

## **DIRECTION 12** **(LIVING BY FAITH IS THE KEY TO OBEYING GOD'S LAW)**

**SUMMARY:** "IN ORDER TO OBEY THE LAW OF GOD, EARNESTLY LIVE BY YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH. DO NOT WALK ACCORDING TO YOUR OLD NATURE, AND DO NOT PUT INTO PRACTICE ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR OLD NATURE. WALK ONLY ACCORDING TO THE NEW NATURE YOU RECEIVED BY FAITH, AND LIVE THE LIFESTYLE OF YOUR NEW NATURE. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE A HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS LIFE- AS MUCH AS IS POSSIBLE IN THIS PRESENT LIFE."

### **INTRODUCTION:**

THE GREAT PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK: LIVING BY FAITH TO OBEY GOD (I.E., LIVE A HOLY LIFE) IS THE GREAT PURPOSE OF THIS ENTIRE WORK! P. 167

CHAPTER 12 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAPTER AND WHOLE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK. IT IS THE PRINCIPAL DIRECTION/CHAPTER TO WHICH ALL THE PRECEDING AND SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS ARE SUBSERVIENT. EVERY CHAPTER MUST BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF THIS TRUTH:

IN ORDER TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE, YOU MUST LIVE BY FAITH ACCORDING TO YOUR NEW NATURE. P. 167

"I AM TELLING YOU TO ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR STATE IN CHRIST. OBEY GOD AND DO THE WORKS OF THE LAW BY **GOSPEL PRINCIPLES AND MEANS**. THIS IS THE RARE AND EXCELLENT ART OF GODLINESS, IN WHICH EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE A SKILLED EXPERT." MARSHALL, P. 167

ONLY THE NEW NATURE CHRIST GIVES YOU CAN EMPOWER YOU TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. THE GOSPEL-WAY OF GODLINESS IS A GREAT MYSTERY: WHY? "BECAUSE THE MEANS OF ATTAINING TRUE GODLINESS ARE DEEPLY MYSTERIOUS." ONE MUST BE TAUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. PP. 167, 168

**PROPOSITION:** 6 WAYS THE BIBLE DIRECTS YOU TO GROW AND CONTINUE IN HOLINESS IN YOUR HEART AND LIFE (PP. 168-171) AND 8 GOSPEL WAYS TO GROW IN HOLINESS AND MATURITY IN CHRIST BY FAITH (PP. 171-190).

### **LESSON:**

- I. 6 WAYS THE BIBLE DIRECTS/TELLS YOU TO GROW AND CONTINUE IN HOLINESS IN YOUR HEART AND LIFE. PP. 168-171
  - A. FIRST, THE WAY OF LIFE IS CALLED "LIVING BY FAITH" (HABAKKUK 2:4, GAL. 2:20, HEBREWS 10:38); "WALKING BY FAITH" (2 COR. 5:7); "FAITH WORKING BY LOVE" (GAL. 5:6); "OVERCOMING THE WORLD BY FAITH" (1 JOHN 5:4); "QUENCHING ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED ONE BY THE SHIELD OF FAITH" (EPH. 6:6). P. 168-169
  - B. SECOND, THE SAME LIFESTYLE IS COMMENDED TO YOU BY THE TERMS "WALKING, ROOTED, AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST" (COL. 2:6-7)...NOTE ALL THE REST OF THE TERMS CITED. P. 169

- C. THIRD, THE LIFESTYLE OF GOSPEL HOLINESS IS ALSO DESCRIBED BY THE PHRASES "BEING STRONG IN THE GRACE THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS" (2 TIM. 2:1);...NOTE ALL THE REST OF THE TERMS CITED. P. 169
  - D. FOURTH, THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS "PUTTING OFF THE OLD MAN AND PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN." P. 170
  - E. FIFTH, THE BIBLE ALSO SPEAKS OF THE SAME THING WHEN IT TEACHES YOU "NOT TO WALK AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT, THAT YOU MAY BE FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN, AND THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MAY BE FULFILLED IN YOU (ROM. 8:1-3); AND, "BY THE SPIRIT TO PUT TO DEATH THE MISDEEDS OF THE BODY;"...NOTE THE REST OF THE PHRASES CITED... PP. 170
  - F. SIXTH, PAUL ALSO TEACHES YOU ABOUT THIS WAY OF LIVING BY TELLING YOU TO LOOK TO HIS OWN EXAMPLE IN PHILIP. 3:10-14. P. 170
- II. 8 GOSPEL WAYS TO GROW IN HOLINESS AND MATURITY IN CHRIST BY FAITH (PP. 171-190).
- A. FIRST, REMEMBER THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE RECEIVED A NEW, HOLY NATURE THROUGH YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST, YOUR NATURAL STATE STILL REMAINS TO SOME DEGREE, WITH ALL OF ITS CORRUPT PRINCIPLES AND PROPERTIES. PP. 171-175
  - B. SECOND, GIVE UP THE IDEA OF PURIFYING THE FLESH—YOUR OLD NATURAL MAN—FROM ITS SINFUL LUSTS AND INCLINATIONS. PP. 175-177
  - C. THIRD, DO NOT TRY TO GAIN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE FAVOR OF GOD, A NEW HOLY NATURE, SPIRITUAL LIFE, OR HAPPINESS BY ANY WORKS OF THE MORAL LAW. PP. 177-178
  - D. FOURTH, DO NOT TRY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE BY MOTIVATING AND COMPELLING YOURSELF TO DO IT. PP. 178-181
    - 1. 7 WRONG MOTIVES AS TO WHY YOU SHOULD LIVE A HOLY LIFE: PP. 178-179
      - a. BECAUSE IT IS REQUIRED OF YOU.
      - b. THE AUTHORITY OF GOD AS THE LAWGIVER
      - c. YOUR ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE UPON HIM AS YOUR CREATOR, PRESERVER, AND GOVERNOR
      - d. HIS ALL-SEEING EYE
      - e. HIS EXACT JUSTICE, IN RENDERING TO EVERYONE ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS
      - f. HIS ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL POWER, TO REWARD THOSE WHO OBEY AND TO PUNISH FOREVER THOSE WHO DISOBEY HIM

