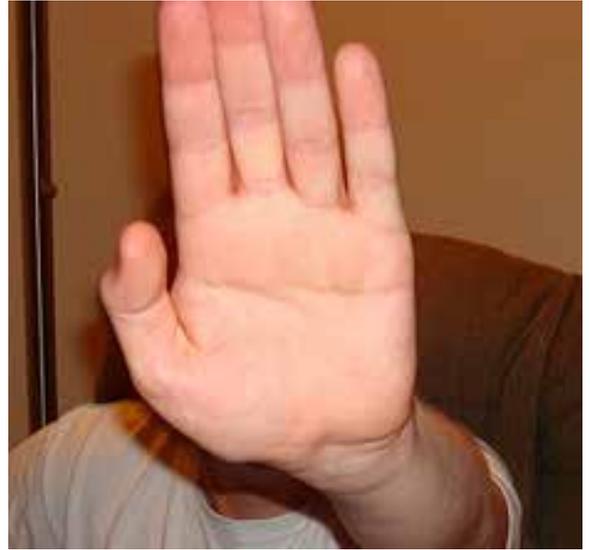


"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:12 KJV



If there's any doubt about a thought or act being right, don't continue until you have allowed the Holy Spirit to search your heart for sinful motives using the Word of God that you know and read. A landowner advertised for a carriage driver. Three applied for the job. He took them where the mountain road's edge dropped steeply down a hundred feet. He asked each, "How close can you drive to the edge without going over?" The first replied, "I can get within two feet." The second said, "I believe I can get within a foot." The third stood silent, looking down, twisting his cap, and then hesitantly replied, "I-I--I'm not nearly as good as these fellows, so I would drive as close to the mountain as I could." He was hired on the spot! If only believers felt the same way about sin! It seems we are more interested in fitting in as closely as possible with the world without disobeying a direct command of Scripture, but we seem to forget 1 Thessalonians 5:22, "*Abstain from ALL APPEARANCE of evil.*" By even stretching the limits, we've sinned! We are often caught in the comparison mode; where we compare our life to the world instead of God's Word. We maintain separation from the world, forgetting the world is ever moving away from God; instead of staying as close to Truth as possible! "*We dare not make ourselves of the number... [who] measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise.*" The world moves steadily away from Truth. By maintaining separation based on the world, we too, are steadily slipping away from God! You cannot be exempted from Fatherly chastisement by pleading ignorance, because we are instructed, "*Study to show thyself approved UNTO GOD. Meditate DAY AND NIGHT!*" If we disobey, we are exercising an "*evil heart of unbelief!*" If you want God's provision, you MUST walk the path of obedience. God's Word is His Blessing; not the THINGS He provides! Obey and thrive; disobey and strive!

Our ignorance is unbelief,
It steals our soul like clever thief,
It drives us wickedly astray,
From God's eternal Living Way! ~CGP

How much chastisement will God need to turn back to Him? Who or what will He have to remove from your life? Maybe even you, yourself? The path of obedience is never easy nor popular, but is eternally secure and Blessed! Blessed, because God's commands are His Blessings: which, if we obey, will lead us to provision already waiting! "*Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness (obey), and ALL THESE THINGS shall be added unto you.*" Do you really believe this? Think of it as a briefcase full of money on a certain path; if you don't walk it, you won't find it! If you don't obey God, you must provide for yourself!

"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures (plenty): He leadeth me beside the still waters. He (His Word) restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake (honor and glory). Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (earthly life), I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; thy rod (chastisement) and thy staff (strength) they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before (provideth for) me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil (costly provision); my cup runneth over (more than I need). Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the LORD (Heaven) for ever." Psalms 23 KJV