

# The Old Paths

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## “Not Yours, But God’s”

Jarrod Jacobs

**T**his phrase comes from a passage found in II Chronicles 20:5-19. Jehoshaphat had been praying to God concerning a certain battle he was about to enter. God answered in verse 15, by saying, “*Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.*” This statement caused me to realize that not only was a certain battle “God’s,” but other things belong to God as well. Please study the following, and see those things that are “not yours, but God’s.”

### All Physical Blessings Are “Not Yours, But God’s.”

The physical blessings we enjoy upon this earth are gifts from God, given to every man regardless of his spiritual condition. For example, life itself is a physical blessing that originated with God, and was given to man (Gen. 1:1, 26-27; 2:7). We are not here by “accident,” but God made us and wants us! The blessings in the weather (rain, sun, etc.) are blessings that come from God (Matt. 5:45; Heb. 6:7). The marriage of a husband and wife is a physical blessing given to us by God. No pun intended, but there is no such thing as a “marriage made in Heaven.” Jesus taught that nobody will “*marry nor are given in marriage*” after this life (Matt. 22:23-30). The marriage of two Christians can help one another get to Heaven, true, but marriage itself is a physical bless-

ing God gave us for this life.

### All Spiritual Blessings Are “Not Yours, But God’s.”

Spiritual blessings belong to God’s people. Not everyone can enjoy spiritual blessings. David wrote, “*Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people*” (Ps. 3:8). In other words, salvation (a spiritual blessing) is a blessing belonging to God’s people, not everyone! David also said that the one to receive God’s blessing was the one, “*that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully*” (Ps. 24:1-5).

Looking to the New Testament, we see Paul teaching the Galatians that the blessing of being Abraham’s seed belongs to those who have obeyed the Lord (Gal. 3:13-14). Ephesians 1:3 says, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*” These spiritual blessings are given to saved people by God. Let us never forget that!

Please note that for man to enjoy physical blessings from God, it just requires him to be born. However, to enjoy the spiritual blessings God promises in Christ, it demands being “*born again*”!! (Jn. 3:3, 5) One is born again when he follows the Lord’s plan for salvation through faith in Christ, repentance of past sins, confession of Christ as God’s Son and being baptized for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, Rom. 10:10; Acts 22:16; I Pet.

3:21; etc.). In following the Lord’s plan for salvation, we can then enjoy those spiritual blessings that come from God!

### Your Body Is “Not Yours, But God’s.”

This statement may surprise many, but we need to understand that our bodies do not belong to us; they belong to God! In Romans 12:1, Paul tells us that we are to present our body to God (to be at His disposal is the literal meaning). It is to be a living sacrifice, it is to be holy, and it is to be acceptable to God. Please read I Corinthians 6:19-20. “*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*” Friend, what does “*ye are not your own*” mean?? This passage is crystal clear on the subject of “*who owns my body?*” Once we learn what “*ye are not your own*” means, we will no longer try to destroy our bodies with cigarettes, drugs, and a host of other things that fit in this category. Once we decide we are going to obey I Corinthians 6:19-20, we will nourish and cherish our bodies, and use them in the service of the Lord!

### Conclusion

We have no right to take credit for things which belong to God! Therefore, let us not give the evolutionist any ground by agreeing that we’re here by accident. Furthermore, let us not allow the denominationalist any ground by suggesting we can enjoy spiritual blessings by following something other than the Lord’s plan for salvation! There are things which belong to God (including my own body) and I must respect that fact. Let us thank God for His gifts.

## “SATAN’S HINDRANCES”

Jarrod Jacobs

**W**hen Paul wrote the Thessalonians, he told them Satan had hindered him from coming at one point (I Thess. 2:18). Just as Paul was hindered by Satan, we can also be hindered in the work of the Lord by Satan. How does he hinder us today?

### Unbelief

Satan will hinder some folks by keeping them from believing the gospel. I am reminded of this in reading the parable of the sower. In the parable, the birds come and take the word from the “wayside ground.” Jesus describes this as Satan stealing the word from folks *“lest they should believe and be saved”* (Lk. 8:12). The Bible makes it clear that without faith, one cannot be saved (Mk. 16:16b; Heb. 11:6). Therefore, Satan’s hindrance of unbelief can put one on the wrong road before he has a chance to start!

### Procrastination

If Satan cannot hinder one through unbelief, he will try procrastination. The Bible says, *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”* (Prov. 27:1). Satan whispers, “Go ahead and make your plans, you have plenty of time.” Though Paul wrote, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (II Cor. 6:2); Satan says, “tomorrow is the day of change.” Are we not all guilty at times of putting off what we ought to do?

Satan has won if he can keep

us from doing what we know is right. Procrastination is dangerous because it becomes easier every time it is practiced! He may use our friends, family, or job to keep us from obeying God. Therefore, if we procrastinate long enough, and lose our souls, Satan will win.

### Ignorance

If Satan cannot hinder us from obeying God initially, he will try to hinder our service to God through ignorance. Ignorance is not stupidity, it is being unlearned on a subject. A person can be very intelligent about politics, yet ignorant about automotives. Is he stupid? No, he is unlearned on that subject. It does not bother Satan that we know all about automotives, politics, or any other subject as long as we remain ignorant in God’s word!

How can we keep Satan from hindering us? We must study and read God’s word (II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:4). We must pray often (Jas. 1:5-6). One sure way to keep from being ignorant about God’s word is to know it well enough that we grow and are able to teach others the truth (II Tim. 2:2).

### Discouragement

This is possibly THE most powerful tool Satan has! If Satan can discourage us from obeying God, he has won. Knowledge will not matter, faith will not count, and past

victories in Christ are nothing if we become discouraged and quit before the race is over. Paul best defined discouragement when he said, *“all hope ... was then taken away”* (Acts 27:20). Without hope, man has no reason for living!

There is a cure for discouragement. This cure is the strength that we can draw from the brethren (Isa. 35:3-10). Discouraged people will tend to draw back from those that love them, including God! The key for being encouraged is to spend time in God’s word, pray, and be around those of like precious faith. This is why the brethren are so important. They can help us through the discouraging times. Read Psalm 73 and learn David’s answer for discouragement. Let us fight discouragement with help from God and our brethren.

### Divided Brethren

Satan’s use of divided brethren can stop any church from functioning! We need to fight against division by standing together for the truth (Psa. 133:1). We need to be in complete agreement on matters of faith (I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-3). In matters of liberty, we need to have patience with one another (Rom. 14). In all things we need to love one another as Christ loved us (Jn. 13:34-35).

Now that we know how Satan works, let us do all we can to keep Satan from hindering the work of the Lord here.

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#### Meeting Times:

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Sunday Morning Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 p.m.

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