

## Deuteronomy 28:47-48

***Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.***

If you find serving the Lord to be a task and not a joy, you will end up backsliding and serving the flesh and the world instead.

I love the book of Deuteronomy, because it is Moses speaking to the children of Israel of all that God had done for them and taught them in the last forty years (Think the books of Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers). And here in chapter 28, Moses is telling the people in verses 1-14, what blessings they will get from God if they simply stay obedient to His word.

† ***“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.” Deuteronomy 28:1***

But then in verses 15-68 Moses tells the people what they will have to endure if they choose to be disobedient to the Lord.

† ***“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you” Deuteronomy 28:15***

Yet we seem to think that this is for the Children of Israel only, but shouldn't it apply to us as well? God has chosen Israel to be His special people,

† ***“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.” Deuteronomy 7:6***

but He has also chosen us to be His adopted children as well.

† ***But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10***

So if we are His special people adopted into His family and His Kingdom, shouldn't we serve with joy and gladness instead of grumbling and complaining about it. Or maybe you don't

complain because instead of serving you think of excuses not to serve the Lord, be it in the church, or outside of the church.

† *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:8-9*

Now I know there have been times that I really didn't want to do something in the church or with the church, or even for someone else, yet I did it anyway. And the end results was not only others being blessed, but I was blessed as well, and I actually had a great time doing it. But the enemy wants to steal that joy from you, the joy of serving the Lord, but the enemy calls it a task or a work or even an inconvenience.

Remember Jesus said:

† *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. Matthew 6:3-4*

When Jesus is talking about doing a charitable deed, He is not talking about doing out of obligation, or because you have to, because when you do it in secret, that means you are not doing it to please anyone but the Lord "*serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart*", which means it's with a willful and joyful heart.

† *Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Psalm 100:2*

† *Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You. I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You. 1 Chronicles 29:12-14 & 17*