

Proverbs 29:18 *“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law*

Restraints:

When God’s word is given to a person, he should connect to it and set his gates i.e. his heart, mind, eyes, ears and mouth according to it. This doesn’t allow him to speak or behave the way he wants, but only as the Word wants. It is called a restraint. Many people do not love to be restrained. The scripture here says that when people do not have a revelation they cast of the restraints of the Word of God. They cast off their restraints because of the pressure of situations and unsolved problems. Revelation is the truth that has been revealed by God about a mystery, enigma, puzzle which was not solved by people. So time and time again God reveals the mysteries through His Word to His people so that they hold fast to their restraints. God gives His revelation only to a person who restrains himself with the Word. When restraints begin in your thoughts, words, behaviour, then the reason for the unsolved problems in your life will be revealed by God. As you work in that revelation you will see the blessing of God right in front of you.

Proverbs 13:15 *“Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.”*

Favour of God:

Favour is what God has already placed for His children whether he is a fool or a good person. But it is not readily available to any of them unless and until they work with Word of God. Proverbs 11:27 says *“He who earnestly seeks good finds favour...”* Earnestly means, a person who intentionally and very seriously searches for good i.e. Word of God. He restrains his thoughts, ears, eyes and mouth only to see, hear, speak and think what he has to, in order to bring the Word to pass. It is this person who finds the favour of God. But a person who works superficially does not know or recognize what God is speaking. It is because he is not restrained by the Word of God but by the devil. James 1:6-8 *“If any one of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...with no doubting...for he who doubts...let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the LORD; He is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways”*. A doubter is a double minded man. Double minded because he doesn’t restrain his mind according to the Word. When a person sets himself to work with a single mind in whatever work he does and then ask God for wisdom, he will definitely receive it .

Unfaithful man:

The meaning of unfaithful says *“**Not true to a standard**”* . An unfaithful man connects to his own thoughts and situations rather than to the standard of the Word of God. He doesn’t even have any standards in his work. The scripture here says that his way is hard. A hard way is one in which a person feels difficult to walk, difficult to find solutions, difficult to move ahead in life. Christ died on the cross to give every man victory in his life. But if the person doesn’t work to bring in the standards of the Word of God into his thoughts, work, relations... his

way becomes hard. Finally he speaks to everyone including his children about his experiences as a Christian which is only hard.

FEARS GOD

Job 1:8 *“Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, **one who fears God and shuns evil**”*

Here God is asking Satan about Job and is speaking about the characters that Job possessed, one of which is fearing God. Many people have the definition of fearing God in the terms of coming to church, reading the Bible or praying. But Proverbs 14:2 says *“He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, But he who is perverse in his ways despises Him”*. Walks means ‘habitual sphere of action or a chosen profession’ Whether you are an Engineer or Doctor or any work that you do, from the time you get up till the next day the same time is called a habitual sphere. In this habitual sphere you are connected to people, their words, actions, your regular thought patterns. We are used to this sphere. It is in this habitual sphere that one needs to bring in the character of uprightness. This week the meaning Upright is emphasizing on **‘noble’** which means **‘exalted in character, quality, excellent and worthy’**. Character is the indicator of a person’s action during a particular situation or circumstance. Character is what you need to build in a work by preparing continuously (by tilling your ground). And you need to have a clear standard every hour regarding your thoughts, words and the work that you do.

On the contrary from a person who gives excuses to do a work, to a person who says ‘I will not do the work’ is called stubborn. The one, who grows more in this ground of stubborn, enters into a place where he does opposite to what is expected of him. This person is called perverse. He doesn’t fear God but wants the favour of God.

Job is a man who fears God. He fears God because of the character of uprightness. The Scripture in Job 1:10 says that Job had a hedge around him placed by God. He was the richest man during his time and God Himself considered him. If you are a person who brings the character of uprightness in your chosen profession then you are the one who fears God according to God’s standards. According to Ephesians 1:3, you will possess every spiritual blessing that God has in store for you in the heavenly places. God places a hedge around you like how he placed for Job and whatever you do will flourish.

Proverbs 11: 6 says *“The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust”* Lust means vehement or inordinate desire for something that belongs to others. Vehement means without restraints, without boundaries. A person who is unfaithful i.e. who doesn’t practice standards will be caught in their lust but the righteousness that a man possesses because of practicing the character of upright in his habitual sphere delivers him .

Proverbs 12:28 says *“In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death”*. No death means you will not come across any destruction in your paths. You cannot see fear, failure, shame or people’s words holding your heart. You will experience these only when you stand in the way of righteousness by restraining your gates with the Word of God.

GOD BLESS

