

Keys For The Blessings

“³If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. ⁵Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. ⁶ “ I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. ⁷ You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. ⁸ Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you. ⁹ “ I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. ¹¹ I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. ¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.” (Leviticus 26:3-13)

As we read above there are tremendous blessing waiting for us and for all the people. But before the blessing will come God expects from us obedience and faithfulness to Him. The Word of God says *“³If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands.”* Then the blessing of God will come on us if we obey and follow the following decrees and commands of the Lord:-

1- “Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God.” Our God is a jealous God, He gave us everything we need and ready to satisfy us with what we want for our lives. God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. God gave His Son for this purpose so that we will enjoy life and life to full in His presence. Therefore God doesn't want us to have idols in form of anything.

There are external idols people worship that we can see like saints, false religions like Islam, Hinduism, etc. As well as there are also internal idols in the hearts of the people they need to remove them to experience God's blessings. We are responsible to educate the people and to help them to remove these internal idols from their heart and lives. *Ezekiel 14:1-6* speaks about idols in the heart: *“²Then the word of the LORD came to me: ³ “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? ⁴ Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. ⁵ I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.’ ⁶ “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices! God commanded the people through Ezekiel to remove idols from their hearts.*

We have to educate the people to do so in order for them to receive God’s blessings. Other passages that speak about idols are *Ephesians 5:3-7*: *“³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them.”* Three main idols here: *First sexual immorality and lust, Second greed and the love of money, and Third Impurity* like corruption, injustice, manipulation and doing politics. *2 King 17:33, 34* *“³³They worshiped the LORD, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought. ³⁴ To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.”* If we observe practices more than the Word of God and concentrate more on them then they will become as idols to us. People customs and traditions when it is wrong and they insist to live their lives according to that custom that contradict the Word of God, then it become idol worship. Such practices like spending much money on birthday’s parties’ and marriages and other celebrations, and not focusing on the Word of God then that become the idols in our lives. Wrong and unnecessary practices are idols need to be removed. You just keep such things because your pride only.

2- “Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 26:2) Observe my Sabbaths: The Sabbath is the day of rest that God give for our bodies. God created the world in six days and in the seventh day He rested. We also we rested because we trust God that He will be the one who will fight the battle for us on the next six days of our week. We as Christians we need to keep in every week the day of our worship to God. This is to express our love, gratitude to God and to show our faithfulness to Him. *“And have reverence for my sanctuary.”* The sanctuary is the place that God dwell. At the time of Moses, God’s sanctuary was in the mid f His people represented by the Ark of the Covenant and The Tent of Meeting. In the New Testament God dwell in the mid of His people in the Holy Spirit, and what we called today the Church. We ought to show reverence to the Church of God. We ought to take our responsibilities to regularly attend the church, go in harmony with the vision of the church, and support the financial need of the church through our regular giving of our tithes and offerings. As well as respecting, loving and caring for one another and respecting and helping those who are responsible to manage and lead the church.

My Dear and Beloved: What God required from us is not so much, and He send His Word to us so we can be delivered from sin and live in the righteous way that God wants us to live and to enjoy His blessings as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, thank you for Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for Your Word that teaches me more of your ways of life. Lord helps me to walk in the truth and to share with others your goodness and your love. Lord bless Your Church and Your people and build us up in your grace, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*