

Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 11

How would you Choose: to Doubt or to Trust God & His Word?

Obedience is about making choices, choosing who we want to follow, what we want to be or do and which standard we want to live by. We also choose how we want to respond to God's word; to trust and obey or to doubt and disobey Him.

Wang Mingdao, the Chinese pastor and evangelist imprisoned for his faith from 1955-1980, shared that the devil continually whispers into our ears and hearts and casts doubt in our hearts about God and His word. Pastor Wang said; "Satan does not say outright that these things are false; what he says is that they are not necessarily true (or important). Rather than urging Christians not to believe, he simply creates doubt in their hearts. Once they begin to doubt God's word, he goes a step further and entices them to rebel against God's commands.

Beware of the devil and his devices! Whenever you are conscious of an impulse to doubt God's word, you ought to be aware that Satan's enticement lies behind it and call God to protect you, deliver you and give you the strength to overcome. Even more important is it that you take a grip of God's words, that you fully believe them and that you allow not the slightest doubt to remain. The best way to smash this device of the devil is to exercise faith." (Taken from Wang Mingdao's 'Day by Day'.)

Read Gen 2: 16-17; 3: 1-13

Man, created in the image of God, was given dominion over God's creation. There is only one thing that God commanded man not to do; he was not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2: 16-17). Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to listen to the devil and disobeyed God's command; they doubted God and wanted to be like Him (Gen 3: 4-6). Their disobedience resulted in sin and corruption coming into God's perfect creation.

The devil can tempt and deceive us but he cannot make us do what we don't want to do. We decide whether to listen to the devil or to listen to God; whether to trust or to doubt God; and whether to obey or to disobey His word.

Questions to ponder

1. What did God ask Adam not to do and what were the reasons for their disobedience (Gen 2: 16-17; 3: 1-6)? What are some lies about God, about salvation, about faith that the devil has sown in the Church?
2. Is there something God has forbidden in the bible which you are about to do or already doing? What should you do to come back to God? How can you strengthen your faith so as not to fall into temptation?