

Right Resources for Church Money

Vows Part 1

“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 KJV)

Men make vows to God when they pass through the valley experience facing humiliation. The hardness of the trials will impart humility to them and make them go in line with the standard of God and His Word and they make a commitment to comply with God’s will and His purpose in their life. * **Once we commit ourselves to God, then we are accountable before God to fulfill what we have committed ourselves to do.** When we neglect or delay in fulfilling our commitment or vow to God, then we are inviting destruction into our lives. * **There are certain people who do not show progress or show fruitfulness in their life because they are cold and lukewarm toward God. They just use God to get certain privileges. They make vows to God, but they don’t fulfill them. Therefore, God will not bless or prosper the work of their hands. The Bible says, “25 It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.” (Proverbs 20:25 KJV)**

Committing our lives to God is our personal vow to Him and we fulfill this vow in the presence of His people who fear Him, that is His church. We can read that in the following Scriptures, *“17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. 18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, 19 In the courts of the LORD’S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psalm 116:17-19 KJV)* *“25 My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.” (Psalm 22:25 KJV)*

Our vows are directed to Christ, so we need to fulfill them in the midst of His church for Christ is the head of the church. The church must be aware of the people’s vows. *“18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18 KJV)*

When Moses gave his instructions to the Israelites about the place of worship when they entered the Promised Land, he stressed on a certain place of worship where they needed to bring their tithes, offerings, firstfruits, sacrifices and vows to the Lord. *“1 These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. 2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: 3 And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. 4 Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God. 5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: 6 And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your*

freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: 7 And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee. 8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes. 9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. 10 But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; 11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: 12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. 13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: 14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee. 15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart. 16 Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water. 17 Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: 18 But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto. 19 Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth. 20 When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after. 21 If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after. 22 Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat of them alike. 23 Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh. 24 Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water. 25 Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD. 26 Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose: 27 And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of the LORD thy God: and the blood of thy sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of the LORD thy God, and thou shalt eat the flesh. 28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God. 29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; 30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. 31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the

LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. 32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” (Deuteronomy 12:1-32 KJV)

The purpose of bringing all the tithes, the offerings, the sacrifices and the vows to one place where the priests and the Levites were located was to audit those items, their qualities and purpose, and to observe what was going on in the peoples’ lives who were coming to God. No one then was allowed to do his own will and wishes, but everyone would be admonished to observe and follow the instructions of God’s Word. The instructors were the Priests and the Levites who will be the right people to use those tithes, firstfruits, vows and offerings for their maintenance and for the work of God and for His sanctuary and later on for His temple.

In the New Testament, the church now is the place that the people would bring all these; the tithes, firstfruits, offerings, sacrifices and vows to God, to be received and examined by the church leaders and to be under the jurisdiction of the church government to be used as God directed and ordained in His Word.

The church authority is responsible to admonish the people and collect from them what they ought to give to God, and check what is going on and examine their personal life. The church is responsible to teach the members about correct budgeting and what are the things that they need to give to God.

The church should examine what the people vowed to God. Vows according to the Bible should go along the Word of God. There are certain vows that are wrong, contradict the Word of God and contradict the will of God, in that case the church has the authority to amend or nullify what the member had promised to do. That is good to protect the people from falling into sin and got trapped with the plans of the devil.

The centrality of the government of the church to audit people’s promises and vows will be extending into the life of each and every home and family that are part of the life of the church. Moses gave authority to the heads of the families, fathers and husbands, to be responsible to audit and observe how their wives, sons and daughters were committing their lives to do as we can read in *Numbers 30:1-13*, **“1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded. 2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. 3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; 4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. 5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her. 6 And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul; 7 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. 8 But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of**

none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her. 9 But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her. 10 And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; 11 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. 12 But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. 13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.” (Numbers 30:1-13 KJV)

