

LIVING FREE: THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH



(James 2:14-26)

“14 What is the benefit, my fellow believers, if someone claims to have faith but has no [good] works [as evidence]? Can that [kind of] faith save him? [No, a mere claim of faith is not sufficient—genuine faith produces good works.]

15 If a brother or sister is without [adequate] clothing and lacks [enough] food for each day,

16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace [with my blessing], [keep] warm and feed yourselves,” but he does not give them the necessities for the body, what good does that do?

17 So too, faith, if it does not have works [to back it up], is by itself dead [inoperative and ineffective].

18 But someone may say, “You [claim to] have faith and I have [good] works; show me your [alleged] faith without the works [if you can], and I will show you my faith by my works [that is, by what I do].”

19 You believe that God is one; you do well [to believe that]..... The demons also believe [that], and shudder and bristle [in awe-filled terror—they have seen His wrath]! 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish [spiritually shallow] person, that faith without [good] works is useless?

21 Was our father Abraham not [shown to be] justified by works [of obedience which expressed his faith] when he offered Isaac his son on the altar [as a sacrifice to God]?

22 You see that [his] faith was working together with his works, and as a result of the works, his faith was completed [reaching its maturity when he expressed his faith through obedience].

23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and this [faith] was credited to him [by God] as righteousness and as conformity to His will,” and he was called the friend of God.

24 You see that a man (believer) is justified by works and not by faith alone [that is, by acts of obedience a born-again believer reveals his faith].

25 In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works too, when she received the [Hebrew] spies as guests and protected them, and sent them away [to escape] by a different route?

26 For just as the [human] body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works [of obedience] is also dead.” AMP

What is Obedience?

- 1. Doing what you are asked to do, how you are asked to do it, and when you are asked to do it. [Josh. 1:7,8]** *“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do [everything] in accordance with the entire law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may prosper and be successful wherever you go. Amp*

What is Obedience?

2. A character trait of The Holy Spirit to be learned... [Hebrew 5:7,8]

“In the days of His earthly life, Jesus offered up both [specific] petitions and [urgent] supplications [for that which He needed] with fervent crying and tears to the One who was [always] able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission toward God [His sinlessness and His unfailing determination to do the Father’s will].

8 Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered.” Amp

What is Obedience?

3. It is the trust side of your believing (Having faith in God)

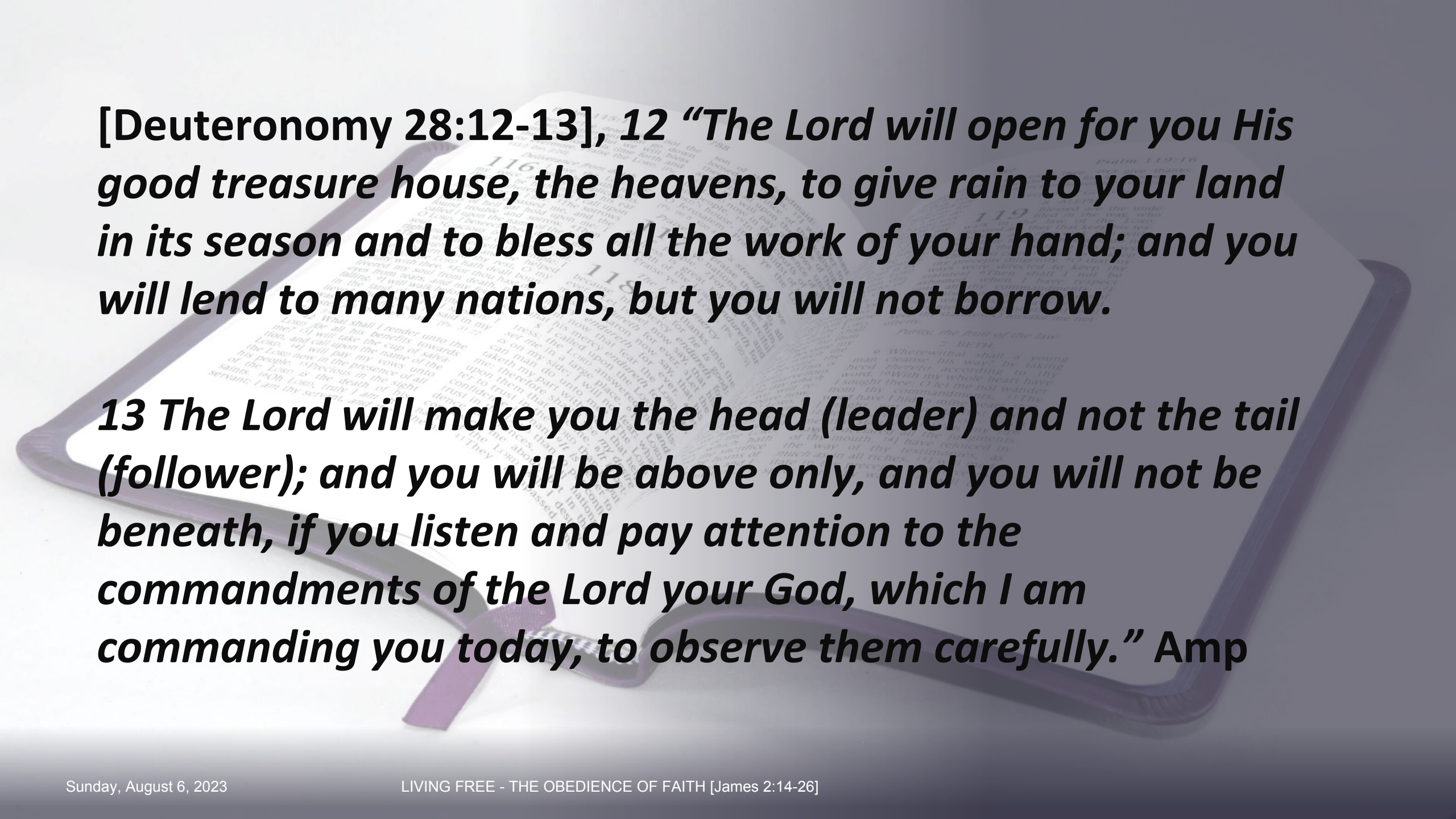
[Prov. 3:5,6] “Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart; And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

