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he would have known this was in conflict with the promise but he had complete confidence in God. The writer of Hebrews fills us in a little more on the great faith of Abraham when he says, *“He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead...”* (Heb. 11:19).

If Abraham would have reacted like many people today, he would have told God to forget it. He would likely have said, *“No, I won’t do that, I’ll just stick with what you said first!”* Yet he didn’t. He obeyed God’s command, and he saw God provide a substitute sacrifice. Abraham obeyed God and the promise was kept.

We need to remember that our duty is to obey God’s commands. It is in God’s realm to keep His promises and bless us as He sees fit. Let us be content in the responsibility that is ours.

— Shane Williams

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Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45am
Evening Worship 5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class 7:30pm

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The Lilbourn Light



“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” -Psalm 119:105



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Blessings and Commands

Have you noticed how people want to accept the good things (the blessings) of the Bible but ignore or dismiss any sort of command in God’s Word? *“God wants me to be happy,” “God wants to bless me,” “God wants me to have (fill-in-the-blank).”* With this thinking, some will justify any number of actions, regardless of whether it contradicts God’s Word. Many give no thought that God calls upon us to follow after Jesus or that He wants for us to conform to His will. *“You shall be Holy, for I am Holy”* (I Peter 1:16; Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7). You cannot accept the blessings of God and ignore His instructions!

Consider Abraham’s response to a difficult situation. He

had been promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him (Gen. 12:3; 15:5). What great joy this must have been for him! Yet, Abraham didn’t understand or know how these things would be accomplished. Finally God provided a son to this old couple. They could then better understand how God would accomplish this promise. However, some time later, God commanded that Abraham sacrifice his only son (Gen. 22:2). **How could God’s promise and blessings be fulfilled if Abraham obeyed the command?** In the patriarch’s mind,

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Whose Fault is it?

A popular concept today is the idea that individuals can't be blamed for what they do or fail to do. We put blame all sorts of places: heredity, environment, parents, teachers or the government. The individual being at fault, however, is completely out of the question!

God's Word is not shaped by public opinion. It tells the lie to this kind of finger pointing and stresses the responsibility of each person. The Israelites had a popular proverb that stated, *"The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"* (Ezek. 18:2). The idea is, we are punished for the sins of our ancestors but we haven't done anything! They intended this as a reflection upon God's justice. Yet, they seemed to forget that they were eating the same sour grapes their fathers had eaten. Therefore, their "set on edge" teeth were their own! Instead of condemning themselves and justifying God, they condemned him and justified themselves.

The Lord told Ezekiel they were not to use this proverb anymore (18:3). Instead, He said that everyone was accountable for his own sin and responsible to turn from it.

Scripture teaches that we are not helpless victims of circumstances.

Ezekiel 18:20-22, *"The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. 21 "But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 22 "All his transgressions which he has committed against him; because of his righteousness which he has practiced, he will live."*

Scripture teaches that we are not helpless victims of circumstances. We will answer to the all-knowing Judge for any behavior that violates His holy law (Heb. 4:13). Our only hope is to realize that we deserve God's eternal condemnation and to put our faith in Jesus Christ. Then we can be assured in Paul's words: *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 8:1).

— Shane Williams



Deep Roots

Have you ever tried to remove a tree or stump from your yard? How about something as simple as a big bush? Where I grew up in California, a quarter of our front yard was full of Junipers. We decided to replace it with a lawn and I still remember how much work was involved for that to be accomplished. Even with shovels, an axe, lots of rope and a half ton pickup, it was still a whole lot of work! Who would have thought it would be so difficult? I sure did not. Strong, deep roots had anchored those bushes firmly in the ground.

In the Bible, godly people are often likened to trees with strong deep roots (Ps. 1:3; Prov. 12:3; Jer. 17:7-8).

Psalms 1:3, *"He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."*

Proverbs 12:3, *"A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved."*

Jeremiah 17:7-8, *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. 8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit."*

Godly people are often likened to trees with strong deep roots.

The branches of growing trees not only reach higher, but their roots grow deeper. It's impossible for a strong tree to have high branches without having deep roots. It would become top-heavy and topple over in the wind.

The same is true with Christians. It's not possible for us to grow in the Lord without interweaving our roots around His Word and deepening our life in His instructions.

Would you like to be a tall, immovable tree? That comes only through a life of Bible study, discipline, and faith—conditions that produce deep roots.

— Shane Williams

God's Plan for Saving Man

- ⇒ **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
- ⇒ **Believe** the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6; John 20:31)
- ⇒ **Repent** of Past Sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- ⇒ **Confess Faith** in Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32)
- ⇒ **Be Baptized** in water (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ **Be Faithful** until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)