

2 Peter 2:5

and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Did you know that both Noah and Jeremiah never had one convert?

Noah was told by God to build an Ark, and he did for 120 years, and while he was building it, Noah was preaching to everyone (***a preacher of righteousness***). Yet only Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were the only ones who were saved from the flood, because the people would not listen to Noah.

Jeremiah lived his whole life bringing the word of God to the Children of Israel, yet not one repented during that time either.

So, was God disappointed with them because they didn't have even one convert?

No, in God's eyes these were righteous men, and as long as they did what God told them to do, God would not be angry with the results.

It's the same for us as Christians, we are told to preach the gospel, but we are not responsible for how people respond or react to the message of repentance. Just as Paul wrote about:

✠ ***1 Corinthians 3:6-8 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.***

We will be rewarded for our obedience, (***each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor***) and not for the quantity of those who respond.

Think about this; do you think God is happier with Billy Graham than He is with Jeremiah, because of the hundreds of thousands who got saved during Billy Graham's ministry and no one did with Jeremiah's ministry? If you say yes, then you are basing God's love and acceptance of people based on a quantity and works. Also if you think about it; If Billy Graham was not obedient, God would have used someone else to get the same people saved.

Yet how often do you think that God is not happy with you because people don't like your posts on social media when you quote scripture, or your coworkers or family blow you off when you tell them about Jesus.

I do admit, it can be tough, because I would prefer hundreds of thousands of people to read these devotionals and bible studies each week, and to listen to my worship music, but it doesn't even hit a total of 10 each week and a lot of times it's a lot less than that. So you may ask why don't I stop? Because the Lord has not told me to, and if just one person each day gets ministered to, and

God speaks to him or her through these devotionals, then I am happy with that. Or even if no one does, I have done what God wants me to. My joy is in being obedient to the Lord's calling. Plus I love His word and studying and teaching it, along with writing songs and singing praises to Him.

Maybe you are the opposite. You may think that the ministry you have in mind won't work or that it's too much trouble or takes too much time so you have decided not to do it. You know what that is, disobedience, because if God has laid upon your heart to do something and has confirmed that He wants you to do it, you are being disobedient to God by not doing it. It would be like the oxymoron of the two words "No" and "Lord", you cannot use the word "No" when God asks you to do something, then call Him "Lord", because you have become your own lord by being obedient to yourself and not to God.

† **1 Samuel 15:22** *So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

But what about fruit you may be thinking. Well, there is fruit here on the earth, but also fruit in heaven as well. Think of the old widow woman who may spend hours on her knees everyday praying for the lost, yet she is unable to leave her home, so she does not see any fruit. Should she stop because she can't see any fruit? I think people will be surprised once they get to heaven and realize how much of an impact for the Lord they have had on others' lives, and the amount of fruit they really do have. But you won't have fruit by doing nothing, and make sure you are not basing your relationship with God on what you can see.

† **Matthew 6:19-21** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Just be obedient, just like Noah and Jeremiah were, and you will one day enjoy the fruit of that obedience in heaven, just like they are right now.

I think that we will be surprised how often we produced fruit here on earth, and didn't even know it.

† **Matthew 25:37-40** *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*