

## Limiting God with Evil Traditions

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The problem is not the word of God but what men have done to it to cause us not to believe it. Matt 15:6 "...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." Mark 7:13 "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." Isa 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

These evil traditions are part of the strongholds of lies and deception that keep us from obeying the clear word of God. They range from seemingly little misquotes and misunderstandings to outright contradictions of scripture. These include the doctrines of groups that do not fit all the scriptures. For example, many pray concerning healing, "If it be thy will." God has spoken His will though Jesus Christ (See Heb 1:1-3, and Heb 2:1-4).

When asked by the leper if Jesus was willing to heal him: Luke 5:13 "And he (*Jesus*) put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him." That phrase "I will," can be translated in the Greek as, "I desire and it gives me great pleasure to everywhere and always heal as I passionately delight in healing so I will heal now." It is hard to imagine a stronger response of God's attitude toward healing. God cannot change His mind: Mal 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not..." Num 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Heb 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"

The problem of healing is not on God's part for: Heb 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." God is the healer and He delights always to heal. So "If it be thy will," is part of your prayer for healing, it shows great ignorance of God and His character, and destroys solid faith in God's clearly stated desires. 3 John 2 "Agape-Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should zao-live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

One major issue Jesus had with the leaders of His day was that they substituted the word of God for traditions that violated the intent of God and they called these evil works good. One noted was not taking care of elderly parents and instead giving the money to the temple. Mark 7:11 "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Another was that the shepherds of His people did not heal them, so instead He sent out the 12 and then the 70 to heal all who needed it. Matt 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. 10:1 And when he had

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called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

Thus Jesus did not accept the traditions of men that voided the word of God, but sent out those to heal and thus confirm the word of God and not the traditions of men. The issue was not with God, but men who did not produce the results God wanted thus making God’s desires void. In this way also Jesus was “the word made flesh.” Not just the prophecy of His coming, but showing how God really is in the Word of God, which in Jesus’ day was only the Old Testament.