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## SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For; "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

## Demands and Expectations

*“Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?” Exodus 17:2*

Intro: #01

To **demand** is to ask for something forcefully in a way that shows you do not expect to be refused, to insist upon, to claim as due. To **expect** is to ask for something to happen because you think you have a right to ask for it, to look for as a right, that you're entitled to have it.

One of the greater problems that Christians face is how to cope with or handle the demands or expectations made on them by other people. Even we, ourselves, are guilty of looking to other people for what we want or need and expecting or demanding that they supply it to us. People have a tendency to look to other people for them to supply what they want or need and even demand it at times.

The children of Israel in our passage here were chiding with Moses demanding that he give them water to drink. Now water is a basic need; we all need it to survive. The problem was that they were looking to Moses to provide them this basic need, when they should have been turning to God in faith and asking him for water. They were making demands on another human being expecting him to come through for them, when not other human being could do this, only God can provide our basic needs. They were stressed out and were stressing him out!

We have no right to expect another person to provide our needs, nor demand that they do. The only exception to this is when that other person has agreed to do so, and even in that area they may not be able to do so for one reason or another. And if we do, it's to be done on the basis of grace. In marriage both parties agree to be faithful to each other and to stay by each other's side until death, so the other party has the right to expect that from the other person because these are realistic demands made. A husband may have promised his wife that he would buy her a new home, or new furniture, but because of not being able to find work, or of suffering a personal injury he is not able to do so.

Children in the home have the right to look to their parents to provide their basic needs and provide an atmosphere of protection, love, security, training, etc., but they do not have the right to demand that they buy them every toy or gadget that they want! Children growing up in the home have the right to expect these things to be provided for them, but once they reach the age of adult responsibility, then they are on their own. They are responsible to provide their own needs and wants. They have no right to look to or demand that their parents provide for them what they want or need.

Many people expect or demand things from their parents, spouses, friends, the government, or a church that only God can provide, which places a tremendous burden on the other individual! God did promise to provide all our needs as we go through life, so what we are to be doing is looking to God and going to him for our needs.

Often a wife will look to her husband and expect him to provide for her everything she needs or wants, but the husband is in the same place for he is responsible to go to God to provide his needs and her needs. What both parties need to understand is that: 1) it is not our responsibility to provide other people's needs; 2) to meet their demands; 3) to live up to their expectations.

When demands are placed on an individual it becomes a source of **pressure** and **stress** to them, as well as a sense of **guilt** for they feel guilty that they are not able to do what others expect from them. In time it will turn into resentment because you start to resent the other person constantly demanding things from you. One does get tired of being thought of as someone who is expected to keep shelling out money, when all you want to do is be with the person.

Some people expect you to think in a certain way, to act in a certain way, be a certain way, even feel a certain way! And we simply cannot do it, not only that if we do, then we are not true to ourselves. These demands made on our person will result in the other person feeling guilty, becoming frustrated, bitter and angry, it will end up giving them a failure index, deprive them of their personal freedom and deprive them of living by grace; and it can end up destroying relationships.

Israel's constant demands on Moses, instead of looking to God for their needs to be met, resulted in such frustration to Moses he took the rod and struck the rock the second time, thereby breaking the typology of Christ for which God punished him by not letting him to go into the land of Canaan. *“And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye **rebels**; must we fetch you water out of this rock?”* Numbers 20:10

We need to stop putting demands on other people, and that includes our spouse, when they are unable to do them, or if it is not their responsibility to do so! If we don't stop it, then that other person will become exasperated, frustrated and eventually resentful. Any opportunity for an intimate love relationship with that spouse will go out the window. Husbands and wives have to understand that it is God who provides their needs and they both need to start **looking to God** in faith and prayer to do so, not to each other. They both also have to learn to start being **content** with what he does provide and stop wanting more things. *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be **content** with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* Hebrews 13:5

We need to **accept** who we are, what we can do and what can reasonably be expected of us. We need to see that there is a **limit** to what people can reasonably expect from us; and a limit to what we can do and not do! We need to see that God is the ultimate provider of all our needs and the needs of those who are looking to us to provide their needs. *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:19

#### A. Rachel's demands on Jacob.

*“And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel **envied** her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. And Jacob's **anger** was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?”* Genesis 30:1,2

Here we have a classic case of a wife making an unrealistic demand on her husband. She's expecting him to provide for her a baby; something that he is unable to do. The fault, by the way, lay with her, not with him. We also see that this demand sprung forth out of the emotion of jealousy; she was jealous of her sister. Jacob rightly discerned the situation and reminded his wife that she was out of line in demanding something from him that only God could do.

