

The Fear of God
Part 5
Keeping Your Vows To God

“1 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. 4 I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. 5 For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. 6 Increase the days of the king’s life, his years for many generations. 7 May he be enthroned in God’s presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. 8 Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day.” (Psalm 61:1-8)

Keeping and fulfilling vows is a commitment and way to show your loyalty to God and to His Word and His Christ. You cannot follow God and obey Christ without keeping your commitment and abide with His Word so that you can receive His promises. Christ clearly said it in **Luke 6: 46** ***And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*** Commitment to Christ it will only be valid and considered when you keep and do what He says in His Word.

As we had read above in **Psalm 61** that King David in verse 5 said to God ***For you, God, have heard my vows;*** it showed that David had understood that if he is committing his life to God, then he needs to abide with and do what God’s says. He further said ***you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name;*** David declared that he had received the heritage of God and His blessings that He give to those who fear Him. Making vows to God that goes along His word and fulfilling it, it shows that a person is God fearing individual, and that would ultimately makes that person eligible to receive rewards and blessings from God.

King David was in distress and he was in need for God’s help. He prayed and present his request and petition to the Lord, ***“1 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. 4 I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.”*** David as well as included his vows that he considered as prayer requests and that he need to fulfill as God for sure is going to relief him; David was assured that God would relief him and fulfilled his request, ***“5 For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.”***

Life and trials for David was an introduction of series of commitment and vows to God. He further goes in prayers and requested God, ***“6 Increase the days of the king’s life, his years for many generations. 7 May he be enthroned in God’s presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. 8 Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day.”*** David requested a longer life, and that he will always to be enthroned in God’s presence to enjoy God’s love and faithfulness. Therefore he promised God that he will fulfill his vows toward Him day after day.

Disciple of Jesus and Christianity is commitment and willingness to listen and obey God’s Word to receive God’s promises. Making a vow to God is a prayer request committing yourself

to obey God and do a particular thing for HIM as He is enabling you and makes you fit to do that according to His Word.

Truly what David said in **Psalm 65:1-2**, ***“1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed. 2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.”*** Trials and life event will humble the people and make them tremble of fear and would ultimately lead them to commit themselves to follow God and to fulfill His will in their life.

Jacob the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, in his fleeing event from his brother Esau, God revealed Himself to him, as we can read here: ***“10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”*** (Genesis 28:10-15) Jacob was so exhausted, and so when he wanted to sleep, he had no bed, but he made stones his pillows. The Lord appeared to Him that night and revealed Himself and His promises to him and as the following:

- 1- ***I am the LORD God of Abraham:*** God introduced Himself to Jacob as the only true God of His fathers
- 2- ***The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed:*** Although Jacob had not even a bed in that land to sleep but God promised him that He will give him the land that he was sleeping on.
- 3- ***Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south:*** God promised him multiplication and increase for his descendants.
- 4- ***In thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed:*** God promised Jacob that other families on earth will be blessed through his life.
- 5- ***I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest:*** God promised Jacob that He will be with him, providing for him, and will protect him, wherever he will go and be.
- 6- ***Will bring thee again into this land:*** God promised him that He will bring him back to that place.
- 7- ***I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of:*** God promised Jacob that He will not leave him till He would accomplished all what He had promised him.

God in that dream session gave to Jacob His amazing promises. Therefore when Jacob awaked from his sleep he concluded that God was in that place, and that place is the house of God and the gate to heaven, ***“16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place!***

this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Genesis 28:16-17)
The trial that Jacob was passing through prepared him to meet God and imparted to him the fear of God in His life for ***he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place!***

Therefore when he woke up, he took the stone that he was using as his pillows, set it as pillar and pour oil upon it and named it Bethel, for he designated it as the house of God, ***“18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.” (Genesis 28:18-19)*** That is equivalent to the Church of God today for the meaning of Bethel is the house of God.

Further, Jacob in respond to that grace of God, he committed himself to God with the following vows: ***“20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” (Genesis 28:20-22)*** As the Lord showed His promises and good plan for Jacob, he committed himself to the Lord. The same for you now as God revealed His good promises to you then you need to commit yourself to God as Jacob commit himself to God in the following aspect:

1- The Lordship of God over your life, “The LORD will be my God”: God should be the Lord over your life. He should be the one to lead you and lead your life in the way that you need to move and go. You should not be the Lord over your life but the Lord should be the one on the throne of your life. You cannot do what you like and decide what you wish. The Lord should be the one to decide for you and lead you in the way of righteousness.

2- Your commitment to be part of God’s church, “And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house”: The church is the family of God and the members are God’s household. When God gives us birth through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord He places us in His house and with His household, the church. Therefore as we commit ourselves to God we need to commit ourselves to God’s church, to serve God with the rest of His family and to do our duties and responsibilities to the church that God had placed us in.

3- Tithing your income, “and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth”: All the good things that you are receiving are from God and you are called by God to give Him the tenth of all what you earn or receive. This is your financial commitment so that God’s work will continue and His blessing will continue to come into your life.

We know very well that the Lord was with Jacob and He prospered and God gave him children and flocks of livestock and men and maid servants, and He brought him safely out from Haran and out from the hands of his uncle Laban and back to his land. Even on arrival God saved Jacob and all what he got from the hand of his brother Esau who wanted to kill him. But when God fulfilled all what He promised him, Jacob did not fulfilled his vows to God, ***“17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. 18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. 19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the***

hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. 20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.” (Genesis 33:17-20) Jacob forgot Bethel, the Church of God that He committed himself to; that the Lord shall rule over his life and will, and the place where he will tithes all what He will receive from God.

On wavering from his vows toward God and in breaking his commitment with the Lord, Jacob was exposed to threat and dangers that had brought troubles unto him. ***Genesis 34*** (Read the whole chapter in your own bible) speaks about his daughter Dina was raped by Shechem the son Hamor, and how Levi and Simeon put to sword all the people of Shechem, and that incident had placed the whole family of Jacob under a great threat and trouble. All that happened because Jacob did not fulfill his vows to God.

At that moment when Jacob was put into troubles, the Lord intervened, and reminded him to go up to the place where he can fulfill his commitment and vows to God: ***“1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. 5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. 7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.” (Genesis 35:1-7)*** When you commit yourself to God and when God bless you and relief you and then you break your vows instead of fulfilling them, then troubles, problem and deterioration will come into your life and in the life of your family and children, and you will be under threats. You see here when Jacob waver in his commitment before God, his family went into worldliness, immoralities happened, murder, idols introduced and they were living in sin and in non holy living. Many families got affected and infected with sin and worldliness because parents forgot God and become negligent to keep their commitment and their vows toward the Lord. God is the One who gave you all the good things that you have, therefore you need to keep your commitment and vows toward Him, and so He will establish you and establish your family and descendants.

“4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6) When Jacob commit himself to God and ultimately received the full blessings of God, He should be faithful to God and keep what He promised. But when he became unfaithful he invited destruction into his life and to his family members; this word of God was fulfilled, ***“6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?”*** Be careful and cautious not to make God angry and not to destroy the work of your hand.

My dear and beloved: It is time for you to examine yourself and come back to God in repentance. Turn from sin and consider what is going on in your life and the trials that you are passing through. Is God angry with you? Have you failed to fulfill what you promised Him? Come back to God as He is reminding you to go up back where you committed yourself to Him as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me I did not fulfill what I vowed to you _____.* *Lord today I commit myself to correct things and to do what I commit myself to. Lord uphold me with your grace, give me strength and provide my needs so I can continue to serve you and live my life for you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ



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