

The Fear of God Part 10 Keeping Your Vows To God

“1 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. 5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name. 6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations. 7 He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him. 8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.” (Psalm 61:1-8 KJV)

Keeping and fulfilling vows is a commitment and way to show your loyalty to God and to His Word and His Christ. You cannot follow God and obey Christ without keeping your commitment and abide with His Word so that you can receive His promises. Christ clearly said it, ***“46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)*** Commitment to Christ it will only be valid and considered when you keep and do what He says in His Word.

As we had read above in ***Psalm 61*** that King David in verse 5 said to God, ***“For thou, O God, hast heard my vows:”*** It showed that David had understood that if he is committing his life to God, then he needs to abide with and do what God's says. He further said ***“thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.”*** David declared that he had received the heritage of God, the eternal life, and His blessings that He give to those who fear Him. Making vows to God that goes along His Word and fulfilling it, it shows that a person is God's fearing individual, and that would ultimately makes that person eligible to receive, eternal life, rewards and blessings from God.

King David was in distress and he was in need for God's help. He prayed and presented his request and petition to the Lord, ***“1 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.” (Psalm 61:1-4 KJV)*** David as well as included his vows that he considered part of his prayer requests and that he needed to fulfill as God for sure is going to relief him; David was assured that God would relief him and fulfilled his request when he said, ***“5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.” (Psalm 61:5 KJV)***

Life and trials for David was an introduction of series of commitment and vows to God. He further goes in prayers and discourses with God saying to him the following: ***“6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations. 7 He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him. 8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.” (Psalm 61:6-8 KJV)*** David claimed a longer life, and that he will always to be enthroned in God's presence to enjoy God's love, mercy and faithfulness. Therefore he promised God that he will continually praise God and fulfill his vows toward Him day after day. David understood that he cannot only receive but he needed also to give. **In the same way for you, you need to give back to God your vows and**

your commitments to follow Him, His Word and His ways. If you want to receive only then you cannot be in the Kingdom of God.

*** The same for us today, life's events and trials for us should be the introduction of series of commitment and vows to God. The disciples of Jesus and Christianity is commitment and willingness to listen and obey God's Word to receive God's promises and to enable us to pass trials and hardships in life. * Making a vow to God is part of a prayer request committing yourself to obey God and do a particular thing for Him as He is enabling you and making you fit to do that according to His Word.**

David said, ***“1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed. 2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.” (Psalm 65:1-2 KJV)*** Trials and life events will humble the people and make them tremble of fear and would ultimately lead them to commit themselves to follow God and to fulfill His will in their lives. **Therefore, use the hardships and the trials that you are passing through in your life to draw near to God, to commit yourself to Him, to offer your life to serve Him, and so your trials that you are passing through will turn into a victory in your life.**

Jacob the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, in his fleeing event from his brother Esau, God revealed Himself to him, as we can read here: ***“10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” (Genesis 28:10-15 KJV)*** Jacob was so exhausted, and so when he wanted to sleep, he had no bed, but he made stones his pillows. The Lord appeared to Him that night and revealed Himself and His promises to him and as the following:

1. “I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac”: God introduced Himself to Jacob as the only true God of his fathers.

2. “The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed”: Although Jacob had not even a bed nor a pillow in that land to sleep but God promised him that He will give him the land that he was sleeping on.

3. “Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south”: God promised him multiplication and increase for his descendants.

4. “In thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”: God promised Jacob that other families on earth will be blessed through his life.

5. ***“I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest”***: God promised Jacob that He will be with him, providing for him, and will protect him, wherever he will go and be.

6. ***“Will bring thee again into this land”***: God promised him that He will bring him back to that place, that ultimately will give to him this land and to his descendents.

7. ***“I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of”***: God promised Jacob that He will not leave him until He would accomplished all what He had promised him.

God in that dream gave to Jacob His amazing promises. Therefore when Jacob awaked from his sleep he concluded that God was in that place, and that place was the house of God and the gate of Heaven, ***“16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Genesis 28:16-17 KJV)*** The trial that Jacob was passing through humbled him and prepared him to meet God and imparted to him the fear of God in His life for, ***“he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place!”*** Even now, whatever trial you are passing through, consider it a way for you to know God. Don't say that God is not there because of your hardship but trust God that He is just there beside you.

