

Thirty-Two Traits Of The Person Who Respects God's Word

Part 1

- Today there is widespread lack of respect for God's word in the world and even by many believers.
- It is sad some believers pay little attention to God's word or only give it lip service.
- This lesson, and the two lessons to follow, will be devoted to the characteristics of the person who respects God's word.
- We will study "Thirty-Two Traits Of The Person Who Respects God's Word."
- The Bible is God's inspired word. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness [how to be right with God];

2 Tim. 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate [proficient], equipped [prepared] for every good work.

- "inspired of God" is from "theopneustos" that is made up of 2 words "theos" [theh **ahs**] meaning "God" and "pneo" [**pneh** oh] meaning "to breathe."
- God's word is not the message of man, but is God breathing out His message to man through the apostles and prophets and others He chose to communicate His will to man.
- God's word equips [completely furnishes] man for "every good work."

2 PET 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation [initiative, origin],

2 PET 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will [the prophet's own ideas], but men moved [borne along, directed] by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- "Moved" is from "phero" [**feh** roh] and means "to bear, to carry, to move."
- The Scriptures do not find origin in men, but they come from God who communicated His word to mankind.
- The Bible, as God's word, lights our path and gives infallible guidance as God's communication to man of His divine will for man. (Psa. 119:105).

PSA 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

The Thirty-Two Traits Of Those Who Respect God's Word

1. He recognizes the Scriptures as "holy Scriptures." (Rom. 1:2; 2 Tim. 3:15).

ROM 1:2 which He [God] promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

2 TIM 3:15 and that from childhood you [Timothy] have known the sacred [holy] writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- a. The Greek word “holy,” in Romans 1:2, is “hagios” [**hah** gee ahs] meaning “hallowed, dedicated, holy.”
 - 1) The Greek word “hieros” [hee eh **rahs**] meaning “hallowed, holy, divine” is used 2 Timothy 3:15.
 - 2) These words mean God’s word is “hallowed, sacred, holy.”
 - 3) They are used to modify the word “Scriptures” that comes from the Greek “graphe” [grah **foy**] meaning “writings, scriptures.”
 - 4) See Matt. 21:42; Jn. 5:39 where it [graphe] is used of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Matt 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER {stone;} THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?"

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think [are fully persuaded] that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me

- b. God’s writings are different from all other writings!
 - c. They are “holy” and must be regarded as “holy” and binding.
2. He insists on the Holy Scriptures as the only source of spiritual knowledge and authority.
 - a. Some charge those who revere God’s word as infallible and the only guide make it an idol and are guilty of idolatry or bibliolatry [bib lee ol uh tree], an excessive adherence, reverence to the literal interpretation of the Bible.
 - b. This is far from the truth!
 - c. Those who recognize the authority of the Scriptures are keeping company with Moses, David, the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles.
 - d. When one reverences the scriptures, he/she is not an idolater but is recognizing the Bible as God’s word that gives light and understanding. (Jn. 17:17; 2 Pet. 1:3).

JOH 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

2 PET 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

1) Psa. 119:130

PSA 119:130 The unfolding [revealing and explaining] of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

- “Unfolding” has the idea of “opening, revealing, explaining.” Heb. “pethach” [**pay** thach]
- “Light” - God’s words enlighten us on how to have the abundant life here and a home in heaven.
- “Simple” comes from the Hebrew word “pethiy” [peth ee] meaning “simple, naive, foolish, open-minded.”

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Prov 1:4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

Prov 1:22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing
And fools hate knowledge?"

2) The one reverencing God's word longs for it. (Psa. 119:81,82, 134-136).

PSA 119:81 My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait [await] for Thy word.

PSA 119:82 My eyes fail with longing for Thy word, While I say, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"

PSA 119:134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Thy precepts.

PSA 119:135 Make Thy face shine upon Thy servant, And teach me Thy statutes.

PSA 119:136 My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Thy law.

e. It is sinful and disastrous to ignore God's word and to follow one's own thinking. (Prov. 14:12; Jere. 10:23).

