

The Fear of God Part 13 Keeping Your Vows To God

“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 use to make vows with God when they are passing into lowly and humiliating circumstances. The hardness of the trials will impart humility to them and makes them go along the standard of God and His Word and to make commitment to comply with God's will and His purpose in man's life. **** Once you committed yourself to God then you are accountable before God to fulfill what you had committed yourself to do. When you neglect or delay in fulfilling what you committed yourself to do to God then you are inviting destruction to the work of your hands. * There are certain people who do not show progress or show fruitfulness in their life because they are cold and lukewarm toward God. They are just using God to get certain privileges. Therefore God will not bless or prosper the works of their hands.***

The Bible says, ***“It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.” (Proverbs 20:25 KJV)*** It is a trap for you when you dedicate something to God then you will back out from fulfilling. So when you dedicate yourself to follow Christ then you cannot go back and do what you want. When you received Christ as your Lord you had vowed to follow Him and apply His Word in your life. Jesus said, ***“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)*** When you don't do what He says then you are breaking your vows to Him.

Committing your life to God is your personal vow to Him, and you fulfill this vow in the presence of His people who fear Him, that is His church. You 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)*** Here the Psalmist committed to pay his vows in the house of God, among God's people, that is the church today. The same is here: ***“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)*** The Psalmist committed himself to pay his vows to God in front of those who fear Him that is His church.

The purpose of God in fulfilling your vows in the mid of His people, the saints, the church, because the church is the body of Jesus, and those vowing to follow Christ then they need to be faithful to the head of the church, who is the Lord Jesus Christ, “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)

Moses in giving His instructions to the Israelites about the place of worship when they will enter the Promised Land, he stressed on a certain place of worship where they need to bring their tithes, offerings, sacrifices and vows to the Lord. That they cannot bring what they

wanted to offer to God from tithes, firstfruits, offerings and vows to other places, but only to that particular place that God had allocated and ordained for them to do, as we can repeatedly read here: ***“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.

Jeremiah was opposed by the women of Judah who would insist to offer and fulfill their vows toward the queen of Heaven which was an idol. When Jeremiah faced them with that sin, they mentioned to him that they were doing that and their husbands knew about it and they were supporting them. Let us read: “**1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein, 3 Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, ye, nor your fathers. 4 Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying,**

Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. 5 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods. 6 Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day. 7 Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain; 8 In that ye provoke me unto wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye be gone to dwell, that ye might cut yourselves off, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? 9 Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? 10 They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers. 11 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah. 12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. 13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: 14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape. 15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, 16 As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. 17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. 18 But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. 19 And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? 20 Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying, 21 The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into his mind? 22 So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day. 23 Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day. 24 Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt: 25 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and

your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows. 26 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth. 27 Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them. 28 Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or theirs. 29 And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil: 30 Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give Pharaohhophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.” (Jeremiah 44:1-30 KJV) The husbands of those women were the one who supported their wives to rebel against God and against His Word, and they encouraged them to oppose Jeremiah the prophet of God. But Jeremiah stood firm on the Word of God, and even he was almost alone, but he did not go along with them and their pressure, but instead being a priest of God, he stood with God and with His Word and rebuked the people sharply with the Word of God, and show how their disobedience will bring destruction into their lives. In the same way we as a church need to continue to stand with God and rebuke the people and correct them for their sins and idol worship and their practices that contradict the Word of God, and explain to them how such what they are doing will bring troubles and destructions into their lives.

Listen to me church members, workers, backsliders and those who went away and cause division and pull others after their idols: whatever you did or doing against the Word of God and not willing to repent and amend your ways, be sure that such will bring destruction upon your lives and the lives of your families. Your worldliness and idol worship and doing your own will shall cause you troubles and sure you will bear the consequences of all your sins.

My dear and beloved: It is time for you to examine yourself and come back to God in repentance. Turn from sins and consider what is going on in your life. If you are disobedient to God's Word and is doing your own will, then it is the time for you to repent and to stand once again to be accountable to God; to obey Him and be part of His church and lead your life and family in righteousness.

Come back to God as He is reminding you to go, where He ordained for you to be, in the church, that he had placed you in and under the leaders that he had appointed to lead you and guide you. That will be for your own benefit, because when you obey the Lord, then yourself will be blessed.

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 death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that explained to me

the value of your church that you had placed me in and the value of my commitment to you and to your church.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Renounce your pride, renounce doing your own will and your plan. Renounce all your idols. Renounce your worldliness, the lust of your eyes and the lust of your heart. Renounce your sin of leaving your service and ministry. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____ - .

Lord I commit myself to correct things and to do what is right and in accordance to your Word. Lord I commit myself to lead my life and my family in righteousness, to be supportive to your church and to fulfill all my vows. 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.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to come back to you, and to obey your Word and to fulfill their vows and renew their commitment. Lord bless them and restore them back to you that once again to serve you and be a good example to others, that they can see you through their lives. Lord rebuild them up with your Word and with your grace. Lord provide for them of what is needed and protect them and make them fruitful.

Lord we pray for us as a church to empower us so we will continue to teach your people and stand firm on your Word. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit, and give us the spiritual gifts to go and evangelize and make disciples and bring them to your feet. Lord enable us to train more workers to go and serve you. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. 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 13. Keeping Your Vows To God. Ecclesiastes 5:4-6. Proverbs 20:25. Luke 6:46. Psalm 116:17-19. Psalm 22:25. Colossians 1:18. Deuteronomy 12:1-32. Numbers 30:1-13. Jeremiah 44:1-30.

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