We can also see the anger of Jacob being kindled here because of the demand Rachel had laid on him. Once again, we are not to look to each other to provide for us what only God can do. If she was having a problem in this area and wanted to have kids, then she should have turned to the Lord in the matter, not her husband. #01 4-14-16 #02

The marriage relationship will relax considerably when both spouses learn to recognize their own personal limitations, each other's limitations and what they are obligated to do before the Lord; and to stop placing unrealistic demands on each other. Once you get to this place you will be able to enjoy the other person for who and what he or she is, not for what they can do for you whether it emotional, financial, physical or psychological.

## B. Abraham's expectations of Sarah.

*“And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.” Genesis 16:2*

God had promised Abram a child, but Sarah had born him no child. Now he was not making demands on Sarah in this area, but she nevertheless felt the pressure of all this and felt like she was letting him down. Sarai knew that the Lord was restraining her for some reason in this matter, so she tried to rectify the situation by giving her handmaid Hagar over to Abram for her to bear him the child.

The matter of God's promise to give Abram a son was a matter of **faith** not only for Abram, but for Sarah as well! She had to believe that God was going to do this, which he did, but also believe that God was going to use her to bring forth the child of promise! Sometimes the expectations of one spouse can cause the other spouse to do things outside the will of God. Sarah felt that she was the one who had to provide a child for Abraham in her own strength; she wasn't able to do it, so she provided Hagar to do the job, instead of trusting the Lord to provide what he had promised to do.

## C. Israel's demands on Moses.

*“Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?” Exodus 17:2*

Here was a situation where God had led the people of Israel to Rephidim, but there was no water to drink, which constituted a **provision test**. Remember, one of the things that God had promised his people is that he would always provide their needs and that obviously includes water to drink. And because he was going to go **before** them, it is obvious that he knew there was no water to drink there! *“And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail (raphah) thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8* What God was trying to demonstrate to them was he was the one who would provide all their needs. If they had passed this test by faith, then they would go through the rest of their lives with confidence.

But instead of turning to God in faith in his commitment to provide all their needs, they turned against Moses blaming him for it. *“And the people thirsted there for water; and the people **murmured** against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?” Exodus 17:3* We want to notice an old familiar theme here of how some of the people of God can turn against the leadership of God because **they refuse to live by faith**. They demanded that Moses, a man, provide for them something only God could do! How in the world did they think that this man could provide enough water to satisfy hundreds of thousands of people, plus untold numbers of cattle!

So Moses did the only thing he could actually do and that was to turn to God in prayer and ask him to provide water for the Israelites. *“And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.” Exodus 17:4* He knew that God had placed him as the leader over Israel, but he also knew his limitations for there was no way he could provide **any** water, let alone enough water to satisfy the thirst of this countless number of man and beast!

Moses' responsibility was to teach the Word of God, lead the people of God where God wanted them to go and make decisions concerning the nation of Israel, but it was not his responsibility to provide for them, that which belonged only to God. How many children today place demands on their parent's to provide for them things that only God can do? How many wives place demand on their husbands for the same things, or husbands on their wives? And how many parishioners place **demands** on their pastors to do things that they are not able to do, or **responsible** to do?

Numbers 11:9-35 records the complaint that the Israelites had toward Moses demanding that he provide for them meat to eat. A rational person would look at this and say, “how in the world is he going to provide meat for hundreds of thousands of people”? They were sick and tired of manna, which was God's provision for their nutritional needs. It was so bad that grown men were crying in their tents because of having to eat manna everyday! **Crying!!** *“Then Moses heard the people **weep** throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.” Numbers 11:10* The effect on this was so bad that Moses actually wanted to die. *“And if thou deal thus with me, **kill** me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.” Numbers 11:15*

They were indeed a nation of **malcontents**; they were dissatisfied with what God provided and were in a state of rebellion against him. Now God was going to rectify this; he was going to give Moses 70 capable men who could share the pressure of ruling and he was going to give the Israelites what they wanted; he was going to give them meat to eat, not for just a week or two, but for a whole month until it was coming out their nostrils! He sent them quail to eat, so much quail that they were 3 feet deep a day's journey away from the camp! *“And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.” Numbers 11:31*

Moses felt responsible that's why he was so **stressed** out in this matter. What he needed to do is look at the situation objectively and realized what his responsibility was and that was to lead the people and communicate the Word of God to them. It was his responsibility to lead them wherever God wanted them to go; he was to communicate the words to them that God gave him to communicate. It was **not** his responsibility to provide their daily needs or wants.

