

Reflection and Direction Pt 1

Deuteronomy 8:2 **“Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee”**

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 30th

REFLECTION: Deuteronomy is a record of Moses’ final instructions to the Nation of Israel before they were to enter into the “Promised Land”. It was given to them as they sat on the East Side of the Jordan river and was a peculiar balance between Reflection of the past and Direction for the future. After delivering Israel from Slavery, God led them to Mt. Sinai for a year of Demonstration (of God’s Power/Provision) and Instruction (in God’s Precepts/ Principals). He then led them to the brink of the Promised land, but they lacked the faith to enter. (Numbers 13,14) The Psalmist reflected on this choice and applied it to all faith failures in Psalm 95:5-8 and again in Heb. 3,4.

DIRECTION: Direction without honest reflection, usually results in repetition! (See 1 Cor 10:11,12) If we fail to learn faith’s lessons, We can easily end up in our own version of “wilderness wanderings”.

We, like them, need to remember God’s Principles:

Dt 8:1 **“*All the commandments*(miṣwâ: precepts {from ṣāwâ: appoint, order, charge})
...shall ye observe to do, (shamar’: Observe, to hedge about, guard.) *that ye may live* (Ḥāyâ’:
be saved, quickened, preserved) *and multiply...*”** (See John 10:10)

1. Why should we “keep” God’s Precepts/Principles? (Deut. 6:2-3)

Faithful obedience blesses us with:

A. A Full life vs 2 **“*that thy days may be prolonged*”** (See Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:2,3; Rev. 4:11)

B. A Fulfilling life 3 **“*that it may be well with thee*”**

C. A Fruitful life 3 **“*that ye may increase mightily*”** 3

Pr. 22:4 **“*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.*”**

Dt 10:12-13 **“*what doth the LORD require of thee? 13 ...To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee ...for thy good?*”**

(See also Mt 25:21,13; Rev. 22:12; 2 Tim 4:7,8; Ro. 12:1,2)

2. How should we keep God’s Precepts/Principles? Dt 6:1 **“*These are the commandments which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them...*”**

A. With Dread (Fear) Dt. 6:2 **“*That thou mightest fear* (yare: dread, revere) *the LORD thy God to keep all his statutes* (ḥuqqâ: ordinance; {from ḥōq: prescribed}) *and His commandments*”**

1) A genuine fear of the Lord Provides:

a) Instruction: Ps 111:10 **“*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:*”**

b) Protection: Ps 34:7 **“*The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him...*”**

Pr 14:26-27 **“*In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and ...a place of refuge.*”**

c) Correction: Heb. 10:26,27, 30,31 (See also Heb. 12:5-11 and Rev. 3:19)

(1) Fear motivates honest confession! Isaiah 6:1-7; 1 Jn 1:5-10

B. With Determination (faithfulness) Dt. 6:2 *"all the days of thy life."*

1) This requires consistency/intentionality! 6-9 *"And these words, ..., shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house... thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."*

a) Phylacteries contain 3 scripture passages (Ex. 13:1-16; Dt 6:4-9; 11:13-21)

What was God's purpose for this? *"Thou shalt remember!"* (Dt 8:2)

9 *"And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."*

b) Mezusahs are affixed at every doorway (exterior and interior)

and contain Dt. 6:4-9 and 11:13-21

Devout Jews touch the mezuzah before entering the room, often kissing the finger that did so!

➤ What's the point or Intention of this?

➤ What can it easily become? (Mt 15:6)

C. With Devotion (Fidelity) 6:4,5 *"Hear (šāma' : listen/obey), O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command this day shall be in thine heart:"*

1) Jesus summed up every Old Testament Commandment with this in Mt 22:37:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment." (See also Ro. 13:10; 1 Cor 13:13)

2) The pharisees had dread and determination, but missed the Devotion.

Mt 23:5,6, 23,24 they *"Strained at a gnat, and swallowed a Camel"*

"Duty" without devotion is not just drudgery, it's dishonoring!

Conclusion: We should "Keep" God's Commands (Principles) Because:

They're "good" for us! They help us produce a healthy:

1) Dread (Fear) Dt. 6:2 *That helps Guard Guide us.*

2) Determination (Faithfulness) 2-9 *That helps Guide us*

3) Devotion (Fidelity) 6:4,5 *That helps Grow us.*

Application: Everyone is guided by some "moral (!?) compass"

Who/What "calibrates" your compass? *(What's your "Magnetic North Pole?")*

Just as the "magnetic north" has shifted (600 miles) So most have shifted their

"moral north pole" (convictions) away from God's Principles, *(What's Right!)*

toward Personality or Performance. *(What's expedient or Convenient!)*

Who/ What do you use/trust to "calibrate" your moral compass? Ps. 119:9,10

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."