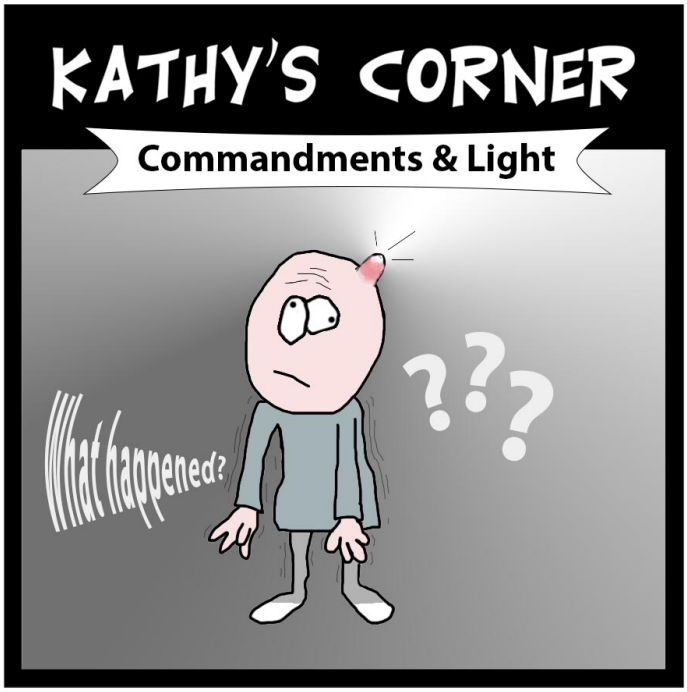
Commandments and Light



For a command is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life. *(Proverbs 6:23 CSB)*

If we have a correct understanding of God, we can see the commandments as beneficial to us —a lamp, to show us a way through life without the problems brought upon us when we cannot see. We stumble in the darkness without Truth received through teaching (a light); we forfeit life the way God intended it to be for us without corrective discipline. The commandments aren't restricting life, but aiding it.

Many of us were brought up to think about a God who is constantly watching us to keep track of our every mistake and disobedience, ready to punish us—the Great Punisher! Jesus said to His disciples, "...My Father and your Father…." Wasn't this error what stopped one servant from investing what the master gave to him expectantly? He had a skewed understanding of his master.

> **"And another came and said, 'Master, here is your mina. I have kept it safe in a cloth because I was afraid of you since you're a harsh man: you collect what you didn't deposit and reap what you didn't sow.'**
>
> **"He told him, 'I will condemn you by what you have said, you evil servant!** *(From Luke 19:20-21 CSB)*

People do not function well when they have a misunderstanding of the nature of God. Jesus, of course, came to correct it. He demonstrated exactly who God is and what He is like. "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." People—Adam's descendants, are born broken. Jesus blood and sacrifice was a remedy for our brokenness. *His offer of a remedy for our brokenness* can be accepted or declined, as we have been created with free will. We are condemned already, He says in John 3:18. Condemnation is our state without Jesus. He is the remedy for condemnation which is our condtion without Him, without being born again.

> **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.** *(John 3:17-20 CSB)*

Do men love to stumble? Apparently so! I think about Proverbs 23:29-35 which applies not only to drinking, but giving in to any temptation. This passage was from the NLT. Since it is a long passage, I would like to spiritualize it by adding comments in parentheses.

Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?
It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. *(Trying out something different to satisfy desires)*

Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down. *(Don't focus on what you know might tempt you)*
For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper. *(Poisonous snakes and vipers are there to harm you—servants of satan waiting for an opportunity)*

You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things. *(This happens when you have lost control because of what you have allowed into your life)*

You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast.
And you will say, "They hit me, but I didn't feel it. I didn't even know it when they beat me up.
When will I wake up so I can look for another drink?" *(This shows the addictive cycle of sin. In spite of being beaten up, they cannot break the habit)*

Keeping the commandments of God would keep a person from becoming so ensnared. The wisdom they afford are just one way he gave to help us to have a life abundant, healthy, purposeful. I think of the things that I allowed in my life when I didn't value the light God has provided. I didn't see clearly because I didn't have Jesus, or His Word to stand on. I stumbled my way through life until the day the Holy Spirit drew me to Jesus. This was just the beginning of life. Each milestone was marked by a decision to trust Him. The decision to let go of trying to make myself happy, and trusting that He could do life for me better than I. The decision to trust Him with my finances, unfortunately made late in life when I was 70 years old, I verbally told Him if I didn't trust Him now, I never would. I began tithing. It was painful at first, but He didn't take long to honor His word in Malachi *(See Malachi 3:10-11),* double my income, and pour out His blessings, not only financially. I now love to give time, energy and money when I have them.

I don't give perfectly; God does! I don't love perfectly; God does! But I do have hope of becoming more and more like Him as long as I am here, and that is a gift He has given to each of his children.

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. *(2 Corinthians 3:16-18 NLT)*

Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God. *(Micah 6:8 CSB)*

Commands are given by one higher in rank with authority. This is why some atheists refuse to recognize God. They refuse His authority and choose darkness over light. They relieve themselves of His commands thinking themselves wise, thinking they have freedom, but they become slaves to their sin—ensnared, stumbling without the Light that illuminates the path (the Way) and without the Truth that sets one free.

The law was meant to lead us to Christ. *(Galations 3:24)* Through His Spirit we are enabled to keep His commandments **with JOY!**—*Love responding righteously to Love!*

When the veil is taken away, the darkness goes with it. **"He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."** *(Colossians 1:13-14 CSB)*

The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it. *(John 1:4-5 NLT)*

Amen.