Prov 14:12 There is a way {which seems} right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Jer 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

3. He will believe it, that is, fully trust it. (Psa. 119:42).

PSA 119:42 So I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Thy word.

a. We are to trust God's word is always right (Psa. 33:4), and put our complete trust in it.

b. Being skeptical of God's word will not bring salvation or peace.

c. Trust is more than just accepting it intellectually as fact.

d. Many a person gives mental assent to the word of God, but does not trust it in daily living.

e. It means one is fully persuaded that God's word is true, dependable, and a blessing to those who follow it.

4. He will obey it. (Jas. 1:22; Jn. 14:15).

Jas 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Jn. 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

a. We must be doers of the word. (Matt. 7:21)

1) Those who are doers of the word have built their house on a firm foundation. (Matt. 7:24, 25).

2) Those who do not obey the word are building their house on the sand. (Matt. 7:26, 27).

b. We must not look into the mirror of God's word and not make the necessary changes. (Jas. 1:23, 24).

JAM 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

JAM 1:24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

c. The primary motivation for obedience is love. (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3).

JOH 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1JO 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

d. "Fear" [reverence] is also a vital motivation for obedience. (Eccles. 12:13). Heb. "yara"

ECC 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. ASV has "the whole *duty* of man."

1) Isaiah 66:2,5

ISA 66:2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

ISA 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word: "Your brothers who hate you, who exclude you for My name's sake, Have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy.' But they will be put to shame

2) Ezra 10:3

EZ 10:3 "So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

3) Proverbs 13:13

PROV 13:13 The one who despises the word will be in debt to it [be destroyed], But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded. ASV "bringeth destruction on himself"....NKJV "will be destroyed."

e. We must always keep in mind that God's will is revealed only in His word.

f. It is not found in nature, in feelings, dreams, visions, in human knowledge and conclusions, etc.

g. Jesus taught us to pray God's will be done. (Matt. 6:10).

MAT 6:10 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

h. Jesus insisted that doing God's will is essential to salvation. (Matt. 7:21; 12:46-50).

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven {will enter.}

MAT 12:46 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him.

MAT 12:47 Someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You."

MAT 12:48 But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

MAT 12:49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers!

MAT 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

5. He will believe in its power. (Psa. 19:7; Rom. 1:16; Isa. 55:11; Acts 2:41).

PSA 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect [complete], restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

ROM 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ISA 55:11 So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

ACT 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

6. He will not turn from it to the right or left in regard to obedience to God's word. (Josh. 1:7).

JOS 1:7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.

- a. It is easy to partially obey God's word and live a life of adding or taking away from it.
- b. One must not compromise God's word or deviate from it.
- c. One must not read the word with a bias mind to make it say what he/she wants it to say.
- d. Changing God's word to fulfil one's desires is a constant problem in every age.

7. He will not add to nor take from what God has said in His word. (1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:8, 9; Rev. 22:18, 19).

"Not To Exceed What Is Written"

1CO 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

Do Not Preach A Different Gospel

GAL 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

GAL 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

False Gospels

- **Man can be saved by his own merit.**
- **Sincerely alone will save.**
- **All will be saved.**
- **It does not matter what we believe.**

Do Not Add Or Take Away From God's Word

Deut 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

REV 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

REV 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

8. He will want it as much as his body wants food. (Job 23:12; Matt.4:4).

JOB 23:12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. Lit. "necessary food" is "appointed portion."

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

PSA 119:172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

- a. We hunger for food several times every day.
- b. We are to hunger for spiritual food even more than we hunger for physical food.
- c. A lack of interest in God's word is a sign one does not love it nor have proper respect for it.

9. He will read it and meditate on it daily. (Psa. 1:2; 119:15).

PSA 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

PSA 119:15 I will meditate on Thy precepts, And regard Thy ways.

- a. Many say "I do not have time."
- b. We always have time for what is really important to us.
- c. Loving God with our mind includes learning His will for us and meditating on it. (Matt. 22:37).

MAT 22:37 And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

- d. We are exhorted to give diligence to the study of God's word. (2 Tim. 2:15).

2 TIM 2:15 Be diligent [persistently zealous] to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

- 1) One cannot accurately handle "the word of truth" without diligent study of it.
- 2) Much time, study, prayer and meditation are necessary to understand and rightly handle the word of truth.

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