

FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD

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God our father is a principled God. He has his own principles which he abides by. And he cannot bend it or suspend it for the sake of anyone. Anyone seeking to please God must come to him and worship according to these principles, or his worship and service will be unacceptable, and he may be destroyed.

Lev 10:1-3

10:1 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored." Aaron remained silent.

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Aaron's sons ministered not according to instruction, as a result, they lost their lives on the day of their first priestly service after the seven days ordination period was over. Their father was instructed by God through Moses not to mourn them because he is a High Priest. Even their brothers were not permitted to mourn them because of the priestly anointing on them - Their hair were not to become unkept, or were they to tear their clothes. They were not to touch any dead body including their brothers. They as priests of the most high were not permitted to drink wine or any fermented drink or they will die.

Lev 10:4-11

4 Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary." 5 So they came and carried them, still in their tunics, outside the camp, as Moses ordered. 6 Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not let your hair become unkempt, and do not tear your clothes, or you will die and the LORD will be angry with the whole community. But your relatives, all the house of Israel, may mourn for those the LORD has destroyed by fire. 7 Do not leave the entrance to the Tent of Meeting or you will die, because the LORD's anointing oil is on you." So they did as Moses said. 8 Then the LORD said to Aaron, 9 "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the Tent of Meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 10 You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, 11 and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses."

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All these go to show God as a principled God who will not suspend or bend his laws for any body, even for his anointed who suffers calamity. If God will not excuse his anointed High Priest and his sons, is it you that he will excuse.

God has many statutes, ordinances, principles or laws concerning repentance, atonement, offerings, giving, tithing, prosperity, business practices, healing, worship, relationship and many other issues. It is your responsibility to seek them out.

In 2 Sam. 6:1-11, the Bible records the story of what happened on the way as David and some chosen men of Israel brought the Ark of God from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem. One of Abinadab's sons called Uzzah tried to help God by taking hold of the Ark to prevent it from falling off from the cart as the oxen stumbled. Immediately, God killed him. He died because he was not supposed to touch it according to the law. The amazing thing is that Uzzah have been living with the Ark in his father's house for many years. One wonders why God didn't consider the fact that Uzzah's family took care of the Ark all through out the days of the ministry of Samuel the prophet and Saul the king of Israel. This goes a long way to prove that God is not a respecter of persons; and he does not apply sentiments in his dealings with man. His laws are his laws. It applies to everyone. If you obey, you will be rewarded, if you disobey, you will be punished. In fact, the more of God's word you know, the higher the standard for judging you.

Luke 12:48

48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

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Any man whom having received instruction on the laws and principles of God, and decides to test God will go in for it.

The Bible in I Sam 6:19-21 tells an interesting story of the adventure of certain men in total disregard to the instructions of God, and the consequences of their action.

1 Sam 6:19-21

19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, 20 and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?" 21 Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place."

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These people suffered because they did not honour God. No one ever did what they did, not even the Philistines who worshiped idols. They took God for granted. The testimonies of what God did to the Philistines for taking the Ark to their country into the temple of their gods, should have made them honour God, instead, they opened the Ark to see what was inside. God became furious, and killed seventy men immediately.

If you do not honour the word of God, you will pay dearly for it. There is no favouritism with God. Don't put him to test, he will deal with you. Locate his laws, and abide by them, and it will be well with you.

GOD'S WAYS ARE DIFFERENT

Isa 55:8-9

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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God declares in the above passage that his thoughts and ways are different from man's thoughts and ways. It therefore means that we need to seek out God's ways and thoughts in order to please him.

Jer 29:13-14

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

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Man can never be more knowledgeable or wiser than his creator. God who created man and the earth should be in a better position to explain how his creatures and works function, and how they should live their lives and conduct their business in order to have maximum output and success. No one can teach God about man or any of his creatures. To presume to know more than God is not only pride and arrogance but plain foolishness and madness.

It is therefore mandatory for man to seek to know God's will concerning his interests so that he can abide by the principles of God, thereby attaining success, satisfaction and peace with God, his fellow men and himself.

Prov 3:5-8

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

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When one is in the will of God, he will have peace with God, his fellow men, and himself success will be achieved. This creates a healthy condition of the body and nourishment of bones. To walk in the principles of God is to walk in right-hand of fellowship with God.

God recognizes that there are many ways that men through the deceit of the devil have devised to try to reach God. But God insists on his own way.

Isa 35:8

8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.

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John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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God does not and will not recognize any other way to Himself or attaining anything in life except his own way.

Eccl 8:5-6

5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

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Whoever obeys God's command or instruction will come to no harm but success, peace and joy. It takes the wise heart (the seeker of truth) to seek out the proper procedure (commands) and time. If you are not a seeker of knowledge, you won't be able to discover the principles of God. You need to discover in order to recover all that have been lost and missed in the past, and gain success. Your depth of insight, will determine your altitude.

The above scripture boldly declares that for every matter under the sun, there is a proper procedure to it and proper time to it. We are not discussing the time dimension in this study. So we will concern ourselves only to the procedure. Procedure means principles. The King James Version renders it as judgment. And judgment means decrees, laws. And laws are principles or procedures. God our father have laws covering everything on earth.

The passage makes us to understand that until a man locates the proper procedure or principle concerning the particular matter confronting him, and walk by it, he will continue to suffer under the weight of that problem.

"Though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him". Until you follow God's method and rules, suffering, stagnation, failure, poverty, sickness etc. continues.

God has left us with no other choice. Let us therefore become wise, and begin to seek out through the pages of the Bible, God's laws, and apply them daily. Remember, God's word never fails; and whatever a man sows, that shall he reap.

SOME OF GOD'S PRINCIPLES OR ORDINANCES SUMMARIZED

1. To be forgiven, one has to repent and confess his sins. (Prov 28:13). And forgive others too. (Matt 6:12-15)
2. To be saved, one must repent believe and confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Mk 1:5; Rom 10:9,10).
3. To see God in action in our lives and situations, and thereafter in heaven, we must strive for holiness. (Heb 12:14)
4. Without meditating on the word of God, and being careful to do according to all that is written, you can't be successful and prosperous. (Josh 1:8)
5. Without giving, tithing and diligence in work, you can't prosper - (Mal 3:8-12; Eccl 9:10; Prov 10:4).
6. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Heb 11:6)
7. To have victory over your enemies, your ways must be pleasing to the Lord. (Prov 16:7)
8. Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honour and good life. (Prov 22:4)
9. How close you want God to be to you, that is how close he will be (James 4:8).
10. Your spiritual growth determines your financial, material growth and your enjoyment of divine health. (3 Jn 2)
11. To come before God, you must enter his presence with thanksgiving and praise or you will not get an audience. (Matt 6:9-10; Ps 95:2; 100:4)
12. If you don't ask, you don't receive (Matt 7:7-11).

CONCLUSION

It is not possible for us to enumerate all the principles of God in this article; but I have giving you these to show you that except you abide by the principles of God, you cannot please God or obtain what you desire. You will only end up thinking that God is unfaithful or that the Bible is not true or that the man of God's prayer does not work.

Every promise of God has a condition attached to it. Yours is to fulfill the condition, and God will fulfill his promise. You can't obtain the promise of God when you have not fulfilled the condition for the promise. Serve God the way he wants to be served and not the way you think and feel you should serve him. It is not according to your terms, but according to His terms.

God will honour you, if you will honour his word.

Isa 66:2

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

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