* The fathers and the husbands were supposed to be loyal to God and to the church and were given authority to govern their homes and families in the fear of the Lord. They were the ones who suppose to be the quality control over their family members and would lead them to do what is right and just. * Therefore when wife or daughter, or any other member of the family, will go into wrong direction and would commit herself or himself to do something that contradict God’s Word then the fathers and the husbands have the authority to nullify that vow. * In the New Testament the fathers and the husbands are the heads of the families and are given the power to lead the family as long as they are in line with God’s Word. * Now when fathers and husbands are in disorder and out of God’s Word, then wives, daughters and children who are obedient to God’s Word are not to go along what disobedient father or husband would say or instruct; as long as that possible they ought to resist and oppose those disobedient fathers and husbands. * Fathers and husbands are given authority from God and from the church to lead their homes and families with God’s Word and help the church leaders to keep Godly atmosphere in their homes. But when they are disobedient and rebellious against God, then the authority will be given to those members; wife, daughters, and boys, who left in the family, and who are obedient to God’s Word.

“21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee 22 But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.” (Deuteronomy 23:21-22 KJV)

In setting a vow to God you need to fulfill what you vow so that His blessings will continue to flow in your life and in the life of your family and the people with you. This is also what the Word of God tells us: **“14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:” (Psalm 50:14 KJV)**

You make a vow the time that you are in trouble, therefore you need to fulfill it when God answers your prayers and delivers you out of your troubles, as the Psalmist here said to God: **“13 I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, 14 Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.” (Psalm 66:13-14 KJV)** Even the non believers when God will put them into a hard situation they will make their vows and do their parts to fulfill; as we read here about the Egyptians that Isaiah spoke in his prophecy, **“21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.” (Isaiah 19:21 KJV)** Also as we read here about the men who were on the ship after they threw away Jonah into the sea: **“16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.” (Jonah 1:16 KJV) If**

the non believers will do such, then how much for the people of God and for us today, that we need to be obedient and diligent to fulfill our vows unto God when he relief us and answer our prayers.

Therefore be diligent and be glad to fulfill your vows to God as the Psalmist said, **“12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.” (Psalm 56:12 KJV)** Don't be like Jonah whom God disciplined and put him in the belly of the big fish to force him to pay his vows. But finally Jonah surrendered to God and did as he vowed as we read here from his mouth, **“9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” (Jonah 2:9 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: To fulfill our vows, that will impress the non believers around us; our good example in that aspect to fulfill our vows unto God and to keep our commitment will help the non believers to hear the good news and the salvation of Jesus in a proper way; as we read here, **“15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.” (Nahum 1:15 KJV)** Therefore put in your mind, when you preach the gospel to the lost, you need to live the message and the Word of God, so salvation can flow through you to others, and your life will be a good example for them to follow Christ.

Let us 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 dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me how to live a Godly life in pertain to be faithful to you in obeying your Word and commands, and to fulfill that, and to do my vows to you.

Church, come now to the Lord and repent and renounce all your sins and shortcomings. Renounce the sins of unfaithfulness, doing your own will, being bad example to others around you, and in such you are hindering the gospel to be preached. Renounce your breaking and not fulfilling your vows to God. Renounce your sin being unfaithful to God's church. Lord I ask you to forgive me; I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself today to fulfill to you what I vowed _____.

Lord, I will live in a way to be a good example among your church and your people so they can be encouraged to go forward and to fulfill their vows unto you. Lord I commit myself to live a Godly life and to be a good example so that the gospel will be further preached and reach more new people. Lord, strengthen me and sustain me, provide for me and protect me so that I will continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to come back to you and fulfill their vows in the midst of your church, Lord uphold them with your grace and mercy, give them strength and provide their needs so they will continue to serve you and live their lives for you. Lord make their lives good testimony to others to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and uphold us with your grace and mercy so that we will continue to teach and discipline our children and the new disciples with the principles that we learned today in your Word. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you. Lord enable us to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples, and train new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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