

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WALKING IN YOUR FREE WILL

RLJ-1262

JOHN S. TORELL

OCTOBER 31, 2010

We are now going to a practical study in what it means to walk with God in our free will. First of all, let's establish that God does not make us love Him; rather, it is a decision each Christian must make on their own. **John 14:15**

Loving God is not done with words, songs or money but by keeping His commandments. Thus, it is an exercise of free will to obey God and follow His instructions. **Romans 6:11-23**

WE MUST KNOW WHAT GOD HAS SPOKEN

In order to obey and love God, it is important to turn to the Bible to find out what He has said and the kind of laws He has created. A good place to start is to find out what Jesus said about the matter. **Matthew 5:13-19; 22:35-40**

The Bible says that Jesus became the sacrificial lamb and once and for all paid the price for sin. There are no more sacrifices to be made. **Hebrews 9:11-28**

We can logically conclude that every commandment God has given in the Bible is valid until Jesus returns. The only commandments we can disregard are the ones concerning sacrifices.

WHAT ARE GOD'S COMMANDMENTS?

There is only one way to find out God's commandments and that is to study the Bible from its inception and begin with Genesis. When the apostles started to preach the Gospel, they only had the Old Testament; the New Testament which came about later is a commentary on the Old Testament. God laid out a study plan for His people. **Deuteronomy 6:3-9**

It is the duty of every believer in Christ to study the Bible precept by precept and learn what God wants us to do. **2 Timothy 2:15-16**

People are destroyed because they do not know the word of God. **Hosea 4:1-6**

WHERE TO START?

It is important to stress that a person is saved by grace, not by works; we can add nothing to our salvation. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

I work the works of God BECAUSE I AM SAVED – not to be saved!

The most logical place to start is with the Ten Commandments. Most Christians have heard about the Ten Commandments and some can name a few but most are ignorant. Since the Bible has been taken out of public school, the vast majority of Americans do not know the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:1-17**



8341 Fair Oaks Blvd, Suite B, Carmichael, CA 95608

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166 Sheridan, CA 95681

Phone: (916) 944-3724 • Toll Free: (888) 708-3232 • Fax: (530) 633-2918 • www.eaec.org

1. Since you want to love God and his Son, Jesus, obeying these commandments will be your next step. But some may say, "I am weak and do not have the power to keep these commandments." This is a poor excuse that originates with the Devil.
2. You certainly have the power to decorate your dwelling place on this earth and do not have to adorn it with any idols.
3. I have never taken the name of the Lord in vain after I was born again 45 years ago. It wasn't difficult; I just made a decision to never desecrate the name of my heavenly Father, His Son, nor the Holy Spirit.
4. What about keeping the Sabbath? Well, when I learned that no regular work was to be done on the seventh day, I decided to go along with what God wanted. I don't have to wash the car, clean the house or paint a wall on Sunday. It is a day of worship and rest and it is great to use it for that.
5. I had dishonored my parents prior to my salvation, but when Jesus came into my heart, He also placed a love in me for my parents and my wife's parents. It was easy to honor them and do things for them and make their life a little sweeter during their final years on earth since we loved them. Again, it was easy to make this choice because we loved our parents.
6. I never killed a person before I came to Christ, so why kill anyone now?
7. From the day I met my wife, I made a decision that she was going to be the only one in my life. I loved her and made the decision to stay faithful and true to her. Was it hard? Not really, it was a choice and I stuck by it. We have been married for 49 years and our relationship is just fine. Have we ever had some problems? Sure, but with the help of Jesus we worked them all out.
8. I stole a lot before I was born again. My brother and I would break into places and steal in my teenage years. I stole things from my job and money from my grandmother and uncle. Stealing was a way of life for me. When Jesus came into my life and after having read the Ten Commandments, I realized that stealing was wrong and made the decision never to steal again. Have I been able to keep that? Absolutely! I have not stolen anything during the last 45 years. Have I been tempted to steal? Yes, there were times when I was shopping and was given back too much change. I pointed it out to the cashier. Was it hard to do? No, because I made the decision to not be a thief anymore.
9. Bearing false witness is also known as lying. I lied all the time before I was saved and was also a way of life for me. But when Jesus came into my life, the Holy Spirit convicted me that lying was wrong. I made the decision that lying was not an option any more in my life, lying was out. Have I been able to keep this commandment? Yes but there were times during the last 45 years when I might have misrepresented something and it hurt so bad inside that I had to go and talk to the people and ask them to forgive me. In my early years I had a tendency to exaggerate and this was pointed out to me that it was in reality lying. When I was confronted by my wife and friends, I repented

and made the decision to be accurate and never again exaggerate. Have I been successful? Ask those who know me.

10. Coveting is easy to do. In the beginning of my walk with Christ I did not fully understand the sin of coveting and it took some time before the Holy Spirit was able to do a work in me and teach me to be content with what I had. However, once I understood this principle, I made a choice to stick with it.

SUMMARY

Keeping the Ten Commandments is not that hard to do if you are born again and love God. It becomes a way of life and you have no desire to go back to the old way of living. It really is a matter of choice!

WHAT'S NEXT?

After I had been saved for some 20 years, someone gave me a book that dealt with eating pork. My first reaction was one of anger because I was raised on pork, loved it and could not imagine that a person could live without bacon for the rest of their life. Swedish meatballs are half pork and half beef and I loved it. It is a tradition for Swedes on Thursday to have pea soup with chunks of pork fat in it. There is also a thick oven pancake made with pork; all this I had eaten for many years.

Although I loved all these dishes, I also loved God and decided to read Leviticus chapter 11 out of obedience and find out what God had said. Once I read that chapter, I realized that I could not walk away from it. I could not say that I was saved and living under grace and that these food laws did not apply to me. ***They were never part of the sacrificial law but given so that the people of Israel could live without disease and have a long healthy life.***

Upon this realization, I had to make a decision as whether I should obey my fleshly craving of eating shrimp sandwiches, crawdads, lobster and crab. God is the creator and He knows what kind of fuel a human body can burn so I decided to go with God and re-align my taste buds. I truly loved God and so it was easy to obey once it became clear the food laws are still in effect and the anatomy of the unclean animals did not change when Jesus died on the cross.

Look at these verses and make your choice. **Leviticus 11:1-47**

CONCLUSION

In this message we have covered basic laws from God but this is not the end as studying the Word of God is a lifetime commitment, and once we have understood the basics, we should read the Bible page by page and find out what God has spoken and what He wants us to do.

You and I will never attain sinless perfection but we can get closer and closer to Jesus and there will be many sins which will never be repeated. The most difficult laws to keep are those dealing with attitudes and this is a life long struggle that we must endure. We can never give up and say that it is impossible to conquer

them but it is a continual process of fighting, repenting and seeking the Lord and never giving up.

A man is able to resist adultery in the flesh but it is an entirely different thing to bypass Jesus' words that looking and lusting in your mind as being the same as adultery. **Matthew 5:27-28**

It is not enough resist the physical act of stealing, killing, adultery, etc., but you must go further and not even entertain those thoughts in your mind. This is where the rubber meets the road and it is here that the real fight begins. You cannot be victorious when you watch ungodly movies and television programs, view pornographic material, drink alcohol, eat the wrong kinds of food and waste your time on the computer.

MAKE THE DECISION TO FIGHT AND WIN. Ephesians 6:10-18

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?