

*"And the very God of Peace Sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your **Whole Spirit And Soul And Body Be Preserved Blameless** unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that Calleth you, Who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 KJV*

Preserving something entails taking that which is subject to rot and spoilage and changing its properties or nature into that which is unaffected by what would render it useless. A commonly known method is to increase the sweetness or sugar content, such as fruit preserves. We all have enjoyed this on toast or as a side condiment to other dishes. This is commonly done by boiling and reducing the liquid to remove excess water and create a sweet syrupy substance. It is at once delicious and impervious to bacteria which break down and spoil, or fermentation which would produce vinegar. The longer it is heated, the sweeter it becomes. Hmm. There's a lesson there, somewhere. In ancient times in areas devoid of water, grape juice would be converted to a syrup using this method and then poured into clean clay jars and sealed with hot wax before being stored underground. This was called "old wine" a term also used to describe vinegar produced by grape juice that sat too long. Preservation can also be achieved by adding sugar or honey. Honey is known for its preserving qualities. Obedience to God's

Word increases our "sweetness" index and preserves us blameless before God. *"Thy Words were found, and I did eat Them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. The Judgments of the LORD are True and Righteous altogether. More to be desired are They than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. O taste and see that the LORD is Good: Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."* The more we obey, the more strength we acquire to obey. Just like the more you lift weights, the more weight you can lift. Disobedience atrophies our faith like a cast on a broken arm atrophies the muscles of the arm. We must faithfully exercise obedience. You don't start working out with 500 lbs. You lift smaller weights many times in succession. Repetitive obedience in small things enables us to obey the weighty commandments. Faithful daily obedience preserves us for the trials we must endure. Months of training enable the soldier to endure and survive extreme moments of battle. Believers also have the advantage of the preserving nature of God's Word added to our hearts and minds through study and meditation to keep us blameless in faith. *"Let THIS MIND be in you (through meditation and study) which was also in Christ Jesus."* The "mind" of Christ is God's Word! Obedience is a choice. Disobedience is unbelief. Deeds indicate thought. Obedience is the tangible evidence of invisible faith! Your mind is the battlefield! Obey little things and big things take care of themselves!

God remembers ev'ry sparrow as it flies throughout the land,
And He numbers ev'ry hair upon our head,
He keeps every believer in His great unchanging hand,
We simply need to follow where we're led. -CGP

Don't let Satan whisper, "You can't do it!" in your soul, because God's Word says otherwise. You either can choose to obey God or you can choose to disobey. Whatever the decision, you CAN choose to obey God! *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a Standard against him."* When evil's fiery darts are hurled at your mind, it is the Truth that sets the course of action if you let/choose it!

"I can do ALL things THROUGH CHRIST (God's Word in my mind as the Standard) which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13 KJV

