THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE (2)
Deuteronomy 28:1-14

What can you expect to happen in your life if you choose to live a life of obedience to God? Sadly, there are many believers who think that you can live in obedience to God without His responding with blessing. Some are even convinced that it really doesn’t pay to obey God. Yet, that is not the case at all according to Scripture. When you examine Scripture carefully, you will find that locked within “obedience to God” is wonderful, powerful, mighty, majestic blessings that WILL ABSOLUTELY come upon our lives.

How can we know that obedience always brings blessings? First, because God is an eternally truthful God. Whatever He says MUST take place. What He says will happen…WILL INDEED HAPPEN. Second, God is the Authority of the universe and nothing and no one can keep Him from bringing blessings into the life, home, family, church, that chooses to obey God.

But one thing is unmistakably clear...the blessings from obedience are conditional. “Conditional” means that there are certain conditions that must be met in our lives before God can be allowed by His holy nature to pour down His blessings upon our lives. God cannot allow His blessings to be poured out upon a life that is disregarding His Word and His Truth.

Simply being a human being does bring the blessings of God from heaven. Neither are there blanket blessings poured out to those who casually listen, hear and obey the truth of God. Sadly there are countless numbers of believers who are wondering why they are not experiencing the blessings of God, when the answer can be found in their degree and desire of listening, obeying, and applying God’s truth to life.

However, when God finds a life that is willing to obey, God makes it unmistakably clear that there is wonderful power in obeying Him. This is what the nation of Israel found to be true. They were poised to enter the Promised Land, and God had spoken to them through Moses regarding His covenant with them. God made it crystal clear that there was not only power, but great power and benefits in obeying His Word. What is so wonderful to realize is that this same truth in in effect for obedient lives today!

God doesn’t want us to be uninformed about the power of obedience, neither does He want us to live without expecting Him to honor His Word, when it comes to obedience. Some may ask, “Why does God reward obedience to Him?” First, God is well aware we live in a culture of rebellion to Him and His Word. He is fully aware that there are far more people living in rebellion to Him than obeying Him. Second, God is aware that obedience to His Word is not always easy. We are fallen human beings and we don’t understand all the purposes behind His directives, but obedience show a trust and confidence in Him. Third, God blesses obedience, because He is a good God, and He will not let that life go unrewarded that chooses to follow Him, and listen to Him. Fourth, God wants to show Himself to us, through bringing His blessings into our lives. If God simply spoke and couldn’t bring blessings to pass, then we could just disregard His Word, but that is not the way God works. God can always bring to a living reality in our lives His blessings, because He has the power and authority to do so. Fifth, God wants us to see that there is truth to “sowing and reaping”. You cannot sow obedience to God without reaping His blessings, IT IS AN ETERNAL IMPOSSIBILITY. Just as God has set eternal laws into His Word, so is the eternal law of obedience and blessing. It cannot change because it is from the heart of an eternal God. However, when a person walks backward from obedience, then is where they find the blessings of God ceasing, for God cannot bless disobedience.

God wants for us His abundant life that flows with blessings but the important issue is this…will we meet the conditions of obedience? God wants us to know what He will do in our lives through the power of obedience to Him.

Obedience causes God to act. God made it unmistakably clear to the people of Israel that their obedience would cause Him to act and move. And since God is eternally the same, that same truth is in effect for our lives as well.

Obedience causes God to open. God wanted the people to know that He would pour out on them blessings upon blessings. Why? Because God knows that obedience is a deliberate, intentional act of our will. No person is ever accidentally obedient. The truth is each of us are as obedient to God this morning as we desire to be.

Obedience causes God to command blessings. While it may sound too simplistic, the fact remains that God by His holy nature will cause blessings to come upon our lives. But it is not casual obedience, part time obedience, and indifferent obedience. Many are wondering why they are not experiencing the blessings of God, thinking that God has lost the power to bless. The real truth is this…many are in a position of being unblessable. It is totally possible to be saved and be unblessable. A person who is unblessable is one that is not interested in obeying the truth of God, and sadly unless there is repentance, those type of individuals must walk through life “wondering” what could have been had they obeyed God.

