

How Much do you Value Your Word?

We all desire to be like God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. This is our goal, our mission statement, and the goal placed before us. As Jesus exhorted us, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect".

I would like to discuss one character trait of our Father that we should be striving to exemplify. It is the character that is revealed in His "word". Can you trust God's word? Does He do what He says He will do? The scriptures are full of examples of "the word of the LORD" speaking to God's servants. God's word has always been sure even though it has not always been believed. Isaiah speaks of God's word in this way, "The word of our God stands forever". That's powerful! That's truly an attribute of our Father we can trust...His word!

How well do we reflect this Godly trait in our lives? Where do we see the reflection of "our word" displayed in our lives? How well can others trust and depend in your word? Unfortunately we live in a society where the integrity of a person's "word" is a thing of the past. It used to be that a man's hand shake and his word was all one needed to trust an agreement. Just think of all the paper that would not be wasted if this was the case today. However, in this day and age we are so far removed from that type of character in many areas of our lives.

What does it mean to "give your word"? Is your word a commitment on what you have just spoken, or are your words thrown around casually with little truth or integrity? Here are just a few examples that might come to mind when we consider our word. How often do people say they would like to do something, when in reality, they really have no intention of doing so? How often do people actually say they will do something, but then don't do it? How often do people make a commitment to an activity, but then don't show up? How often do people show up late for an activity that has a starting time? How often do people exaggerate or alter the facts leading others to believe something that is not true? How often do we make passing comments like "I'll call you" or "I'll pray for you" and then we don't do it? How often do we commit to more than one activity because we don't want to say "no" and then don't follow through on our word? Are these not all examples of how our "word" is used haphazardly and without integrity? Should we be more careful to consider every word that we speak and make it as truthful and accurate as possible?

David said, "the entirety of your word is truth" (Psa. 119:160), and Jesus said, "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17) We are to hold fast to the word of God because we know it is true. We should also follow His example of speaking truth always. Our "word" is important. Do we give it the value it is due and can it be said about you, "He is a man (or woman) of his word"?