

DO'S & DON'TS

The Do's, Don'ts, and Won'ts (Will Nots) of God, #3 *Balancing The 'do's' And 'don'ts' Of Scripture*

You believe that God has never lied. Right? God's impossibilities are in line with His faithfulness...Every time!

(Continued from last week)

- **God Will Never Let You Go**

A favorite verse of many is Hebrews 13:5 AMP:

“I will not in any way fail you nor give you up, nor leave you without support. I will not! No, I will not! I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down, nor relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!”

I am not the one desperately holding onto His hand; It is He who has a relentless grip on mine. He has no intention of letting go. Absolutely not!

- **God Never Fails to Keep His Promise**

There are over 5400 promises in the bible. Most are conditional; none have failed! What God has spoken; He will do.

*“... I am **watching** to see that my **word is fulfilled.**” Jeremiah*

I challenge you to start circling texts where God says, **“I will.”**

God repeats these words more often than I previously thought,

“I will gather...” “I will save....” “The Lord will deliver...”

“I will freely pardon...”

The bible overflows with the promises of God. They are guaranteed promises we can stand on.

“Not one of all the LORD’s good promises to Israel failed; every one of them was fulfilled.” Joshua 21:45

- **God Never Sleeps**

*“He who watches over Israel will **neither slumber nor sleep.**”*

Psalm 121:4

The word “watches,” means “to watch and to keep.” Day and night, in good times and bad, God is constantly watching over and protecting us.

✓ *Six times in eight verses, He confirms it.*

✓ *No matter what is going on in our lives, we can rest with confidence; God is awake and alert. We can rest our full weight on Him!*

*“In peace I will **lie down and sleep**, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4:8*

- ✓ Even on restless and dreadful nights, we need not fear, for God’s ear is open.

*“**Call to me** and **I will answer** you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3*

God has us covered! His watchful eye is on us. We rest upon His strength.

- **God is Never Defeated**

Kings may oppose Him, rulers may defy Him, but no army will defeat Him!

“God is never defeated. Though He may be opposed, attacked, and resisted, the ultimate outcome can never be in doubt.”

The reason?

*“**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been **given to me.**”*

Matthew 28:18

Jesus (the Son of God) holds the “all”: all authority, all power, all might, all wisdom, all strength, all glory, all dominion.

Whenever the devil tries to get the upper hand, God reveals Himself and triumphs over all. Nothing can or will ever outdo the cross of Christ.

Triumphing over the enemy and winning the battles might come today or sometime in the future...but, in the end, God will win.

- **God is never surprised, thrown off-guard, or bewildered.** *He sees and knows the future as clearly as the past. He never says, “I didn’t see that coming!”*
- **God never worries!** *Come unto me all of you who are heavy laden (worried about things) and...I will give you rest.” He knows what the heavy laden is...and He will make a way when there seems to be no way.*
- **He is never late!** *He functions in complete alignment with his holy and perfect plan.*
- **God Never Contradicts WHO He Is.** *He remains consistently and fully trustworthy. If you ask yourself about all the burdens you are carrying and you don’t understand why God is not showing up to erase or ease the pain and stress, then you can rest assured His Word will give you the answer. Prayer changes things...The question: Has it changed me?*

We see in our study that the impossibilities of our God give us assurance, not disappointments.

- *“It is impossible for God to lie”...so, when he says He never sleeps, or He never makes a mistake, our faith in a loving God kicks in.*

- *If God allowed something bad to happen to us, He still has a plan of giving us strength to go on.*
- *He is constantly challenging us to trust in allowing His will to engage us to stand firm in our faith.*
- *Most of the “ifs” (if not all) in God’s Word places the responsibility on us to do our part before God is obligated to do His.*
- *DO you want to have a relationship with God and have the desires of your heart? Then DO what He asks you to DO. Throughout the Word of God there are specific “Do’s and Don’ts.” God has stated this for our benefit.*

The most important decisions you make are not the things you do, but the things you decide not to do.

What DO you think about this statement?

Throughout the Old and New Testament, God is challenging us to understand the do’s and don’ts of His Word.

For instance, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 has a Do/Don’t List for the church.

Let’s see what it says:

- ✓ 16 Always rejoice, 17 constantly pray, 18 in everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
- ✓ 19 Do not extinguish the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt.
- ✓ 21 But examine all things; hold fast to what is good.
- ✓ 22 Stay away from every form of evil.

The instructions which Paul sets before us are like the grocery list that Sherry gives me when I go to the store.

One may wonder about the brevity of such a list.

- ✓ Was Paul running out of space on his parchment?
- ✓ Did he need to shorten his sentences to get it all in writing?
 - It has been claimed – if not demonstrated – that the author of a manuscript actually shrinks the size of his writing as he reaches the limits imposed by his manuscript.
 - What about those birthday or Christmas cards on which we have written “a few additional words.” When we reach the bottom of the card, then we write up one side margin and then down the other. If there is room on the back of the card, we may use this space as well. The smaller the space left to us, the smaller our writing.

- I'm not trying to convince you that Paul was running short on parchment; He was simply repeating some things he probably had stated in previous messages preached.

Characteristics of the verses in 1 Thessalonians.

- *The list which Paul gives the Thessalonians contains both do's and don'ts.*
- *These "do's" and "don'ts" are commands (imperatives); not optional.*
- *Paul does not seek to give us an explanation for each of these commands. He does not tell us precisely how we are to obey, and he provides only a minimal explanation as to why.*
- *Paul's commands are given to the church, and not just to individual Christians. As suggested above, Paul's commands to the church seem to apply especially to their gathering for instruction and worship.*



So, most scholars believe that these commands (Do/Don't) list is for the congregation (the members of the church).

Who makes up the congregation? The brothers/sisters of the Church!

Therefore, they are FOR THE INDIVIDUAL who is a significant part of "the church."