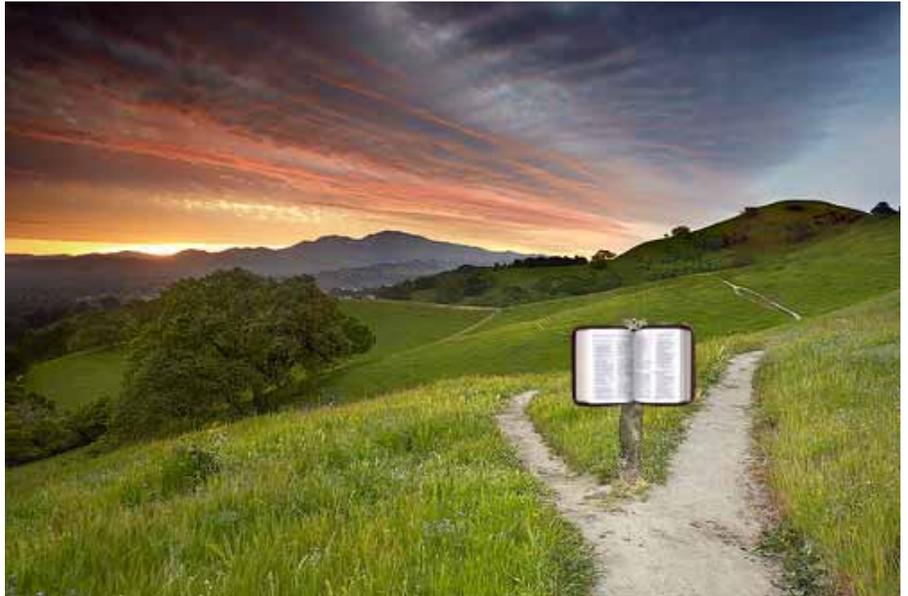


"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14 KJV



Obedying God is a choice that is engaged and facilitated by God Himself. The ability and will are a gift from God. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God."* The Word of God, whether

preached, taught, read, spoken by a friend, or whispered directly to your heart, is the vehicle of true faith. It presents man with an alternative to obeying his own desires. Adam and Eve chose to disobey and we must choose to obey. God's commands are His blessings. They guide us to and enable our provision. Our obedience is for our own good. As any loving Father would warn and direct, God desires only the best for His children. Obedience is a choice that we must make when faced with the temptation to sin. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness (disobedience)."* If we admit our disobedience to Father, He will give us a cloak of righteousness provided by the Lamb of God, at the cost of His own Life. There are many forks in the road of life at which we must either choose the narrow way or the broad way. Once a deed is done, we cannot undo the deed, but we can repent and return to the narrow way. When the error of our way is revealed to us, the choice becomes clear. A fork in the road again presents itself, and we must choose obedience or sin; the path of Light and life or the path of death and darkness. Have you ever passed the last exit on the interstate and the seen a sign that says "Next Exit 100 Miles?" There are only so many chances to repent. *"As they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate (incapable of understanding Truth) mind"* There is one factor that will always persuade us to obey, if we take the time to consider it. The apostle said, *"The love of Christ constraineth me. We love Him, because He first loved us."* Our faith in the Love of God will constrain us from evil when tempted, if we but take time to contemplate, *"He gave His life a ransom for many."* It becomes difficult to sin while holding, in our mind's eye, the image of Christ's suffering on our behalf. The contemplation of the terrible agony of body and soul that our dear Lord endured, because of our sin, should be more than enough to restrain us from evil. It will provoke us to *"Godly sorrow"* which will lead to repentance and cleansing, if we believe, a *"reprobate mind"* if we don't!

My sin exchanged for righteousness,
Because of Jesus' sacrifice,
His Love has paid for us the price,
And given us eternal Life. ~CGP

Is God's Word a roadblock or a signpost for you? Does the Bible get in your way or is it the Way?

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105 KJV