



Covenants and Commands

Genesis 22:16-18 *“and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”*”

In church circles there is a raging debate between commands and covenants. Every Sunday? You see, this disagreement comes in the form of gifts, blessings, and joy. Is God obligated to give you all these things? To further the debate, should you be able to ask and receive it all in faith? In the verses above is a lot of stuff. Abraham acted in faith. He was willing. God said “because” of that act of faith He will bless. Why? Because Abraham obeyed God. That is the key! That Abraham obeyed? Heavens no! God decided to bless. Our mistake is that we think God must act or obey by our faith.

There are universal laws of God. Sin and die. It is in the blood. God is God and we are not Him. I am sure there are plenty more. Look at Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* This is a universal law of God. Yet, this law only works on a human level. That is why we have covenants and commands.

God made Covenants with some of His faithful servants. These pacts are one-way agreements. God says “I will.” Then we have some relational covenants. They say “I will” if you do. God told Abraham that he will bless him. Sometimes God told the people “If you” obey me then I will be your God. On the flip side are commands. They are Gods law for humanity. We cannot murder without punishment. Sin will be atoned for. Yet, at the beginning of Genesis 22:17 it says “surely I will.” We think that is a covenant between us and God. Instead, we should think of it as Gods will. At times God will because He chooses to. God does not have to. This is why I say this. God is free to be God. His will and plan are not subject to creation in any way. Yet, part of the raging church argument is that God’s love is subject to our actions. Does God have a love covenant with us? We will and He must?

Here is another universal law of God. God is love. What it really means is that God chooses to love above all else. Yet, He is not beholden to it. In a way it is the chicken and the egg thing. However, if we are to chase blessings, then we enter into a covenant, so to speak, with God. Yet again, we don’t dictate the terms. If we obey God and seek righteousness, God most likely will be pleased. A happy God might encourage him to bless more. Good kids make a parent happy. Bad little boys and girls won’t get ice-cream. Yet, dinner is always on the table, isn’t it?

Matthew 6:33 *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Phil 2:13 *“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”*

There it is. God gives you the desire and the power to do what pleases us? No, Him! God sent His Spirit to live in those who believe. That indwelling power desires to do what pleases God. So, blessings are the symbiotic covenant between those who have the Spirit and who gave the Spirit. But, do we live it? Is this desire given to those who desire to chase the blessings of God? If God gives that desire, then how do we get that desire from God?

Romans 10:9-12 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him."

So, let us now chase the blessings of God. We know that those who seek God will find Him. We also know that God will give to those chasing His will. People with a heart to receive are able to receive. Remember that I said that there are blessings just waiting to be unleashed. Yet, are you in that symbiotic relationship with God? Are you in covenant with Him? God may not bless you. Yet, do you give Him a reason to bless you? Maybe we should be chasing the good reason. Today is the perfect day to get down on your knees and ask God for the desire to seek Him. That you want God's best for you. It is time!