

## Faith and Deeds Part 8

*“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24 KJV)*

We continue to study the deeds that go along our faith in God. When Abram met King Sodom, the following discussion happened with them: *“21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: 24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.” (Genesis 14:21-24 KJV)*

Now in relation to verse 23, *“23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:” (Genesis 14:23 KJV)*, we spoke previously about the right resource for money, in this message we will start to speak about the wrong resources for money and income that we should not get involved with so our deeds will go along the faith and deeds of Abram that we will not take anything that did not come from God.

### ***B. The wrong resources for money:***

***1. Stealing: “19 Neither shalt thou steal.” (Deuteronomy 5:19 KJV) Stealing is taking things that don’t belong to you without permission.*** Stealing is unacceptable, and many condemn it; yet we still find some practicing it. We will study some Scriptures from the Bible that talk about stealing.

#### ***A. The bad effects of stealing on the person who practices it:***

***1. “30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; 31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.” (Proverbs 6:30-31 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief needs to pay back seven times for what he has stolen, and this may cost him all his wealth.

***2. “1 If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.” (Exodus 22:1 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief needs to pay back five times what he has stolen.

***3. “2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.” (Exodus 22:2 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief may lose his life on the spot.

***4. “3 If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.” (Exodus 22:3 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief might be sold to make restitution.

***5. “4 If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.” (Exodus 22:4 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief needs to pay back double the amount he has stolen.

***6. “4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” (2 Samuel 12:4-6 KJV)*** According to what we have read, the thief may need to pay back four times what he has stolen.

So, what we conclude from the Scriptures is that the penalty to be paid by the thief will certainly be more than what he has stolen. Stealing will not be of any use to him, but will be a burden and will cost him more than he would have gained. This is what the Word of God tells us. *“17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. 18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.” (Proverbs 9:17-18 KJV)* Stealing destroys the homes of those who steal. *“3 Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. 4 I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.” (Zechariah 5:3-4 KJV)* God will curse the house of the person who steals.

Therefore, you need to pay heed to the bad effects of stealing as mentioned in the Scriptures and never do it. Stealing will bring a curse and will rob you of God’s blessing.

#### ***B. The different forms of stealing are laid out in the following Scriptures:***

***1. Stealing from parents: “24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.” (Proverbs 28:24 KJV)*** Many take advantage of their parents and try to abuse them or make them spend more on them. They claim that what their parents have is rightfully theirs. **That is not correct. What parents have belongs to God and they are stewards of what the Lord has given them. Therefore, you cannot grab anything from them on the grounds that you are their children. This is nothing but stealing.**

***2. Stealing land: “14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor’s landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.” (Deuteronomy 19:14 KJV)*** In the past, people used stones to erect a boundary between one person’s land and another’s. So, those who intended to steal would move the boundary stone toward their neighbor to increase their land and their territory. They will do it slowly little by little. This is stealing and will bring a curse on those who do this as

we can read, “17 Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.” (Deuteronomy 27:17 KJV) Therefore, “28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” (Proverbs 22:28 KJV)

3. Taking advantage of orphans and widows: “10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: 11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.” (Proverbs 23:10-11 KJV) There are people who take advantage of widows and orphans because they are weak. They think they have no one to lean on, forgetting that the Lord is there, watching the affairs of their lives and that He will be the one to support them and defend them.

4. Stealing flocks: “2 Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof. 3 They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge.” (Job 24:2-3 KJV) Another form of stealing is taking sheep and flocks and taking advantage of widows and orphans. Today, there are people who steal ministries and lead people the wrong way. But God will not excuse those who use lies and deceits to steal flocks and even those who steal ministries, for he will surely judge them as we read here: “23 Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways. 24 They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn. 25 And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?” (Job 24:23-25 KJV)

5. Taking advantage of others: “28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28 KJV) There are people who do not want to work but prefer to live like parasites, feeding on others. This is stealing. The Scriptures warn us against this: “6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.” (1 Thessalonians 4:6 KJV) **There are workers who claim to serve the Lord but are actually taking advantage of the church members or using them for their own purpose. They use their brothers and sisters in Christ to give them service without paying them. We are warned not to do that.** “13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.” (Leviticus 19:13 KJV) “13 Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work.” (Jeremiah 22:13 KJV) **When we utilize the services of our brothers and sisters for our personal needs, we need to pay them.** Samuel was free from this sin. He served God without taking advantage of the people. “3 Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. 4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.” (1 Samuel 12:3-4 KJV) Likewise, Apostle Paul did not defraud the brethren of the churches that he was the overseer of. “2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.” (2 Corinthians 7:2 KJV) Neither did Titus, Paul's co-worker, take advantage of the brethren. “18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?” (2 Corinthians 12:18 KJV) **We too must walk in the steps of Samuel, Paul, and Titus while serving the Lord.**

