

will come upon you and overtake you: defeat, failure, barrenness, unfruitfulness, wasting disease and even death, and other forms of calamity, disaster and destruction! Would you like to find out what they are? *Deuteronomy 28:15-68* describes the curses in greater detail.

Or will you obey God's commandments and experience His abundant blessings as mentioned in *Deuteronomy 28:1-14*. God promises long-life, health, exaltation, success, victory, prosperity and fruitfulness, everlasting peace, happiness and joy and many other blessings! God withholds nothing good from those whose walk is blameless! The choice is yours ...

Scriptural References:

Exodus 20:1-21
Exodus 23:1-13
Leviticus 18-19
Deuteronomy 5:1-33
Deuteronomy 6:5
Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Deuteronomy 28:15-68
Proverbs 28:10
Jeremiah 17:5-8
Malachi 3:5
Matthew 5:17-48
Matthew 6:33
Matthew 15:18-20
Matthew 18:1-9,15-17
Matthew 19:9,16-19
Matthew 22:37-39
Mark 7:20-23
Mark 10:2-12,19
Mark 12:30-31
Luke 12:10
Luke 18:18-20
Romans 3:31
Romans 12:17-20
Romans 13:9
1 Corinthians 6:9-10,18-20
1 Corinthians 7:39
2 Corinthians 13:1
Galatians 5:19-21
Ephesians 4:29-5:7,18
Ephesians 6:1-4
Philippians 3:19
Colossians 3:2-5
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
1 Thessalonians 5:22
Hebrews 10:28
Hebrews 12:2
Hebrews 13:4
1 John 2:15-17
1 John 3:15

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Ten Commandments

What are the ten commandments and do we obey God's commands? Jesus mentions that He came to establish God's Laws: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them..." Christ magnified and elaborated on the Old Testament commandments in the New Testament. Scripture tells us that our faith in God does not nullify the law, and therefore, we uphold the law. He who obeys and teaches God's commandments will be called great in the kingdom of God; If anyone disobeys one of the least of God's commandments, and teaches others to disobey them, will be called least in the kingdom of God.

First: "You shall have no other gods before me. There is one true, living, Almighty God of the heavens, the earth, sky and sea, and all that is in them. He is omnipotent (has unlimited, supreme authority and power), omnipresent (fills the heavens and the earth - present in all places at all times) and omniscient (is all-knowing - with infinite awareness, understanding, and insight). All glory, honor, majesty, praise, splendor, supreme might and power, belongs to the LORD alone. God must always be first love and number one priority in our lives and we love Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. This is the greatest and most important commandment. Loving God means obeying His commandments. We have complete faith, hope, trust and confidence in God alone (never trusting in the physical things of this world, in ourselves, or in others). We serve God faithfully and wholeheartedly, please God, and do His will alone; and always obey the true gospel, and never turn aside to false teachings.

Second: "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. Idolatry refers to the worship of false gods and includes occult practices such as witchcraft, sorcery, divination and spiritism. This includes: crystal ball, tarot cards, ouija boards and reading occult literature and horoscopes, sacrificing children in the fire, consulting the dead, interpreting omens and casting spells, and other detestable practices which are demonic and will open doors for demonic activity in one's life. Other forbidden practices include setting up statues, images, sacred or carved stones, using scapulars and rosary beads (vain repetition in prayer is forbidden). Invoking the names of false gods is also forbidden. Idolatry also refers to worshipping creation such as the sun, moon and stars, plants, animals and fish, etc, instead of Almighty God who is creator. Scripture never mentions for us to worship Mary (the mother of Jesus), saints, angels, or prophets. God's throne is in the highest heavens and therefore, we are forbidden to make a representation of God in any shape or form. We are commanded to worship God in spirit and in truth, and always address our prayers to God our Father, in Jesus Name. Other forms of idolatry include: placing someone or something above or before the true God in one's life, such as: money, wealth, cars, houses and other possessions, and business, sports, politics and world "entertainment" or anything else that is the focus in one's life. Gluttony (excessive eating and drinking) and greed (excessive desire for food or wealth) are also forms of idolatry. We are to fear the LORD and avoid all evil.

Third: "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Blasphemy is expressing lack of reverence for God or irreverent talk about sacred things. Speaking a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but if anyone blasphemes against the Holy Spirit (Power of God) it is an unpardonable sin. Always pronounce God's Name with reverence and awe - in prayer, bible studies and conversation, etc. Do not swear at all: not by heaven or by earth or by anything else.

Fourth: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Sabbaths and holy days are observed from sunset to sunset. Therefore, we keep the Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday evening, and spend extra time in fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ through prayer, bible study and praise and worship. It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. For example, look after the sick, help the poor, feed the homeless and comfort the grieving or dying. Keeping the Sabbath day holy, is one of the marks of a true Christian. We demonstrate to God that He is our first love and number one priority, and show Him our complete faithfulness, passion, devotion, dedication and commitment.

