

# Significant Lives — Chapter 7

By Jim Golden — The Commands Of God!

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*For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Cor 4:6 (NIV)*

It was early morning and I found myself rising from a late night. It was one of those times that just seemed to find me doing something out of some hidden program deep within. Like the navigational skill of the "homing pigeon" something I was totally unaware of was calling to me. Lately I had been wondering if I really loved God. I was fairly sure I didn't love anybody or anything else very much, especially myself. My heart had been feeling much like a big lump of clay or an old log, fallen long ago in some primeval forest, never to be seen by human eyes, as it returned to the soil of its birth.

Almost robotically I found myself getting a cup of coffee and my old guitar. Finding my way in the darkness to the family room I took a sip from the mug and opened the guitar case. Even though the guitar had been sheltered by the case I could still feel the dust of disuse covering it. As I began to strum and tune I thought, how far away God seemed. I felt as though this would just be another exercise in futility. I began to play an old favorite called "Faithful One" but my voice wasn't awake yet so I went from singing to a whistle-hum to accomplish the vocal accompaniment. After a few choruses, a song I wrote not to long ago in a moment of inspiration came to mind. As I began to sing the words something began to happen to me that was quite wonderful.

**Your Name is beautiful  
Far above all names  
and at the sound  
the Angels sing your Praise.**

**Your Name is Jesus  
Far above all names  
and at the sound  
the Heavens pour forth rain.**

**For in Your Name the blind can see  
and in Your Name the prisoners are set free  
In Your Name the lame can walk,  
the deaf can hear, and the mute can talk.**

**Your name is Jesus  
Yeshua too, Yesu or Hesus  
they all speak of You  
Your name is beautiful  
Far above all names  
and at the sound**

**and at the sound  
the Angles sing Your praise!**

After the second time through the reality of what I was singing hit me and I began to sob. Sobbing was the *something wonderful* that happened. When I feel like an old lump of clay dryness is my closest friend. These tears were like rain from Heaven breaking a deadly drought I was hardly cognizant of. Until the tears came I had only wondered fleetingly why I felt so little love for anyone or anything, but now I was remembering who the source of all love was. I was aware of the Angels in the room that had been doing exactly what I had just sung about and moreover, that the Savior to whom their praises were going, was there also! I don't remember what chain of thought led me into the revelation that Jesus shared with me that morning but, on that day I fell in love with **The Commandments** of God. Jesus was again showing me how important it is to stop trying to accomplish in my strength, what he had already accomplished through his marvelous life. This was to be another step into the *rest* of God.

In Psalm 119 David says he runs in the path of God's commands, because God has set his heart free. David also declared how he loved the law of the Lord, something I had to admit that I didn't share with him. In fact I had been grateful that Jesus had come because, I thought grace meant, He did it all so I wouldn't have to do it at all. Then Jesus began to tell me that His name was more than just Jesus, or Yeshua but He was also the Word of God, the Law of God, and the Commandment of God.

He said to me, "Cannot the God who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness also command a creative action into your heart. You have not been given the *will* in order to fulfill my commands in any strength of your own but my commands empower your will, which then becomes the force of your life. The will is the spiritual stomach that feasts on the Bread of Life. Though I have many names I am not divided, rather, I am One!"

The fulfilling of the commandments of God are not just things we do or don't do but they are a person we cling to with a tenacious loving embrace. Just as the resurrection isn't just a day but the Son of God. And revival isn't just a time or season but the Holy Spirit, so the commands of God are not just things to do or not do, they are the empowering person of Christ living in our will, being who he is. Apart from Him, Jesus declared, we can do *no-thing*.

Just as God, had commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, and there was light. Jesus was telling me again, that all, not some of God's words are commands. A command, from the human point of view is something to be feared and obeyed, if we have enough intestinal fortitude. But God's commands, from His perspective, is the way He creates. He is a creator and His commands are prophecy and fulfillment. The scripture is replete with instances of God and Jesus speaking and their commanding or creative words creating and bringing the proclamation to pass. Jesus told us that the words that He spoke were spirit and life.

I was beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. No wonder David loved the law of God so much. God's words were not hidden from him. I began to see

the law of God so much. God's ways were not hidden from him. I began to cry out over and over, "Father I receive your commands!" "Father I receive your commands!" I thought of the first command, especially in light of my recent doubts as to whether I truly loved God. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength." "Father I receive your commands!" "Father I receive your commands!" The tears began to flow again as the burden of failure was being washed away in the power of God's command.

Peter asked Jesus to command him to walk to Him on the water. Peter knew that if it was Jesus, His words would keep him afloat. As Peter stepped out of the boat the Lord's words kept Peter afloat. It wasn't until Peter averted his gaze to the foaming sea that he began to sink. When Peter cried out for Jesus to save him the Lord didn't rebuke him not for not having enough faith to stay afloat, but ever doubting for one moment that Jesus would let him drown.

Can you see why it is so important that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus? Can you see why the devil wants to avert our gaze? Nothing is more important than understanding our God's ways. He is a creator and he creates something from nothing with his words. Therefore it is critical that we believe and receive what he says is true in his Word about us, and not what the traditions of men proclaim as his truth. The difference is not hard to detect. Man's way is a constant struggle but Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden is light.

May God grant us the understanding of Peter, who knew that the ability to do what God asked of him, rested within those very words. Can you understand what Scripture means when it declares, "You have heard the Word but it has not profited you because it was not mixed with faith?"

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Mat 4:4)

Father, speak to me, I receive your commands! May the pages of your Bible shine with the new light of understanding granted only to God's children. It is my prayer that through meditation on God's Word, that the power of God's Word will more than fill your need