6. Stealing from the masters and from the government: “9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:9-10 KJV) There are people who steal from their masters and from their workplaces. Some justify their actions by saying that their masters are rich and so there is no problem if they take something from the abundant supply of their masters' goods. But this is stealing, and it will affect not only the masters but also the thieves because it is sin and will bring a curse upon their life. Some say that stealing from the government is right because the government is rich and is exploiting the people by levying heavy taxes. However, this is also stealing and will bring trouble to those who do it.

7. Not paying taxes and government fees: “20 And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. 21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: 22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? 23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? 24 Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. 25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.” (Luke 20:20-25 KJV) **We ought to be honest with the government to show that we are honest with God. What is due to the government in the form of taxes or fees must be paid.** “6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:6-7 KJV)

8. Borrowing and not returning: “21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.” (Psalm 37:21 KJV) Another form of stealing is when people borrow something (usually money) but never return it. Sometimes, people lend money to another person only to find that the borrower has suddenly disappeared with the money. All the people who had lent him money previously will then complain and regret ever giving him anything. **There are people who join churches to borrow money and then run away. In the congregations that I oversee, I have instructed the leaders and members not to lend without the knowledge of the church to avoid such kind of trouble.**

There is another way of borrowing and not paying back. This is by taking a large loan from a bank and then leaving the country without paying it back. Some think that this is not sin because they are not stealing from people but from a bank. This is not right. It is still a sin. In certain countries, some loans were given on the principle of canceling the debt after seven years had passed. “1 At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. 2 And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the LORD's release. 3 Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again: but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release.” (Deuteronomy 15:1-3 KJV) **Some will make use of privileges like medical services or educational services but won't pay back until their debts are canceled at the end of the seven years. That is also wickedness and God will judge them for that.**

9. **Not paying the workers their wages:** Even delayed payment is a sin because a person's life is dependent on their income. *"13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning."* (Leviticus 19:13 KJV) *"1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."* (James 5:1-4 KJV) When people fail to give the workers whom they have hired their wages, they are stealing from them. Some rich people take advantage of their workers and deprive them of their rights because they think that they don't have the power to fight for their rights. They may deny them insurance, medical support, leaves, or other privileges. *"22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: 23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them."* (Proverbs 22:22-23 KJV) God's Word warns us from doing such evil things against people who are poor and weak. God will fight for such people.

10. **Not paying tithes in full and failing to bring offerings and the firstfruits:** *"8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."* (Malachi 3:8-9 KJV) *"25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."* (Luke 20:25 KJV) Failing to bring your tithes and offerings and your firstfruits to the Lord's storehouse is another kind of stealing. You are literally robbing God. *"29 Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me."* (Exodus 22:29 KJV)

11. **Taking money from the treasury of the church:** *"6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."* (John 12:6 KJV) Judas Iscariot had been taking money out of the treasury without permission. Taking money out of the treasury of the church without the knowledge and approval of the church is another form of stealing. Many church leaders take people's tithes and offerings and put them directly into their pockets without maintaining a proper record of the money collected in the church. They consider the treasury money as their personal pocket money. This is another form of stealing and will bring a curse on those who indulge in it. This what Paul spoke about those who do this, *"21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? 22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? 23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? 24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written."* (Romans 2:21-24 KJV) This kind of pastors who covet money, are keen to minister to the rich and influential and do their best to make them join their ministry in order to benefit from them financially. They are like Balaam who was enticed to go with Balak's men for a reward. *"And ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward."* (Jude 1:11 KJV) Such pastors who are looking for financial gain have no credibility and do not stand on God's principles. They are greedy and dangerous. They are like Ishmael the son of

Nethaniah. *"4 And it came to pass the second day after he had slain Gedaliah, and no man knew it, 5 That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD. 6 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went forth from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went: and it came to pass, as he met them, he said unto them, Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. 7 And it was so, when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew them, and cast them into the midst of the pit, he, and the men that were with him. 8 But ten men were found among them that said unto Ishmael, Slay us not: for we have treasures in the field, of wheat, and of barley, and of oil, and of honey. So he forbore, and slew them not among their brethren."* (Jeremiah 41:4-8 KJV) Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew the men who were coming to the house of God and took from them the offerings they had brought. However, he spared ten men from among them, not out of mercy but out of covetousness, when they told him that they, *"have treasures in the field, of wheat, and of barley, and of oil, and of honey."* (Jeremiah 41:8 KJV) He spared them to get hold of all the provisions that they had hidden in the field.

