

Lev 26:18

And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

So, how's that for a Monday morning devotional verse? God is faithful, we know this and cling to His faithfulness, as long as He is faithful to save and provide for us. I mean come on, don't we all love and memorize verses like:

† **I John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Or how about

† **Matt 25:21** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

But what about God being faithful to punish us like He said that He would? Do we think He won't? Why don't we memorize and remember verses like today's devotional verse?

† *And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

God keeps His word and is faithful to do all He says He will do. Yet we stand on His forgiveness that scripture talks about, and we then turn around and use those same scriptures to sin. How often do we stand on *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins* and then use it to justify what we are about to go out and do, or watch at the movies, or buy or? We think, I'll go out and do such and such, or party all night, or watch that evil movie, full of demons, sex, nudity, profanity because I know after I do that that *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins*

When we do this, we end up making God a Santa Claus instead of a Savior. But you know what, even Santa Claus gave coal and not good things to those kids who were bad.

Shouldn't we also stand on God's faithfulness when He warns us about the consequences, or punishment for sin? As parents, you tell your kids the consequences of things that will happen to them if they don't mind you. Like, if you stay out past 11:00 you'll be grounded for a week. Doesn't it make them want to come home before 11:00 so they won't be grounded? Or are they thinking, "*My parents are too cool and would never ground me. No matter how bad I mess up.*"

If you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins
We think that, "*My God is cool and would never do that to me because He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins*"

It's time to wake up Christians and realize or remember that we serve a Holy, Just and Righteous God, who says that *I will punish you seven times more for your sins* if that sinful lifestyle is what you choose to live. Now it doesn't mean that God is sitting in heaven waiting to whack us over the head with a baseball bat every time we sin. What it means is that if God didn't love you, then He wouldn't care what you did, and He would let you continue in your sins.

But the bible says:

† **Heb 12:6** *For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.*

So maybe next time you feel like you are being punished or disciplined by the Lord, it could be possible that you are because of what you have been doing, and you need to stop whining about it. If you don't know why, then ask the Lord why, and as He reveals it to you, learn from it.

† **Revelation 3:19** *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*