

THE WAYS OF GOD

Not Withholding

- I. Satan is always working to skew your perception of the ways of God in an attempt to demoralize your faith
- A. Gen3-The first lie that Satan ever tried to get man to believe was that God was trying to keep something good from them, that God was holding out on them
- 1-God won't let you eat of every tree – Hmm? – Why can't you eat of every tree?
 - 3-She says God doesn't want us to eat of it b/c if we do it'll be bad for us
 - This is the nature of God: He's trying to keep bad away from us and get good to us
 - 4-Satan says God doesn't want you to eat of it because if you do something good will come to you
 - He says something bad is not going to happen to you, but rather something good is going to happen to you and that good thing that is going to happen to you God doesn't want you to have it
 - Something good God doesn't want you to see, doesn't want you to be, doesn't want you to know
 - The insinuation is that God is trying keep something good from you, God is holding out on you, there's something good He doesn't want you to have, He's withholding – This is an accusation against the goodness of God
 - He's endeavoring to skew her perception of God so that she sees Him in a way where she can't trust Him
 - That day they didn't trust God b/c they believed He was holding out on them (They didn't know His ways)
 - If God is withholding good from me, holding out on me, if God is not for my good how can I possibly trust Him
- B. Believing that God is holding out on you, withholding good from you undermines your ability to have faith in Him
- Dt1:28-The Children of Israel never were convinced that God was for their good and so they never could trust Him
 - Num14:9-Joshua could trust Him because he was convinced that God was for their good
 - Trust in the goodness of God-*Ps52:8-I trust in the mercy (goodness) of God for ever and ever*
 - If there is even the slightest belief that God is not doing all He can or that God is withholding this good thing, in that type of mental environment faith is an impossibility
 - Num14-People get mad at God b/c they believe He withheld, He could have done more, but didn't
 - People are so quick to throw their fist in the air at God and accuse Him of not doing all that He could and accuse Him of withholding – They don't know His ways, They don't know the God they serve
 - When things aren't going good people are so quick to blame God – They don't know His ways
 - So many instead of trusting Him when things get tough, they attack him thinking that He's their problem
 - To live by faith and function spiritually you have to be unequivocally rooted in this truth: God is not trying to keep good from me, but He's trying to get good to me!
 - If I don't believe unequivocally that God is 100% good, 100% working for my good, 100% trying get good to me and God is 100% never trying to keep good from me it will undermine my ability to have faith in Him
- C. The enemy is after your faith and if He can skew your perception of God's ways He can rob you of your faith
- He skewed their perception of the ways of God, robbed them of their faith, caused them to miss what God promised
 - Col2:7,2Tim1:12-We got to get rooted in him, in His ways, in who He is so that our faith can be established
- II. First truth about the ways of God – God DOES NOT withhold good things from those that walk uprightly
- A. Psalm 84:11-It is not God's way to withhold good things from His people
- The Lord is in the business of giving grace and giving glory not withholding it-*CEB-The Lord gives – doesn't withhold! – good things to those who walk with integrity; CEV-Never denying any good thing to those who live right; CSB-He does not withhold good from those who live with integrity; EXB-He does not hold back anything good*
 - The Lord will give-It's His will, desire and plan to give NOT to withhold
- B. Psalm 85:12-The Lord gives that which His good; He does not withhold it

1. 2Pet1:3-When you come to God his arms are already out offering you whatever you need
 - a. Hb4:16-It's a throne of grace and grace is giving not withholding
2. 1Timothy6:17-He richly gives us all things to enjoy; James4:6-God gives more grace; Js1:5-He gives wisdom to all men liberally; 2Cor3:6-The Spirit gives life; 1Cor15:57-He gives us the victory; 1Cor3:7-God gives the increase; Jn14:27-Jesus gave us peace; Jn10:11-The good shepherd gave his life for the sheep; Ps146:7-He gives food to the hungry; Ps127:2-He gives His beloved sleep; Ps119:130-The entrance of His words give light; Ps144:10-He gives salvation to Kings; Num13:1-He gave them the promise land; Gen1-He gave Adam dominion; He gave Adam every tree in the Garden except one; 2Tim2:25-He give the gift of repentance; 2Tim2:7-He gives understanding in all things; Eph5:14-Christ shall give you light; 2Cor9:10-God will give you seed to sow; Rom8:32-He gave us Jesus and with all other things; Eph4:11-He gave gifts unto men; Jn16:23-Whatever you ask the father in my name he will give it to you; John14:26-He shall give you another comforter; Jn10:28-I will give unto them eternal life; Lk10:19-He gave us power and authority over the enemy; Jn3:16-He gave his only begotten son: Ps29:11-The Lord will give strength to His people; Ps37:4-He will give you the desire of your heart

C. If someone doesn't receive the good thing they pervading thought is that for some reason God withheld it

1. People will say "Well God just didn't do it, it just wasn't his time, He has His reasons," and it's a bunch of fancy rhetoric the enemy uses to but at the underneath it all is the that God withheld the good thing
 - a. People think because they prayed and it didn't happen that God withheld it
 - b. If something isn't happening, if something didn't happen it's not because God was withholding the good thing
2. Is that the God I serve? Is that Him?
 - a. Psalm 23:6-Goodness being in hot pursuit of me is not goodness being withheld from me
 - b. Psalm 31:19-Laying goodness up for me is not withholding goodness from me
 - c. Psalm 81:10-16-This sounds like a God that is eagerly longing to try to give good to His people
 - d. Ps34:11-They're not going to lack any good thing because God's not going to withhold any good thing
 - e. Luke12:32-It's your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom

D. Just because somebody didn't receive doesn't mean that God withheld it, it just means they didn't receive it

1. Can God give a person something that they never receive, never experience?
2. Num13:1-Gave them the land and they never experienced it – Did God withhold it? No they didn't receive it
3. Rom5:18-Salvation/righteousness has come upon all men and yet millions never experience it – Did God withhold it?
4. 2Pet1:3-Are all believers experiencing that all things that pertain to life and godliness? – Is God withholding it?
5. People have transposed a failure to receive to mean that God withheld it

E. It's the nature of the thief to take good things from you; It's the nature of the good shepherd to lead you into good

1. Mt7:11-Your Father knows how to give good things