can be positive or negative. I prefer to receive the promises such as, "If they obey and serve him [God], they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures" (Job 36:11)! And the Lord is so awesome that according to the sixth chapter of Matthew, we don't even have to put our obedience on display for the whole world to see how "good" we are:

*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly (6:5-6).*

It's no coincidence that "the first commandment with promise" (Eph 6:2) involves children obeying their parents. And because we have the "power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12), we must obey our Heavenly Father in all things! We don't want to be categorized as disobedient children, because Ephesians 2:2 states that the spirit of "the prince of the power of the air" (Satan) works through these people and they endure God's wrath. But the Lord is merciful, and many [conditional] statements are found in the Word which clearly express His willingness to repay us for our obedience:

IF	THEN
<i>thou shalt do this thing...</i>	<i>thou shalt be able to endure... (Ex 18:23)</i>
<i>ye will obey My voice...</i>	<i>ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me... (Ex 19:5)</i>
<i>thou shalt indeed obey His Voice...</i>	<i>I will be an enemy unto thine enemies... (Ex 23:22)</i>
<i>the Lord delight in us...</i>	<i>He will bring us into this land... (Num 14:8)</i>
<i>thou shalt keep all these commandments...</i>	<i>shalt thou add three cities more for thee... (Deut 19:9)</i>

In Jeremiah 51:56, we're introduced to "the Lord God of recompences" (Jehovah Gmolah), and Proverbs 13:21 says that "evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed." Our Savior Jesus Christ is the perfect example of God's faithfulness to His Word:

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name (Phil 2:8-9).*

In the book of Ruth, we see how our obedience is directly linked to God's perfect will and destiny for our lives. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, were both widows living alone in Bethlehem. In order for them to survive, Ruth went to glean during the harvest in the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband. He gave her favor and said, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel" (2:12). She followed his instructions and also said unto Naomi, "All that thou sayest unto me I will do" (3:5). Because of Ruth's loyalty, she eventually married Boaz (their kinsman redeemer) and gave birth to Obed — King David's grandfather.

So when the flesh is warring against the Spirit, remember that "there is a reward for the righteous" (Ps 58:11)!

**THUS SAITH THE LORD: "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isa 1:19).**

**PRAYER:** *The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me (Ps 18:20).*

**"Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):**

Deuteronomy 4:30-31; 2 Chronicles 30:8; Psalm 19:8,11; Proverbs 11:31; Jeremiah 26:13, 31:16; Matthew 16:27; Luke 6:35; Colossians 3:23-25; Hebrews 10:35-36, 11:6

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