

*"Come now, and let us reason together," Saith the LORD: 'though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If Ye Be Willing And Obedient, ye shall eat the Good of the land:" *Isaiah 1:18-19 KJV**

Prosperity and success are entirely up to you. *"This Book of the Law (God's Word) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate Therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to All That Is Written Therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have Good Success."* If we are willing and obedient we shall prosper. God sees the heart of man and knows if it is willing or not. *"For the Word of God Is Quick, And Powerful, And Sharper than any twoedged sword, Piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and Is A Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* We can obey unwillingly or out of duty begrudgingly acquiesce; or we can do our best to please out of love. The ardor of love eclipses the drudgery of toil. There is no task too difficult to attempt for one's Beloved. If an attempt fails, a lover blames themselves and tries even more determinedly, never once entertaining the idea of quitting. It is the element of a loving heart that differentiates between duty and opportunity. We need to look beyond the gift to the Giver. If I obey to achieve substance, I am no better than a trained seal, performing for fish. If I obey to please, I will obey whether I receive any substance or not. Parents appreciate an obedient child and their requests are always given careful consideration. But the child that obeys and is openly affectionate, is handsomely rewarded with unsought gifts. Our Father is Extremely Pleased with our praise and worship and our obedience is just icing on the cake. *"No Good thing will He withhold from them that walk Uprightly."* His Infinite Supply is our warehouse. He Favors the willing heart. If God's Favor is your treasure, your obedience will be automatic. After all that Job went through, he said, *"Blessed be the Name of the Lord."* If we love God, we will trust Him, no matter what befalls. God Is Forever Merciful And Gracious to the rebellious sons of Adam. When He Could Have Destroyed all and begun anew, He Offered Pardons to the penitent and Gifts to the humble. His Word Is the Fulcrum of the Grace that levers the fallen into Newness of Life. If we could just grasp a tiny bit of the enormity of Eternal Life, we would *"forsake all and follow Him."* Nothing would dampen our zeal or quell our praise! Flames could not silence the martyrs. They sang their way into the Heavens. A Vision of Glory Bore Away their suffering on gossamer wings of Grace. If we could but glimpse the object of their zeal, revival would begin and the Power of the Gospel would Cause sinners to grab for support out of sheer terror!



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Do not forsake the Blessedness,
Of Pleasing God with Righteousness,
O' seek His Face with humbleness,
And live a Life of Loveliness. -CGP

A pastor friend, Johnny Pope, quoted this by John Brown, the Puritan; "The fear of The Lord is when God's frown is our greatest dread and God's smile is our greatest delight" Only the righteous fear God, now. The wicked will fear God, but when it is too late for His mercy!

*"Trust in the LORD, and do Good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He Shall Give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He Shall Bring It To Pass." *Psalms 37:3-5 KJV**