Therefore when he rose up, he took the stone that he was using as his pillows, set it as pillar and pour oil upon it and named it Bethel, for he designated it as the house of God, ***“18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.” (Genesis 28:18-19 KJV)*** That is equivalent to the Church of God today for the meaning of Bethel is the house of God.

Further, Jacob in respond to that grace of God and to all His good promises, he committed himself to God with the following vows: ***“20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” (Genesis 28:20-22 KJV)*** As the Lord showed His promises and good plan for Jacob, he committed himself to the Lord. The same for you now as God revealed His good promises to you then you need to commit yourself to God as Jacob committed himself to God in the following aspects:

A. The Lordship of God over your life, “The LORD will be my God”: God should be the Lord over your life. He should be the one to lead you and lead your life in the way that He needs you to move and go. You should not be the lord over your life but the Lord should be the one on the throne of your life. You cannot do what you like and decide what you wish. The Lord should be the one to decide for you and lead you in the way of righteousness.

B. Your commitment to be part of God's church, “And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house”: The church is the family of God and the members are God's household. When God gives us birth through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord He places us in His

house and with His household, the church. Therefore as you commit yourselves to God you need to commit yourselves to God's church, to serve God with the rest of His family and to do your duties and responsibilities to the church that God had placed you in.

C. Tithing your income, “and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth”: All the good things that you are receiving are from God, and you are called by God to give Him the tenth of all what you earn or receive. This is your financial commitment so that God's work will continue and His blessing will continue to come into your life.

We know very well that the Lord was with Jacob and He prospered him; and God gave him children and flocks of livestock and men servants and maid servants, and He brought him safely out from Haran and out from the hands of his uncle Laban and back to his land. Even on arrival God saved Jacob and all what he got from the hand of his brother Esau who wanted to kill him. Now the time had come for Jacob to give back to God and fulfill his vows. But when God fulfilled all what He promised him, Jacob did not fulfilled his vows to God, Let us read what Jacob did: ***“17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. 18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. 19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. 20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.” (Genesis 33:17-20 KJV)*** Jacob forgot his commitment at Bethel, the Church of God that he committed himself to; that the Lord shall rule over his life and will, and the place where he will tithe all what he will receive from God. That is what is going on in the life of many disciples and families in the church, once they got what they want they leave the church and neglect all their commitment and forgot all their vows and what they promised to God and to His church.

On wavering from his vows toward God and in breaking his commitment with the Lord, Jacob was exposed to threat and dangers that had brought troubles unto him. **Genesis 34** (Read the whole chapter in your own Bible) speaks about his daughter Dina was raped by Shechem the son of Hamor, and how Levi and Simeon put to the sword all the people of Shechem, and that incident had placed the whole family of Jacob under a great threat and trouble. All that happened because Jacob back out from his commitment and did not fulfill his vows to God.

At that moment when Jacob was put into troubles, the Lord intervened, and commanded him to go up to the place where he can fulfill his commitment and vows to God: ***“1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. 5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. 7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.” (Genesis 35:1-7 KJV)*** When

you commit yourself to God and when God bless you and relief you and then you break your vows instead of fulfilling them, then troubles, problems and deterioration will come into your life and in the life of your family and children, and you will be under threats. You see here when Jacob waver in his commitment before God, his family went into worldliness, immoralities happened, murder, idols and bondages introduced and they were living in sin and in non holy living. Many families got affected and infected with sin and worldliness because parents forgot God and became negligent to keep their commitment and their vows toward the Lord. God is the One who gave you all the good things that you have, therefore you need to keep your commitment and vows toward Him, and so He will establish you and establish your family and descendents.

All those who left the church and pull people out of the Church of God, and caused divisions, because they don't want to give after they received the good promises of God; instead they wanted to do their own. But they will face, and sure they will have what Jacob had passed thought. Therefore don't do such evil, and if you are among such people, I admonish you with this advice to repent and amend your ways and come back to the Church of God, and be willing to obey and abide in the teaching that God gave to His church and fulfill your vows and commitment to God.