1. OBEDIENCE CAUSES GOD TO BE FRUITFUL TO US.
While the initial covenant was given to the nation of Israel regarding fruitfulness, the wonderful nature of God is that He never changes, because He cannot change. God knew all the generations that would occupy this
earth long before the first one came into being. Yet, the result from Holy God regarding a life of obedience is a life of fruitfulness. God never minces His Word when He is speaking, neither does He speak without meaning what He says. The power of obedience will always result in fruitfulness in our lives. Among the Jews it worked this way… as a byproduct of obedience their population would grow, their flocks would grow, their crops would grow, their daily food would grow in provision. Literally speaking, everything that they put their hands to would be blessed. Why? Because it is within the heart of God always under all circumstances to bless that heart and the life of obedience. The same still holds true today. Obedience WILL result in our fruitfulness. When a husband is obeying God, God will move heaven and earth because that is the power of obedience. One of the reasons Satan hates obedience….obedience opens God’s blessings for our lives and Satan despises our lives being blessed.

God makes His Word clear to us…obedience will result in fruitfulness, blessings, plenty. Because an obedient person chooses to operate his life within the directions of God’s Holy Word. Why are countless Christians living unblessed? The answer is found in their lack of desire to obey God. So literal and real were the blessings of God, that God wanted the people to watch as He blessed, and God has not changed today. Where a man obeys God…God declares “watch” the blessings come. Jesus put it this way, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Mt:6:33) We may struggle believing that God will do it for us, but our belief doesn’t alter God’s truth one iota.

2. **OBEDIENCE CAUSES GOD TO BLESS OUR DAILY ACTIVITY.** When you read the very words of God to the people of Israel, God makes it clear that they will not only be fruitful, but God will bless their daily activity. While we may not take seriously our daily activity, the reality is…God takes it very seriously. God by His nature blesses the life that is living in daily obedience. God’s blessings are on him no matter where he is found. God blesses the business the obedient Christian is working in. God blesses the school where the obedient believer is working or attending. One prime example of a blessing over daily activity is the life of Joseph in Genesis. The Bible says that, “God blessed the house of Potiphar for Joseph’s sake.” There was no reason that Potiphar should be blessed by God. Potiphar was a pagan who didn’t believe in Almighty God…but God saw a young man obeying Him, loving Him, and choosing to do what was right. As a result, God blessed the house of Potiphar for Joseph’s sake. God blessed the daily activity of Joseph. God overshadowed Joseph and camped around him with protection, security and blessing.

Joseph was able to be blessed, because He wanted more than anything else to know and worship the Lord God. If God sees us wanting things more than a relationship with Him, then He is locked out of blessing our lives. Yet, when God sees us loving Him, worshipping Him, serving Him, He will move heaven and earth to bless our lives. Why? Because that is the way He works. Blessings come to those who in reality are not looking for the blessings, but minding their own business in serving the Lord.

There are a number of ways that God blesses our daily activity. God leads us to those whom He knows we need to be in contact with. When we are obeying Him, He causes people to come into our lives to help provide our needs in this life. For example: A young man is laid off of his job, though he is obeying God to the best of his ability. God will cause another job to open in order that he can provide for his family. Because God is the Father of all His children, and He assumes the responsibility of providing for us. God also protects us in our daily activity from individuals who may mean harm, hurt, and danger to our lives. The point is…..the blessing of God overcomes the life of the person who obeys God.

3. **OBEDIENCE CAUSES GOD TO BLESS US IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION.** The reality of the world we live in is that we live in a world that is diametrically opposed to the Living God. You listen carefully and you hear more and more people talking in opposition to God. You hear more people living in ungodly lifestyles that God calls and abomination. You find people in high positions supporting all types of ungodly activities. Yet the truth is, this is nothing new on the earth. Yet, the promise of God is that He will cause those who oppose us as children of God to be defeated. In the midst of a world of opposition, God makes it abundantly clear that the blessing of obedience brings His blessing in the midst of enemies that may persecute us.

One such blessing, is bringing us out of intense situations that only God could deliver us from. Joseph in Genesis again is a wonderful example. When Potiphar’s wife lied on Joseph and accused him of sexually violating her, God in His proper time, blessed Joseph in spite of her false accusations, and lies. The wonderful truth is, God will CAUSE wonderful things to happen in our lives, to our lives, and for our lives if we are willing to pay the premium of obedience to Him and His Word.

The reality is…God causes fruitfulness, and blessings to come on our daily activity. It is God that causes enemies to be defeated in our lives as we walk in obedience. While it may seem too good to be true, the fact is, God loves to show to an obedient heart, home and church, all He will do in them, to them, and for them when they are willing to pay the price of obedience. Are you paying the price of obedience whereby God can bless your life?