⁶In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].” Amp

3 Benefits of “The Obedience of Faith”

1. Obedience commits God to set you Above all the Nations of the Earth –

[Deuteronomy 28:1], “Now it shall be, if you diligently listen to and obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all of His commandments which I am commanding you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.” Amp



[Deuteronomy 28:12-13], 12 “The Lord will open for you His good treasure house, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow.

13 The Lord will make you the head (leader) and not the tail (follower); and you will be above only, and you will not be beneath, if you listen and pay attention to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, to observe them carefully.” Amp

2. Obedience provokes the Blessings of God –

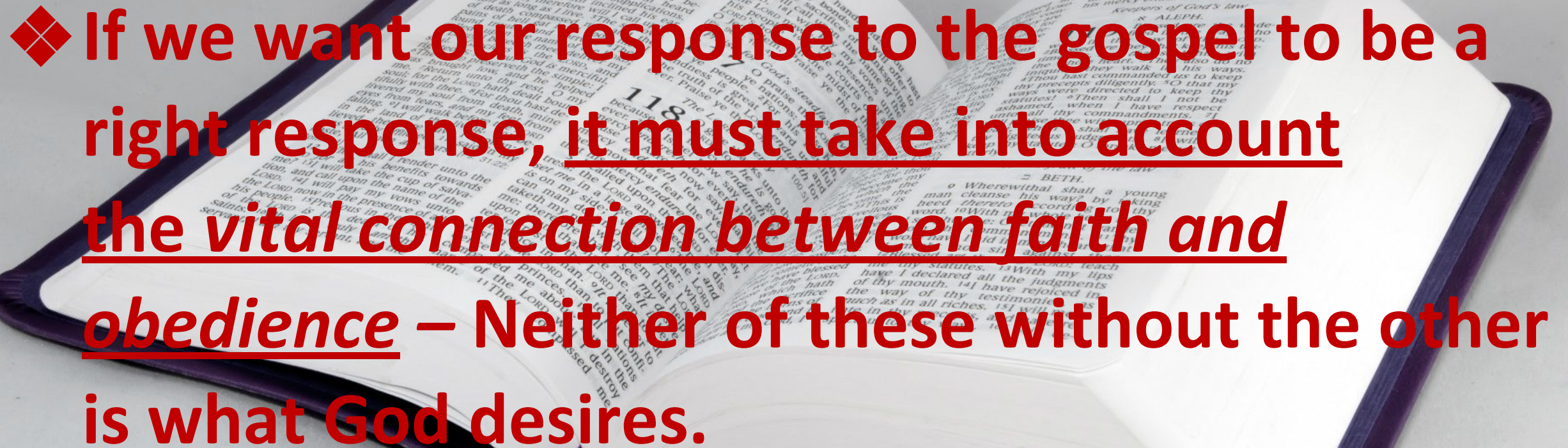
[Deut 28:2-3], ²“All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you pay attention to the voice of the LORD your God. ³“You will be blessed in the city, and you will be blessed in the field.” Amp

- ***When you are an obedient child of God, you operate under the covenant of blessings.***

3. Obedience provokes Generational Blessing on your Children –

[Deuteronomy 28:4], “The offspring of your body , and the produce of your ground, and the offspring of your animals, the offspring of your herd and the young of your flock will be blessed.” AMP

**A life of obedience to God is a spiritual investment that brings
A RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT that money cannot buy!!!**



❖ If we want our response to the gospel to be a right response, it must take into account the vital connection between faith and obedience – Neither of these without the other is what God desires.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE OF “THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH”

[Phil. 2:8-13], ⁸ After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely-appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father.....

12 So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ].

13 For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.”

Amp

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