

THE PRIZE OF REBELLION

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Life is all about choices. And the choices we make whether they are good or bad determine how life treats us and our experiences. Many singles make wrong choices that complicate their lives and bring untold hardship to them. They choose to walk in rebellion against the instructions of God and their parents, and as a result, go through some harsh experience. Many lose their respect and honour because of their shameful immoral acts. Many become parents at an immature age when they were not prepared in any way for children. Some have their pursuit of their academics terminated because they became pregnant and had to deliver and take care of their baby. Many ended up as single parents, struggling and suffering to raise their baby all by themselves because the father of their child have denied them or ran away. Many ended up in the prison for criminal activities. These and many more are the prizes young people have to pay for being rebellious.

Rebellion is costly. The prize of rebellion is too great that you cannot afford to ignore what I have to say on this subject.

Prov 4:1-17

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. 3 When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, 4 he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor."

10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. 11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. 14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. 16 For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall. 17 They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

NIV

King Solomon of Israel advised his sons to listen to his instructions and abide by them all their life, for it will keep them from trouble and bring them success, prosperity, honour and fame. He instructed that they should not follow wicked people and walk in ways that are not righteous for that will bring evil experiences. He admonished that we seek wisdom and embrace knowledge. That we should seek understanding with all that we have that we may escape many mistakes and bad experiences. He taught that wisdom protects. It watches over the wise, brings him honour, and crowns him with glory.

Wisdom is knowledge and understanding in manifestation in a man. It is the right application of knowledge. When a man uses knowledge that he possesses rightly and as at when due, he is said to be wise. Knowledge not rightly used is wasted and useless. It is not right for a young man to live foolishly. There are those who have seen and experienced life before you, and they have gathered experience over the years from their experience, mistakes, education, meditations, studies and what they have seen in their life and that of others. To refuse to listen to them is foolishness. The scripture contains the deep insight of God about life and the principles of God concerning the life of God and man and how to live to God's delight and honour. To ignore them is to choose to be a fool and live a life of many mistakes and wrong doings. To walk with the knowledge and wisdom of God and those who have seen life more than us (our parents), is to prevent many heartaches and miserable experiences.

Many singles do not care about what others with experience has to offer them, even at the point of death. There have been stories of well known atheists who at the point of death have instructed their children to abandon the way they have taken and return to the belief in God Almighty and worship him. Why? They had a glimpse of the land beyond before dying and they realized they have scuffed at the truth all their life and now it is too late. I have heard a man testify how his father who was a Muslim had told him to seek the truth about salvation and religion as he was dying. Why? He discovered he lived a lie and didn't want the son to continue in the way he went. Today, the son is a Christian. I told a young man many years ago to keep off immoral and loose life and surrender to Jesus Christ, he told me to leave him alone, that I have had my turn as a young man, and it was his turn. He told me he wants to enjoy himself and later he will return to God. His immoral and loose life has brought him pain and anxious moments, and nearly took his life. He has two girls claiming to be the father of their children; he had seen many spiritual attacks. Once, his thumb was caught off by criminals, another time he was mobbed, stabbed and machetted by some cult boys on campus. If not for God's mercy he would have been long dead. As I watch and observe him closely, I wonder if he has learnt anything from all he has been taught and has happened to him, for he is still not fully submissive to God though he goes to a Pentecostal Charismatic Church.

This may sound like you. Rebellion does not pay anybody. It is evil and will definitely bring you shame and disgrace. It will bring you pain and many sad and depressing experiences. Rebellion will bring stagnation, failure and heart break to your life. It will make you to waste many years of your life. It will complicate your life and alter the course of your life. Cherish good counsel and sound wisdom from your parents, elders, pastors and the word of God, and you will escape the agony that the rebellious experience.

Rebellion against instituted authority

Many young people never submit to authority at school, in the office where they work, in the church and many places they find themselves. This is a deadly habit, and you need to free yourself from it immediately.

1 Sam 15:23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

KJV

It pays to submit to authority. The bible teaches that all authority is instituted by God and not man, and must be submitted to within the limits of God's law.

1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

NIV

The person on the throne (position of authority) today may not be better than you in many ways, but the fact that he is on throne, makes him higher and must be submitted to. Submit to all authority for the Lord's sake and God will be pleased with you. Be a good example of a true child of God.

Rebellion against parents and guardians

Your parents have authority over you. God brought you into this world through them. They can approve you or disapprove your lifestyle, choices and decisions as long as you are under their roof. Until you leave them and start your own family, they have control over you. The authority is so strong that your parent can cancel your vow to God and God will accept it.

Num 30:3-5

3 "When a young woman still living in her father's house makes a vow to the LORD or obligates herself by a pledge 4 and her father hears about her vow or pledge but says nothing to her, then all her vows and every pledge by which she obligated herself will stand. 5 But if her father forbids her when he hears about it, none of her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand; the LORD will release her because her father has forbidden her.

NIV

Submit to your parents and be careful not to rebel against them especially in matters of relationship. Do not be immoral. Do not allow them to push you to be immoral. Your submission to them is within the boundaries of God's word and principles. When they are contrary to God's command, you stand out and stay with God.

Rebellion against the word and principles of God

God's word given to man is not for formality or fun. God is not a joker. He means everything He says and says only what He means. Never live contrary to His commands and principles. Though you do not understand why He commands certain things, submit and obey. You may not have a full understanding of what God is saying, still submit and walk in obedience. The Bible is full of stories of people who obeyed God and they were rewarded, and the stories of those who rebelled and they were punished. All these life stories and experiences were recorded that we may be informed and learn. Learn from them and do not rebel.