Fifth: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. We are commanded to love, respect and obey our parents, so that all may go well with us. We also pray for them, and support them, (spiritually, physically, emotionally & financially) in their time of need, especially when they are unable to take care of themselves, such as, when they are sick or elderly. Fathers must not provoke their children to anger;

instead, discipline them, train and instruct them, in the knowledge of the LORD.

Sixth: "You shall not murder. Either intentionally or unintentionally, harming or killing a person, directly (commits the murder himself) or indirectly (allows or helps someone else to commit the murder, promotes murder, conspires to murder, or wishes someone were dead). Do not put an innocent or honest person to death. You must save a person if it is within your power to do so. Do not harbor hateful thoughts and feelings towards anyone (thoughts translate to actions); do not be angry with your brother and anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. One of the acts of the sinful nature is hatred. We are forbidden to take vengeance on anyone. God says that He will repay. We are commanded to do good to our enemies. If they are sick, we look after them; if hungry, we feed them; if thirsty, we give them a drink. In doing so, they will burn with shame. Get rid of hatred, bitterness, malice, envy, rage, anger, slander, quarrels, etc. Other sins against the sixth commandment include: all forms of abuse, suicide, oppression, abortion, smoking, drugs and excessive alcohol, leading someone along an evil path or when one is a stumbling block to another's salvation. We are to rebuke a sinner for the purpose of turning him from the error of his way and save him from death.

Seventh: "You shall not commit adultery. This includes: fornication, homosexuality, incest, bestiality, rape and adultery (being unfaithful to one's spouse), looking at someone lustfully, as this is committing adultery with that person in one's heart. Also, if a man divorces his wife and marries another woman, he commits adultery. And if the wife divorces her husband and marries another, she is an adulteress. Only in exceptional circumstances is one allowed to divorce. For example, marital unfaithfulness. Also, impure thoughts and watching sexually immoral movies is adultery. Figuratively speaking, if any part of your body causes you to sin, then cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose that part of your body, than to have your whole body thrown into unquenchable fire in hell. In other words, we must make extraordinary efforts to get rid of the cause of sin. It is God's will, that we are sanctified and live a pure, godly and holy life. We learn to control our body in a way that is holy and honorable to the LORD, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. We keep ourselves from being polluted by the world and avoid even the appearance of evil, including the sexual and moral degradation, corruption and perversion happening in the world today, and this includes world media and so-called world "entertainment," in the form of television programs, radio, lyrics, books, magazines, newspapers and all other mediums that promote anything that is contrary to God's word, such as: atheism; witchcraft, Satan worship and ungodly covenants; crime, violence, murder and suicide; sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (drunkenness leads to debauchery); and other obscenities. We must remain spiritually faithful to God.

Eighth: "You shall not steal. Sins against this commandment include: corruption and injustice, such as: fraud (to obtain something, as money or inheritance from or gain an advantage over by cheating, dishonesty and deception); bribery (to give or promise money or favor to influence one's judgment or conduct); extortion (to obtain something, usually money, by force, pressure or intimidation); usury (charging excessive interest); theft (stealing someone's property); robbery (taking someone's property by force); withholding wages; using dishonest scales, etc.

Ninth: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. Refers not only to the next door neighbor, but all people. Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. Laws of justice and mercy in the Bible forbids: conspiracy (to plan unlawfully and secretly against others); following the crowd in doing wrong; perverting justice (e.g. perjury - lie under oath); making false accusations or complaints; or spreading false reports. Slander is a false statement spoken maliciously that damages a person's reputation. It creates church disunity, strife, arguments, quarrels and fights, and even breaks marriages. No gossip, unwholesome talk, mockery, lies or idle chatter. Love does no harm to it's neighbor. We are to be honest, truthful and merciful. The tongue has the power of life and death, and one will reap the consequences of his words.

Tenth: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Covetousness (to desire eagerly, especially desiring what belongs to others) is forbidden, and closely related to greed (excessive desire for food or wealth). For example, gambling and gluttony. Do not be envious of what others have, (do not even entertain the thought) as this may lead to arguments, quarrels, fights and even murder. It is crucial that we fix our hearts, eyes and minds on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of our faith, and the spiritual things; not on earthly things below. Eagerly desire spiritual gifts. We are to be content with what we have, and not desire the physical things which are passing away!

If you pay attention to the LORD's commandments and carefully follow them, and do not turn aside from any of the commands, to the right or to the left, and always worship and serve the one true God, then the LORD promises that He will bestow blessings upon you. But if you do not obey the LORD, and do not carefully follow all His commands and decrees, then different kinds of curses