*"9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein."* (Hosea 14:9 KJV) The stolen money will finally waste away and cause trouble to those who have it. Stolen money and resources obtained from cheating in the work spot, intentionally selling defective products, cheating workers of their wages, and not paying bills will end up being a curse to those who seek to gain them.

**My dear and beloved:** Come now to the Lord and repent of the sin of stealing. Be aware now of the consequences of this sin and how much would cause you. Also as you are admonished about the types of it, now you need to be the more earnest to repent.

Let us pray . . . .

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that explained to me the bad effects of the sin of stealing on my life and the consequences of it, and thank you for opening my eyes to the types of it. Lord thank you for all the Scriptures that you placed before me to understand your will and the way that you wants me to live my life for you and the way that you wants me to serve you.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your greed, the love of money, and your covetousness. Renounce and return the things that you had stolen. Repent and renounce taking advantage of your parents and stealing from them. Repent of stealing lands and the properties of others. Repent of taking advantage of orphans and widows. Repent of stealing flocks and ministries from others. Repent of stealing from your master and your places of work and stealing from the government. Repent of not paying tax and the fees and the bills of the government. Repent of borrowing from people and not returning to them. Repent of getting loans from the banks and running away. Repent of not paying the wages for the workers that you are hiring. Repent of robbing God by not giving your tithes, offerings and firstfruits to the church. Repent of taking advantage of the church collection and use it for your personal benefit, and manipulating the ministry to gain finances and not to implement God's Word and



*will. Repent of being a bad example in finances to others. Renounce your worldliness, laziness and your immoralities. Renounce your bad stewardship and your non willingness to serve God with a pure heart and good motive.*

*Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I repent and I am willing to return the following things that are not mine to their owner \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message of not to steal. Lord I commit myself to work and not to take advantage and live on other peoples' works. Lord I commit myself to give what is due to you from tithes, offerings and firstfruits, and to give what is due to man from wages and rights, and to give what is due to the government from taxes and bills of services. Lord I commit myself to be a good example to others in the matter of finances and to be good steward in handling all the resources that you are giving to me. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do your work and the ministry in your church.*

*Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sin of stealing and had committed their lives to apply your Word and the instructions that we received in this message. Lord continue to draw them near to you and to give them the courage to completely surrender their lives to you and to fully trust your Word and obey so they can be fully restored to you and to the ministries of your church. Lord continue to give them wisdom and discernment so they can manage their lives well with good stewardships.*

*Lord help us as your church to continue apply the teaching that we had learned from you in this message to warn your people about stealing, the bad effects and the consequences of it on their lives. Lord exposed sin and enable us with your wisdom to handle those involved with, so they can repent and finally restored fully back to you. Lord we trust you that you will continue protect us and to provide for us to continue to serve you. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we can go and serve you. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Faith and Deeds Part 8. James 2:20-24. Genesis 14:21-24. Deuteronomy 5:19. Proverbs 6:30-31. Exodus 22:1. Exodus 22:2. Exodus 22:3. Exodus 22:4. 2 Samuel 12:4-6. Proverbs 9:17-18. Zechariah 5:3-4. Proverbs 28:24. Deuteronomy 19:14. Deuteronomy 27:17. Proverbs 23:10-11. Job 24:2-3. Job 24:23-25. Ephesians 4:28. 1 Thessalonians 4:6. Leviticus 19:13. Jeremiah 22:13. 1 Samuel 12:3-4. 2 Corinthians 7:2. 2 Corinthians 12:18. Titus 2:9-10. Luke 20:20-25. Romans 13:6-7. Psalm 37:21. Deuteronomy 15:1-3. Leviticus 19:13. James 5:1-4. Proverbs 22:22-23. Malachi 3:8-9. Luke 20:25. Exodus 22:29. John 12:6. Romans 2:21-24. Jude 1:11. Jeremiah 41:4-8. Hosea 14:9.

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