1 Cor 10:11

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

NIV

Rebellion against your pastor

Matt 10:40

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.

NIV

To rebel against your pastor is to rebel against God who appointed and anointed him to guide and lead you in the path of God and His plan for your life. He is the messenger of change and greatness in your life. To rebel is to challenge the wisdom of God in his appointment. Many young people don't like to be close to their pastor because they don't want close monitoring and are afraid that they will lose their freedom to live as they like. To be immoral, proud, high-handed, stubborn, rude, rebellious to parents and authority, lazy, a loafer, and abusive is not a good life. The Pastor's job is to help you overcome these vices. So, he counsels you on how to live a better life. Many young people don't like this. You better start liking it now for you need your pastor to become who and what God wants you to become. Do not rebel against your pastor. Listen to the wisdom of God in and through him and soon you will be happily married, successful in your career and a celebrity.

The prize of rebellion

King Saul of Israel lost his throne because of his rebellion against the instruction of Samuel the Prophet to put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys of the Amalekites. He spared the King Agag and many cattle, sheep and goats. Israel was exiled from the land of Canaan given to them by God because of their rebellion to Him and His commands. Samson the mighty man of Israel became a slave with no eyes because he rebelled against his parent's advice to stay away from Philistine women. His immoral love affair with Delilah the prostitute cost him his eyes, great strength and life. King David's adulterous relationship with Beersheba and the killing of her husband Uriah cost him thirteen years of punishment, degradation, and humiliation from his own sons. Incest occurred in his family, Absalom his son planned a coup against him and he had to flee from the city until Absalom was killed in battle.

chasing him. His wives were defiled by Absalom on the roof top while the Israelites watched. The stigma of that immoral act remains to this day on his name.

I know a woman who when she was very young and in the higher institution was loose and immoral. She got pregnant for a married man, and through an experience she had one night she started bleeding, she was rushed to the hospital and the doctor discovered that her womb has been ruptured. To save her life, the womb was removed. She lived with the pain of not going to be able to have a baby all her life until God intervened many years later and gave her a new womb after deliverance and healing prayers was offered for her. What if that happened to you, what will you do and how will your life look like.

Many young girls have died while trying to abort a pregnancy. So many women today that are married are running from pillar to post for children and they cannot have one because they have committed so many abortions that their wombs have become damaged. Some ladies are anxiously praying and hoping a man will come and ask their hand in marriage. They are aging and desperate to get married. Some of them missed their opportunities when they were younger because of loose and immoral life they chose to live. They were not ready because they wanted more fun and money from the numerous male friends (both single and married) they had. Now they want to settle down, but no one is interested anymore. Some have broken several marriages due to the adulterous relationships they heard with married men. The wives of these men have cursed and cursed them, some through the services of witch doctors. And today, no one wants to marry them. Since they didn't want those women to have their husbands and enjoy them they have been cursed not to have their own husbands. The scripture teaches that a curse that is causeless shall not rest. But when the curse has a genuine reason, it will work. So these ladies cannot have husbands except God intervenes after a sincere repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Will you like to be in the shoes of any of these women?

Imagine the shame of a young pregnant girl with no one claiming responsibility. What a disgrace to the family and herself. Imagine you stopping your academics because of pregnancy outside of a marriage. Imagine your fiancé or fiancée dropping you because he or she found out you are having another or other relationships. And the other people also turning their back on you because they found out you cannot be trusted. What a position to be in? Imagine you being back-benched and disciplined in the very church where you have been serving and respected as a serious and committed Christian and worker. It doesn't sound nice at all.

So many youths have ended up as armed robbers, though they started as thieves of small money and items at home, from friends and neighbours. It will amaze you to know that some steal in the church and their conscience does not prick them. There is a pay day coming, and it will not fail to come except there is genuine repentance. It does not pay to be rebellious. Submit to God and it will be well with you.

The scripture taught us to keep away from wrong company, but many of us do not take it serious. A Christian pastor was arrested in far away United States of America because he was in the company of an old friend whom he has not seen in a long time. When his

friend's car was stopped for a check he was arrested with his friend because something was found on him that was against the law. He was detained and repatriated later. Many have been labeled what they are not because of the company they keep. Many have developed wrong habits, character and desires from the bad company they keep. Serving God faithfully have become a big struggle and challenge for many youths because of the wrong inputs from their wrong friends.

Nobody gets away with rebellion. The scripture is full of real life stories of rebellion and the consequences of rebellion. Many young people have suffered shame and disgrace as a result of unwanted pregnancy when not married and in some cases serving in the Church as a worker. Many have had broken hearts and painful disappointments in their relationships. Some ended up in police cells for various crimes and offences. Some have had their arms or parts of their body cut off during fights all in the name of being big boys and partying. So many are languishing now for the rebellious acts they committed in the past.

I do not know what your life has been like and what you want it to be after reading this. I do wish that you will make a firm decision to submit to God and his plan for your life in Christ Jesus. I wish and demand that you submit to your parent's guidance. I ask that you submit to your Pastor's ministry. I demand that you obey all authority as long as their demand of you is not contrary to God's word and principles. If you do this daily, you will be successful and fulfilled.