

*"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate (disciplined) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under MY BODY, and bring it **into subjection**: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 KJV*



If you wish to be the best at anything, whether physical or cerebral, body control is essential. Many choose drugs, some as benign as caffeine or as malignant as cocaine, to make up for poor planning and lack of will power. In the spiritual battle in which believers find themselves, it is a struggle to obey spiritual Truth. The body is never a willing participant in any exercise that requires obedience to God's Word. Many believers that could don't, because they're addicted to bodily pleasure, but we have the "God" advantage. *"For I delight in the Law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD (TRUTH). So then with the mind I myself serve the Law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."* When my Love of God constrains my soul from lust, I have liberty, because *"where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* There is no liberty in disobedience, because waking in the Spirit is walking in obedience. Obedience is where the power and provision are! Disobedience is willfully putting the shackles of death back on your soul! We disobey, because we choose sin, or we obey, because we chose the liberty of the Spirit. The more you obey God through faith and love, the more you'll delight to obey Him, because each day you discover a new delight. The body serves lust, but delight is a lover's choice! *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* If you do not obey from the heart, you really don't believe in God! Wrestlers rarely win their first match, but through training and self-denial, they may become masters. If God is your delight, *"the law of liberty"* will be your freedom. Your deeds betray your heart!

When flesh your master has become,
Remember, saint, you're not alone,
The God Who formed Creation's span,
Will keep you in His mighty hand! ~CGP

God will remove a flesh indulgent saint, *"to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."* If you find yourself habitually indulging the flesh, God will remove the temptation or your ability to comply! God will not allow His children to play with the Devil! To be truly free, keep God first. *"Ye shall KNOW the Truth and the Truth shall MAKE you free!"* Without a lifeline, climbing is a frightening task. Obedience is the lifeline that allows me to fearlessly scale the cliffs of life!

"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke Him to anger: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that YE SHALL SOON UTTERLY PERISH from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; YE SHALL NOT PROLONG YOUR DAYS upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed." Deuteronomy 4:24-26 KJV