

The Importance of Obeying God Precisely

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Beloved of God,

Sadly, the problem of modern-day Christianity is double sided. On one side, it shows a shallow understanding of the God of the Bible, and on the other side we take His Word lightly.

Those who understood the God of the Bible viewed Him differently and acted on His Word with reverence. Consider Moses. He knew God. His knowledge of God affected how he treated God's Word. Everywhere you read of Moses' obedience you read, "Moses did everything just [exactly] as the LORD had commanded him" (Ex. 40:16 BSB); "So Moses...did just [exactly] as the LORD had commanded" (7:6).

God then instructed Joshua, "Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go (Joshua 1:7).

That was true of every one of God's servants. The prophet Isaiah's peek at the enthroned God, in all His glory and holiness, forever changed his outlook of life. (Isa. 6:1-8).

My question to you then is this, do you truly know the God of the Bible as you should? How do we respond to His mandates? Consider the famous passage, which many people have memorized:

If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7:14.

Context is everything in biblical interpretation. Let's put our passage in its context by looking first at verse 13 which says, "If I [God] shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I [God] command the locust to devour the land, or if I [God] send pestilence [such as Coronavirus] among My people".

Contextually, verse 14 follows: **"If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**

The thirteenth verse of second Chronicles chapter seven showcases God's disciplinary action because of the failure of His people. In verse 14, God outlined the remedy for the removal of national discipline, or any discipline related to spiritual failure.

The *BIG* question is this, how often do we pray, claiming the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14? Amazingly, when churches and believers everywhere hit the panic button they turn to this passage, especially in times of calamities. Churches organize prayer chains, hoping to force God's hand. But have we paid attention to and fulfilled the four conditions that God outlined within this verse?

Listen carefully what God said. We need to do exactly as Moses did, if we expect Him to do what He says He would do—heal our land. He cannot compromise His Word.

1) Humble ourselves before God –

Acknowledge that God is sovereign, and we are not. It is not politicians nor science nor anything, nor anyone that will solve our crisis. Only God knows all the facts and has that power.

2) And Pray –

We must pray in such a way that God hears our prayers. If we have not forgiven others then God will not forgive us nor hear our prayers (Matt. 6:14-15). The Psalmist tells us, “If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear” (Ps. 66:18). The prophet Isaiah said the same thing — unrepentant, confessed sin blocks the believer's prayer. “It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore” (Isa. 59:1-2).

3) Seek His Face –

We seek God's face through study of the Bible, the Word of God — His guide for life and living. We are to hold ourselves up to the mirror of the Word to see if we are conforming ourselves to it. We are instructed: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing, and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

4) Turn from our evil ways –

You and I must examine our hearts and our motives. We must seriously ask if we are living by what is right in our own eyes as in Judges 21:25, or by what is right in the eyes of God? Are we doing things out of reverence for the Almighty God, to bring honor and glory to His holy name? Or are we motivated by resentment, retaliation, bitterness, anger, revenge, lust for money or power? Let us turn from those evil ways and have all our interactions reflect honesty, kindness, and compassion toward others.

Here is the truth: when these four conditions are met, God is under obligation to fulfill His part. In fact, we can hold God to His Word and say, “God You said...”

“Then God will forgive our sin, hear our prayer, and heal our land.

