

The Fear of God Part 12 Keeping Your Vows To God

“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)***

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.

Also put in your mind that your vows to God you need to fulfill in the presence of the life of the people of God, His church, as we read here, ***“14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. 18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,” (Psalm 116:14, 18 KJV)*** ***“1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and***

unto thee shall the vow be performed.” (Psalm 65:1 KJV) Zion was the place of His sanctuary and His people around Him, and today is the church where you need to fulfill your commitment to God in the presence of His people. The people of God were fulfilling their vows in the sanctuary of God, in the place that he had ordained the ark to be located; to that place the people were recommended to bring their vows to God. Such arrangement was to prove the faithfulness of God's people toward God, and there where the priests were in their offices to spur the people to be diligent in fulfilling their vows. ***People who are fulfilling their vows in God's sanctuary, in His church, among His people will encourage others to live in obedience to Christ. Those who fear God will be noticed and approved by God and by His church and they will be good example to others to follow.*** We can read about them the following: ***“16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.” (Malachi 3:16-18 KJV)*** ***Those who fear God and fulfill their vows, they will be honored by God, and their life will be blessed by God, and will have power and authority over their enemies and every one will notice how God is delivering them from troubles because He is pleased with their lives.*** We can read about them the following: ***“2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 4:2-3 KJV)***

Bringing and fulfilling the vows in His sanctuary, that is God's church, will give the opportunity for the priests, the church leaders, the pastors to examine and approve what the people vowed and offered to God, and to rebuke and correct those who cheat in fulfilling their vows. We can read about those who cheat God the following: ***“14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.” (Malachi 1:14 KJV)*** ***Therefore, don't cheat God so his curse will not fall on you.***

Good example from the Bible of those who fulfilled their vows in the mid of God's people is the example of Hannah the mother of Samuel who vowed to give her first son to the Lord. Let us read the story of Hannah and learn Godly matters from her good attitude: ***“7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. 8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons? 9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. 12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said***

unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. 17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. 18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. 19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. 20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD. 21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. 22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. 23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. 24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. 25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: 28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.” (1 Samuel 1:7-28 KJV) As we read, Hannah prayed to God and made her vow to give back to God what He will give her. God was merciful to her in giving her Samuel, and so she in return fulfilled what she promised God by giving her first son Samuel to the Lord. The priest at the place of worship commended Hannah for her good attitude toward God and wished her more of God’s blessing as we read here, “19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.” (1 Samuel 2:19-20 KJV) And indeed God blessed Hannah further for her faithfulness and gave her more children as we read here: “21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.” (1 Samuel 2:21) Therefore as you are faithful and honest in fulfilling your vows unto the Lord, God’s blessings will flow further into your life, and He will increase your wealth and riches, and the more you give to God, then the more He is going to bless you.

Another example is the mother of Lemuel, whom she requested God a son as we can conclude about that from this Scripture: “1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. 2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?” (Proverbs 31:1-2 KJV) That woman when God gave her a son, she taught him Godliness and righteousness as she vowed, and as the following:

A. She taught him why not to drink wine: As we read here: “3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law,

and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. 6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.” (Proverbs 31:3-7 KJV) * In the same way, we need not to drink wine and alcohol and we need to teach our children the same. * Our children are the future managers for our treasures. Therefore we need to teach them to avoid temptations and the things that take away their sound minds, wealth, and treasures.

B. She taught him to help the oppressed and speak out for their behalf: As we read here: “8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. 9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9 KJV) * In the same way, we need to stand with the poor and defend those who are oppressed and teach our children to do the same. * Our children are the future managers for the society and the church, and we need to equip them with God’s Word and train them to exercise justice and equity so that God would bless them and establish them with their ministries.

C. She taught him the Godly characters and the value of marrying a virtuous woman: As we read here: “10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. 14 She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:10-31 KJV) In the same way, we need to teach our children and disciples the value of Godly marriages and is to get marry according to God’s will and to a Godly partner. We need to inculcate in the lives of our children the value of Godly families and prepare them to have Godly marriages and be leaders of Godly families and offspring.

Children are the gift from above, the marvelous treasure that God blesses us with. Therefore, when God gives us children, we need to commit ourselves to Him to raise them and train them in the fear of the Lord.

Therefore, and from the example of the mother of Lemuel, when God will give you children raise them and train them in the fear of the Lord. All of us need to teach our children Godly things as the mother of Lemuel did so God shall bless them with their families.

My dear and beloved: “Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.” (Psalm 76:11 KJV) It is time for us to examine ourselves and be diligent and faithful to God in fulfilling all that we have vowed to Him.

When I spoke to the Lord once about His people offering Him plenty of all these kinds of offerings, the Lord answered me and said, ‘I have given them more.’ And I understood that we cannot beat God in giving. The more we give to Him, the more we receive from Him.

“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) Let us fear God and commit ourselves today to fulfill what we have vowed, and to live in a way in order to be a good example to the church and to the people around us so that they will be encouraged to go forward and fulfill their vows unto God and be blessed. Let us be motivated by the truth that as we obey and fulfill what we have promised, God will establish the work of our hands and will prosper us and add to us.

Learn also from the good example of Hannah and the mother of Lemuel who when they prayed to God to give them children, and God gave them, they fulfilled their vows to God. Hannah gave Samuel to God and brought him to the Lord in His sanctuary and let him stayed there and lived with the priest to serve in the house of God. And the mother of Lemuel raised her son in the fear of the Lord and taught him to observe Godly principles in his life; she taught him to abstain from drinking, to stand with the poor and defend the oppressed and to value Godly marriages in marrying a Godly woman who fear God.

Time is now for you to reflect on the message and translate that into your life, by applying the principles that we learned from the Word of God.

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, in your church and in the presence of your people.

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. Renounce your sin of non disciplining your children and not raising them in a Godly way. Renounce your sins of drinking wine, non standing with God to help the poor and defend the oppressed, and in non promoting Godly marriages and in non teaching and valuing the marriage with a Godly

partner. 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 to fulfill our vows; in obeying the Word of God, in non drinking alcohol, also about justice and to stand with the poor and defend the oppressed, and in implementing the principles of Godly marriages and in disciplining our children and give them to God to serve Him. 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.

The Fear of God Part 12. Deuteronomy 23:21-22. Psalm 50:14. Psalm 66:13-14. Isaiah 19:21. Jonah 1:16. Psalm 56:12. Jonah 2:9. Nahum 1:15. Psalm 116:14,18. Psalm 65:1. Malachi 3:16-18. Malachi 4:2-3. Malachi 1:14. 1 Samuel 1:7-28. 1 Samuel 2:19-21. Proverbs 31:1-31. Psalm 76:11.

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