You may say that Jacob made that promise twenty years ago and now when he needed to go back from Laban, had already forgot what he promised God, so how he was accountable to his vows? Listen to me please; what you are saying is not correct, because God reminded Jacob before he sent him back from Haran to Canaan about the vow that he made to God so he will fulfill it when he will come back. Let us read: *"1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory. 2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. 3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. 4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, 5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. 6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grised. 11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred."* (Genesis 31:1-13 KJV) From the details in this passage we can see that God had blessed him much but he was complacent and non willing to fulfill what he had promised to God and took things lightly, that is why such a trouble came on him. Why Jacob did not fulfill his vow? Due to his complacency and non willingness to give back what he promised, and because he had money to do what he wants he bought that land in Shechem. Why God did not accept the altar that he built in Shechem? Because the life's style in Shechem was not acceptable to God; immoralities, worldliness,

idols, bondages represented with ear rings, etc. All who left the church they left after they are well to do and have money and can do what they want, so they break their vows and their commitment with God and His church and started to live a worldly way; even they serve God but in a worldly way (birthdays parties, boyfriends, getting migration to the west countries, etc). All these things and the rest alike we don't entertain here in the Church of God, that is why they leave, but for sure what had happened to Jacob it will happen to them, so they will learn how to fear God. Listen church, listen workers, listen backsliders and those who caused divisions, and listen all of you who are far as the message is reaching you:

- Jacob stayed in Shechem between nine to ten years and overnight God took him out; because God is loving and faithful to His Word.
- Lot stayed in Sodom over twenty years and over a night God took him; because God is loving and faithful to His Word.
- Naomi stayed in Moab ten years; we know what happened to her family, and over a night God took her out; because God is loving and faithful to His Word.
- Therefore, for your own benefit, repent of your sins, come out from all your worldliness for God is loving and faithful to His Word, and is able that over night He can take you out of all such.
- Repent of your sins, count your blessings and be faithful to God; come back and fulfill your vows and your responsibilities towards God and towards God's church.

"4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?" (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 KJV) When Jacob committed himself to God and ultimately received the full blessings of God, he should be faithful to God and keep what he promised. But when he became unfaithful he invited destruction into his life and to his family members; then this Word of God was fulfilled, *"6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"* (Ecclesiastes 5:6 KJV) Therefore be careful and cautious not to make God angry, so you will not destroy the work of your hands.

My dear and beloved: It is time for you to examine yourself and come back to God in repentance. Turn from sins and consider what is going on in your life and the trials that you are passing through. Is God angry with you? Have you failed to fulfill what you promised Him? Come back to God as He is reminding you to go up back where you committed yourself to Him, back to the Church of God, back to the sound teaching, back to the life of holiness and commitment, back to obey His Word and do His will.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me that I did not fulfill what I vowed to you _____.

Confess and renounce all your sins, Renounce your worldliness, the lust of your eyes and the lust of your heart. Renounce your sin of leaving the Church of God, leaving your service and

ministry and the division you caused. Renounce your yoke with non believers, doing your own plans and will. Renounce your lack of tithing and withholding your tithes from the Church of God that cares for you. Lord I repent from worldliness and the following sins,

Lord, today I recommit myself to correct things and to do what I committed myself to do in accordance to your Word and will. Lord I commit myself to come back to you, to put God the Lord over my life, to come back to the Church of God, and back to my service and ministry, and be willing to tithe my income and to give all what is due to you and to fulfill all my vows.

Lord as I repent, upholds me with your grace, gives me strength and provides my needs so I can continue to serve you and live my life for you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to come back to you, and to your church, to fulfill their vows and renew their commitment. Lord restore them with your grace and rebuild them up with your Word and provide for them of what is needed so once again they will start to serve you and become fruitful. Lord I pray for the rest who left the church and caused divisions, Lord convict them with your Word and let them fear you, to repent and to come back to you and to your church before it is late. Lord deal with them as you dealt with Jacob, Lot and Naomi and let your Word come true in their lives and make them face the consequences of their sins in breaking their vows with you and your church.

Lord thank you for your Word, Lord empower us to continue to send your Word to those who are away from you to warn them to repent, to come back to you and to your church. Lord empower us and refill us with the Holy Spirit, and help each and every committed member to evangelize and make disciples and bring them to your feet. Lord enable us to train more workers to go and serve you. Lord I pray for more areas to be open by the Gospel of Jesus. 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.

The Fear of God Part 10. Keeping Your Vows To God. Psalm 61:1-8. Luke 6:46. Psalm 65:1-2. Genesis 28:10-22. Genesis 33:17-20. Genesis 34. Genesis 35:1-7. Genesis 31:1-13. Ecclesiastes 5:4-6.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.