

Living in the Blessing of Obedience and the Warning of Disobedience

Deuteronomy 27 reminds us that God calls His people to live in obedience, to remember His laws, and to acknowledge both the blessings of faithfulness and the consequences of disobedience. As Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, they were commanded to build an altar, write the law on stone, and publicly proclaim both blessings and curses. This dramatic moment served as a powerful reminder of the choice each person must make—whether to follow God wholeheartedly or to face the consequences of turning away from Him.

Building an Altar of Worship and Remembrance

"Set up large stones and coat them with plaster. Write on them all the words of this law... Build an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool on them" (Deuteronomy 27:2-5).

Before Israel stepped fully into God's promise, **they were commanded to build an altar and write God's laws clearly on it. This altar was to be simple and uncut—not shaped by human hands, but left as God had created it.**

Personal Application:

- Do I set aside time to remember and reflect on God's Word in my life?
- Do I keep my worship of God simple and focused on Him, or am I distracted by external things?
- Do I have reminders (journals, Scripture memory, testimonies) that help me recall what God has done for me?

God desires our worship to be pure, undistracted, and focused on Him, not on external appearances. The altar reminds us to continually return to Him, acknowledging that our strength, guidance, and purpose come from Him alone.

Reflection Question:

Do I have "spiritual markers" in my life that remind me of God's faithfulness and His Word?

Choosing Between Blessing and Curse

"When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people... and these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses" (Deuteronomy 27:12-13).

The entire nation of Israel stood in a valley, with one group on Mount Gerizim shouting blessings for obedience and another group on Mount Ebal declaring curses for disobedience. This dramatic moment emphasized that obedience brings life and blessing, while disobedience leads to separation from God and hardship.

Personal Application:

- Do I take God's commands seriously, knowing that my choices bring either blessing or consequences?
- Do I regularly evaluate whether my life aligns with God's Word?
- Do I understand that obedience leads to joy, while disobedience carries real consequences?

Joshua later echoed this moment, urging the people:

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Reflection Question:

Am I choosing daily to obey and follow God, or am I making compromises that lead me away from His best?

The Power of Collective Agreement

"Then all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" (Deuteronomy 27:15).

After each curse was declared, the people were required to respond with "Amen," which means "so be it". This was a way of agreeing with God's righteousness and acknowledging the justice of His commands.

Personal Application:

- Do I accept God's authority in every area of my life, or do I resist His commands?
- Do I publicly stand for what is right, even when it's difficult or unpopular?
- Am I willing to say "Amen" to God's truth, even when it convicts or challenges me?

God's people weren't just to hear His commands—they were to agree with them and live by them. In the same way, we must not just read or listen to Scripture but affirm it and put it into action.

Reflection Question:

Do I fully submit to God's authority, saying "Amen" to His Word in both word and action?

Final Takeaways: Living in the Blessing of Obedience

1. Build an altar of remembrance. Keep reminders of God's faithfulness in your life and continually return to Him in worship.
2. Understand that obedience leads to blessing. Following God's ways brings joy, peace, and purpose.
3. Recognize that disobedience has consequences. Sin leads to separation from God, hardship, and regret.
4. Publicly affirm God's truth. Stand boldly for righteousness, agreeing with God's commands and living by them.

Reflection Questions for Daily Application:

- Do I take time to remember and reflect on God's Word and faithfulness?
- Am I living in obedience, experiencing the blessings of following God's ways?
- Do I take God's warnings seriously, knowing that sin has consequences?
- Am I publicly and privately standing for truth, affirming God's commands in my daily life?

May we choose daily to obey God, walk in His blessings, and declare His righteousness with our lives!