

*“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be **Partakers Of His Holiness.**” Hebrews 12:9-10 KJV*



Traffic lights are a good illustration of how God directs His children. To some He says “STOP,” to others “GO,” and still to others “TURN.” Traffic lights ensure the freedom of all to arrive safely by correctly directing the flow of traffic. A red light is not punishment, but protection. It prevents cars from proceeding into moving traffic which could prove fatal. Sometimes God’s direction is perceived as punishment, because He prevents us from moving forward. Many times drivers are furious at traffic lights, because they are in a hurry. We, too, are often angry with God, because of perceived emergencies or because we’re in too big a hurry to do our own thing, instead of patiently obeying Him. Most of our urgencies are our own fault! We want to proceed against God’s direction, because lust and unbelief blind us to imminent danger! At times, we see others moving on their way while God says to us, *“Be still, and know that I AM God.”* I cannot see the red light stopping the other traffic when it is my turn to go, but I go anyway, because I trust the traffic light. The same is true of the red light. Ever notice how sometimes if you drive the posted speed limit, the lights turn green when you get there? If I disobey God, not only do I endanger myself, but others as well! No man is an island complete in himself. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. We think this a law of physics when in reality, it is Divine Law. God states it another way; *“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* If you follow God you’ll always be in the right place, but if you run ahead, you run into danger! God wants us to arrive safely to Heaven’s bliss, but we are, oh, so often in need of emergency services, because we disregard directions, neglect to look both ways twice, text while driving, go too fast, or proceed under the influence of sin and unbelief. Many saints bear scars of disobedience and carry gratitude to God for Healing and Deliverance. The first skinned knee is, alas, never the last! New drivers are attentive to every detail, but experienced drivers are more prone to neglect the details. *“Familiarity breeds contempt,”* is an old saying indicating the longer we do or know something the less attention we pay to detail. Don’t get so comfortable with faith that you take it for granted or you may have some scars to remind you of God’s Grace! God Restrains our impulses with His Commands to Protect us and Allow us to arrive safely to the perfect bliss that is Divine Holiness!

The gentle tug of Father’s hand,
Will keep us safe wherein we stand,
That we not fall in sad disgrace,
From edge of sinful precipice. –CGP

God often has to restrain us like little children who will step right into traffic if left unchecked. *“Be still and know that I am God!”* We will find as we grow in Faith and Grace, the more obedient we are, the more freedom we have. We still don’t step off the curb into traffic, because we see its danger, but we can freely walk in Liberty *“in the Paths of Righteousness.”* Follow God and find Liberty and Peace!

“The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He Maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He Leadeth me beside the still waters. He Restoreth my soul: He Leadeth me in the Paths of Righteousness for His Name’s Sake.” Psalms 23:1-3 KJV