Concerning the Israelites their responsibility was to look to the Lord and trust him to provide their needs, which he was doing, but also to **content** themselves with what God provided. The definition of a **malcontent** is one who is not satisfied with what they have and is rebellious, which certainly summed up the ancient nation of Israel.

It also sums up believers in the Church Age today, who are always wanting more and never content with what they have, even though they have more stuff than most people living on the earth today. Not only that, they are rebellious because they reject the authority structure of God and the study and application of Bible Doctrine to their lives.

## D. The crowd's demands on Christ.

In the Matthew 14 passage we find Jesus ministering to the needs of others was brought the report that John the Baptist had been beheaded. *“And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.”* Matthew 14:12 When he heard this he went off in a boat to be by himself for awhile. *“When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.”* Matthew 14:13

But when the multitudes heard this, they followed him around on the shoreline to have him heal their sick and moved with compassion he did so. *“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”* Matthew 14:14 What the multitude did not understand was his need to be alone with the Father and share his grief with him.

This is so typical with people in that they don't care about **your** needs, only **theirs!** People can put many demands and expectations on those who are ministering to them, which in itself will cause a drain on our spiritual energy. This is why we have to be constantly going back to the Father for him to strengthen us. We also have to realize what our responsibility is and isn't in these matters. We are not responsible to feed people, clothe them and manage their emotional problems.

## E. The demands made on Christ by his earthly family.

This is where the Lord was teaching the Word of God to those who were trusting in him, when his mother and brothers were standing outside calling out loud for him to come out. They expected Christ to come out to them when they called; they were treating him as a child. *“There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, **calling** him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.”* Mark 3:31-35

They interrupted his Bible class expecting him to stop his Bible class and come out to listen to them and in so doing keep in line with his earthly family putting them first, but he set the whole matter straight when he told everyone that his family was those who did the will of God and believed on him. He knew who he was and why he was there on earth and was not going to respond to people's demands placed upon him, even by his earthly family. We are here to do the will of the Father not respond to the demands made on us by others.

## F. The demands made on the early apostles.

In the early Church the widows were being fed out of the grace ministry of other believers, but guess who ended up waiting on them? It was the apostles. But in so doing they were neglecting the study of the Word of God. *“Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto* them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.”* Acts 6:2

It goes back to what are our priorities? What are we responsible for? It was their responsibility to study and teach the Word of God wait upon people. And even today we all have our own responsibilities, which are to be our responsibilities. We are not responsible to meet the demands of other people, even if they think we should.

The apostles responded to this, after they saw the problem, by saying 'no', but they also helped in coming up with a solution for the problem. It is beneficial to the Christian to learn to say **no** to the different demands and expectations placed us by other people. And because we are eager to please, or to help, or out of a sense of guilt, we try to meet their demands.

These demands can come from our peer pressure group, or from husbands and wives, friends and family, pastor and congregation, even from our place of work, where they will use guilt and social pressure to manipulate us into doing things, such as, building houses for the poor, or giving to the poor, or helping out at a soup kitchen, etc..

Most people drift along in this pattern for a good part of their lives where they no longer have control over their life, but are living it to please others by meeting their demands, until a crisis hits us in our life. Perhaps the death of a loved one, a divorce, breakup of a friendship or love relationship, children leave the home, or a sickness, or serious injury, then we start questioning all these things. Why am I doing this? Why do I have to jump whenever somebody wants something? Where am I going in my life? Is this my life or somebody else's? What am I going to do with my life? Whose life is it anyway? And, just who am I?

It's not just legalism that enslaves us; it's also living our lives to satisfy other people's demands and expectations made on us! If Christ set us free, which he did; he set us free to live our lives before the Lord and serve the Father's will for our lives not live up to other people's expectations nor submit to their demands. Doctrine gives us the answers to deal with these issues.

## G. Freedom to be yourself and to serve God.

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32*

Freedom and liberty are of tremendous importance in the Christian's life because it means that we are free to choose, free to live our own lives, free to be who we are and free to serve the Father. It also means that we are free from the world system around us, free from the tyranny of the flesh nature and free from Satan! It's important that we are free because we have to be free if we are to serve God.

