

## So That You May Know That His Commands Are Not Burdensome I John 5:4

All of God’s grace shown to us, all of our miraculous rebirth accomplished by Him does not remove the imperative mood from living our new lives in Christ. God’s commands, His directives remain. There is safety within every “boundary” God gives us, loving protection inside every “fence” He puts in place. Each directive reveals a loving limit. Every order lines us under the authority of His Loving Son. Each and every imperative presses us into the indicative promise or supply already graced to us in our new birth. Every command to the one in Christ implies an ability in us to carry it out.

God’s commands are always a burden to the “Adam” life - the life in separation from God, the life of mere human willpower, of carnal strength. But what is burdensome to “just me” is no burden to Christ in me! The nature of the command has not changed, but my nature has changed. Joined to Christ, “I can make it through anything in the One Who makes me who I am!” (Phil 4:13, The Message) He never orders out of us what He has not already put within us. He brings no Biblical “ought to” to us without a corresponding supply of His indwelling Life.

Only two things can make God’s directives burdensome. One, self effort - trying hard in my own strength to fulfill the command rather than trusting the Life of Christ in me to do what I cannot. Two, trying to obey commands (in my own strength or His) that didn’t come from God in the first place! (Matt 23:1-4) Things, perhaps, that are “traditional” (Sabbath observances? tithing? self-abasement?) but, just not truthful. If our obedience of faith is more burdensome than uplifting, heavier than lighter, more enslaving than liberating we might want to question whether we are merely trying hard to conform in our own strength rather than trusting Him to be our Supply, or, whether if what we are trying to do even came from God in the first place!

How do we believe and come to know His commands are not burdensome? Through the faithful practice of “not I, but Christ.” (Ga 2:20) We no longer see any God-given directive against “just me” (“just me” was crucified with Christ!), but against “Christ in me”. My faith to follow through is no longer in my ability but it is my faith in His ability. We no longer look to willpower, self-effort, trying harder - we look to Christ and His adversary loving, infinitely forgiving, always faithful, second mile Life! On my own I may not be able to accomplish what God calls for in any given moment... but... I know Who can. And, I know where He is. Every time I recognize “not I” and yield to “but Christ”, my faith in Him grows, matures, solidifies... until that day when I’m not really faithing, but coming to know His commands are not burdensome.

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# Greetings

You want to stay far away from the fearfully angry and their conspiracy theories (Ps 31:19-21; Is 8:11-14) In the Hebrew language "conspiracy" and "treason" are basically the same thing. For sure, the conspiracies of man are treasonous to God. Thus, subscribing to conspiracy theories are out of bounds for the people of God. It is a "way of the (fallen) people", but not the way of God's people. In fact, God hides His face from those who turn their faces to conspiracists (Is 8:17).

Conspiracy theories are born of disbelief. It is no surprise, then, that in a culture where unbelief is the norm that conspiracy theories are also the norm. Conspiracy theories are mostly for anxious and angry people who are looking for "flesh and blood" to blame. They are carnal ways to explain and deal with life's unpleasantness without God as the focus, without God at the center (Ro 11:36). They are failures to "see through" to the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is "fearing what the people fear", not fearing the Lord God of Hosts (Is 8:12,13). It is "saying what the people say", not saying what the Word of God says (Jo 17:17).

Stop "bowing" before the fear mongers and conspiracists and stay bowed before our Deliverer until He becomes your Sanctuary (Is 8:14). Stop consulting the political and social "mediums" and abiding in their darkness, and make your home in the Living God of Light Eternal Who reigns over all (Is 8:19-20; Ps 47:8). Stop looking for refuge in the proud and arrogant follies of man, and claim the birthright of your refuge, your hiding place in the wisdom and counsel of God (Ps 31:14-21; 32:7-8).

Certainly there are conspiracies in a fallen world! Didn't Joseph's brothers conspire against Him? Didn't Judaizers form a conspiracy against Paul? Didn't the Sanhedrin conspire against Jesus? Yes! And Joseph said of it, "You meant

this for evil, but God meant it for good." Paul said of it, "But thanks be to God Who always leads us in His triumph!" And didn't Jesus say of it, "This is My Father's cup!" Each of them saw through with the eyes of faith, refusing appearances to be their ultimate reality. Each of them stood (and stand!) as witnesses, as signposts of a great and victorious God (Is 8:18). It's way past time for the People of God to stop gathering around the words of conspiracists and return to gather around our Sovereign God and His Ultimate Truth. The just do not live by fear... but by faith (Hab 2:11; Ro 1:17).

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

8,15,22

Parkview Baptist, Gainesville, FL  
( parkview-baptist-church.org )

10

Alachua Bible Study

### SEPTEMBER

\*7

**Alachua Bible Study \*NOTE DATE CHANGE**

13-16

Sebring, FL (863-385-6058)

19-25

South Fork, CO

### OCTOBER

14-17

Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)

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His loving limits



Discernment for His Voice



Our churches to be free from fear

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