

Series: Back to Basics

Title: God's Commands Are Not A Burden

1 John 5:1-5

Introduction

John weaves together several proofs of spirituality. He writes about the belief that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior/Messiah of the world, how believers are to respond to God's moral guidance, and how we must learn to give God's love to others.

1. Sometimes we all view God's commandments as _____.

2. God's commandments are not burdensome when we put our _____ in Jesus.

I. It's Always a Burden When We Try To Earn God's Acceptance

3. If we view God's commandments as a way to _____ his acceptance, they will definitely feel like a burden.

4. Sometimes we _____ think we need to earn God's acceptance by doing good works.

5. God did not give us His commandments for personal _____.

6. _____ tries to make God's commands less burdensome by diluting them.

7. Anything less than perfect obedience is _____.

8. We must be convinced that there is _____ way to be accepted by God.

9. God offers to accept us, entirely apart from our _____.
10. Jesus took the _____ for our sins when he sacrificed his life for us on the cross.
11. To receive God's offer you humbly _____ that you can't earn God's favor on your own.
12. It's important to keep your focus on God's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice as the _____ of your relationship with him.

II. It's Always A Burden When We Use Our Own Resources To Try And Keep God's Commandments

13. We still want to serve him and realize that he does want us to _____ them.
14. The problem is when we assume that we must do this with our _____ resources.
15. It's not that you put forth no effort and feel no stress but that his _____ courses through you, and his peace guards you.
16. Learn to rely upon the _____ of Christ each day!

III. It's A Burden When We Think God's Commands Are Designed To Restrict Or Exploit You

17. When you trust that God's commandments actually fit the way God _____ us, they become invitations to freedom.

18. You'll quickly feel the burden if you _____ human commands for God's commands.
19. Our relationship with God can be _____ when we try and earn His acceptance through our performance or obedience to His commands.
20. Often, we try to follow His commands with our resources, leaving us _____ and forgetful of His love for us.
21. We need to focus on God's _____ and ask Jesus to guide and empower us.

Conclusion

22. Focus more on God's promises than on his _____.
23. When you accept Christ, his presence gradually _____ you and makes you a better person.
24. Ask Jesus for guidance and empowering _____ in every situation.
25. You can't store up Jesus' power (like recharging a battery)—you must _____ depend on him to empower and guide you.
26. _____ on your brothers and sisters in Christ.
27. You can't follow and serve Jesus by _____.

God knows exactly when we need to be rewarded, what kind of reward we need, and how to get it to us. This is a big part of the adventure and challenge of being perfected

in love that makes it so rewarding. And yet, all of this is just a foretaste of the ultimate and eternal joy we will experience when we are eternally in his presence.

Answers

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| 1. burdensome | 15.power |
| 2. trust | 16.strength |
| 3. earn | 17.created |
| 4. instinctively | 18.mistake |
| 5. achievement | 19.hindered |
| 6. Religion | 20.aliolated |
| 7. unacceptable | 21.promises |
| 8. another | 22.commands |
| 9. obedience | 23.changes |
| 10.punishment | 24.strength |
| 11.admit | 25.continually |
| 12.foundation | 26.Lean |
| 13.follow | 27.yourself |
| 14.own | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Do you have this kind of peace knowing you have God's acceptance due to trusting in Christ's sacrifice? What events lead you to this trusting? If not, what is preventing you from accepting it now?
2. Why is the line between living in a way God wants vs. living in a way to earn God's favor so difficult to balance? What can you do to help your attitude reflect the former instead of the latter mindset?
3. In what ways do you fall into the trap of thinking God's commands are harmful to you? What things can you do to help guard against those lies of Satan?