We were positionally set free by Jesus Christ at the moment of our salvation, when we received the Holy Spirit. *“Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** wherewith **Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1 “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**.” 2 Corinthians 3:17 And it is through the knowledge and application of Bible Doctrine that we are constantly learning about our freedom so we can apply it in our lives. *“Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my **liberty** judged of another man's conscience?” 1 Corinthians 10:29**

Many congregations expect their people to be a certain way, sometimes they even demand it. But then all we're doing is living the Christian life the way somebody else thinks we should do! Isn't godliness a personal spiritual matter before God, not someone else? Am I not a believer priest with my own rights and responsibilities? *“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:1-12*

## H. Areas of freedom.

We have been set free from the **curse of sin** through our redemption. Christ purchased us off the slave block of sin thereby setting us free, but free to serve him, not ourselves, not sin, not Satan and not other people. *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* John 8:36

The Christian has obtained his **legal release**; set free from the dominance of sin and the dynamic of sin over his life. This was accomplished in his death in Christ. *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**”* Romans 6:6,7

The reason why it is so important for us to understand our freedom in life as Christians is because by understanding that we are free it means that we are free also from the demands placed on us by others! (Not unless we have agreed to do so). We are free from Satan, sin and the world system, but we are also free from having to submit to other people's demands on our lives.

We have been set **free from the old sin nature's control** over us, not only do we have a legal release from it, but also from the power it has over us. This power is nullified, or rendered inoperative, as we are filled with the Holy Spirit. *“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. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”* Romans 6:16-18 Romans 6:12,13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18

We have been set free from the dominion of Satan over us and this by our legal release through Christ's purchase of us, but also through our 1) being transferred from his dominion into Christ's kingdom. *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us **into the kingdom of his dear Son:**”* Colossians 1:12,13 2) Through Christ binding the strong man, (Satan), taking us away from him. *“But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”* Luke 11:22 3) And putting the armor of God on whereby we will be able to successfully resist Satan's power over us. *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Ephesians 6:11

We have been legally and positionally set free from every aspect of the world system we are no longer a part of it, therefore we are free from it. *“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.”* John 17:6 *“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”* John 17:14 *“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”* John 17:16 *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”* Philippians 3:20

We are also set free from the power, influence and ideas of the **world system** as, and if, our minds are conformed to the thinking of God through the sound teaching of his Word. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not **conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Romans 12:1,2



The **world system** has certain and many demands and expectations it places upon the people who live in the world; and many Christians through guilt manipulation, peer pressure, community and social pressure try to live up to those expectations. But in so doing we are not able to serve God effectively, or even live our own lives, because we are trying to do what others expect of us or demand from us! So by understanding these things we can live our own lives, serve God and have fellowship with him.

The area of our own **basic humanity** is another source of demands placed on us. The body and the soul are constantly crying for attention and the satisfaction of their demands. But these can be brought under the control of Bible Doctrine and the filling of the Holy Spirit. *“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 9:27 *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* John 17:17 *“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.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *“Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.”* Psa. 131:2

**Scar tissue** of the soul is another area that places demands on us, but we can deal with it by remaining in the filling of the Holy Spirit and being centered on Bible Doctrine. In other words, it can still be there crying out to be heard, but we can continue on in our own spiritual life. Eventually, through remaining in the spiritual life dynamic and applying doctrine to its demands, we will overcome it.

Another area of demands and expectations is from our **families and friends**. *“And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”* Matthew 8:21,22 For a son to bury his father was pretty much of an expected thing in those days, even today, but Christ said that there was something more important than family ties and that was to follow him!

Even though we love our families and friends, and at times they seem to mean well, they can and do influence us away from Bible Doctrine and doing the Father's will for our lives. *“And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”* Luke 9:59-62

Our relatives can demand a lot from us; they expect us to help them out, to spend time with them, do things for them, support them, cater to them, to jump to their beck and call and give them loyalty even above loyalty to God! They expect us to fit into the right little image they have for us, (growing into the image of Christ is not in their picture), and they can get mad when we don't. They not only expect these things from us, they demand it!

The image relatives have of us is that a family member is to be loyal to the family above all and the idea of loyalty to God first is not in their picture. Guilt manipulation, anger, excommunication from the family unit are just some of the ways that family members use to keep others in line. We must learn to stand alongside the Lord, who put his Father and earthly, spiritual family first. *“And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.**”* Mark 3:34,35

Pastor Mike