- g. THE UNSPEAKABLE JOY OF HEAVEN, AND THE AWFUL DAMNATION OF HELL
2. 2 PROBLEMS WITH THESE MOTIVATIONS: PP. 178-179
- a. THESE SEVEN TRUTHS ARE ALL TRUE, BUT THEY FAIL TO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE BY NATURE DEAD IN SIN, AND UNDER THE WRATH OF GOD. THEY TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, BUT THEY FORGET TO TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE NO STRENGTH OR ABILITY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. PP. 178-179
  - b. THESE ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH. PAUL SPOKE OF SOMETHING DEEPER, GAL. 2:20, "...I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD...THE MOTIVATIONS AND PRINCIPLES I HAVE LISTED ABOVE SHOULD STIR YOU UP TO GO TO CHRIST FOR THE STRENGTH TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE." P. 179
- E. FIFTH, STIR YOURSELF UP TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE BECAUSE YOU ARE COMPLETELY ASSURED THAT YOU HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. PP. 181-182
- F. SIXTH, CONSIDER THE PRIVILEGES OF YOUR NEW STATE IN CHRIST THAT WILL MOST ENABLE YOUR HEART TO LOVE GOD, TO RENOUNCE SIN, AND TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDMENTS WITH ALL YOUR HEART. THEN, CONTINUE TO ASSURE YOURSELF OF THESE TRUTHS. THEN, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE BEFORE GOD. PP. 182-184
- G. SEVENTH, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE LAW OF GOD, CONTINUALLY MEDITATE UPON THE PRIVILEGES OF YOUR NEW POSITION IN CHRIST. IN ADDITION, GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE BLESSINGS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO MOTIVATE AND EMPOWER YOU TO KEEP THE LAW OF GOD. CONTINUALLY ASSURE YOURSELF OF THEM BY FAITH, SO YOU WILL BE EMPOWERED TO OBEY THE LAW OF GOD. PP. 184-187

**8 EXAMPLES OF HOW TO LIVE BY FAITH IN THE GOSPEL IF YOU WANT TO OBEY THE LAW OF GOD: PP. 184-187**

- A. THE FIRST 6 EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE HOW TO OBEY THE DUTIES CONTAINED IN THE FIRST TABLE OF THE LAW (I.E., THE FIRST 4 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS): PP. 184-186
- 1. DO YOU WANT TO TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND CAST YOUR CARES UPON HIM? DO YOU WANT TO GIVE ALL YOUR CONCERNS OVER TO HIM? PP. 184-185
  - 2. DO YOU WANT TO BE STRENGTHENED TO SUBMIT TO THE HAND OF GOD, WITH A JOYFUL PATIENCE, EVEN WHEN YOU FACE TROUBLE OR DEATH ITSELF? P. 185

3. DO YOU WANT TO FAITHFULLY WORSHIP GOD IN THE WAY THAT HE HAS COMMANDED YOU TO? P. 185
  4. DO YOU WANT TO CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD, PRAY TO HIM, AND PRAISE HIM FROM YOUR HEART FOR ALL HIS GOODNESS TO YOU? DO YOU WANT TO PRAISE GOD FOR SUFFERING AS WELL AS FOR PROSPERITY? P. 185
  5. DO YOU WANT TO HEAR AND RECEIVE THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD? DO YOU WANT TO MEDITATE ON IT WITH DELIGHT? DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE STRICTNESS AND THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE COMMANDS OF GOD? DO YOU WANT TO TEST AND EXAMINE YOUR LIFE IMPARTIALLY BY THE WORD OF GOD? PP. 185-186
  6. DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS PROPERLY? P. 186
- B. THE FINAL 2 EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE HOW TO OBEY THE DUTIES CONTAINED IN THE SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW (I.E., THE LAST 6 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS): PP. 186-187

THE POINT: "...IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, YOU HAVE TO LIVE BY THE GOSPEL." P. 186

1. DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A PURE LOVE TOWARDS YOUR BROTHERS IN CHRIST? DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH THEM IN ALL HUMILITY, MEEKNESS, PATIENCE, FORGIVENESS AND LOVE? P. 187
2. DO YOU WANT TO BE FREE FROM FLESHLY AND WORLDLY LUSTS THAT WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL AND HINDER YOU FROM GODLINESS? P. 187

THE BOTTOM LINE: "YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE PRIVILEGES AND BLESSINGS OF YOUR NEW POSITION IN CHRIST THAT YOU RECEIVED THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF GRACE. IT IS THE GOSPEL THAT EMPOWERS YOUR NEW NATURE TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. YOU HAVE TO BE STIRRED UP BY FAITH IN THE GOSPEL TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF HOLINESS- BOTH TO GOD AND TO OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN YOU WALK IN THIS WAY, YOUR HEART WILL BE COMFORTED AND ESTABLISHED IN EVERY GOOD WORD AND WORK. YOU WILL GROW IN HOLINESS, UNTIL YOU ATTAIN MATURITY IN JESUS CHRIST." P. 187.

- H. EIGHTH, IF YOU DESIRE TO GROW IN GRACE AND HOLINESS, TRUST WITH ASSURANCE THAT GOD WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY FOR HIS GLORY AND FOR YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION. PP. 187-190

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