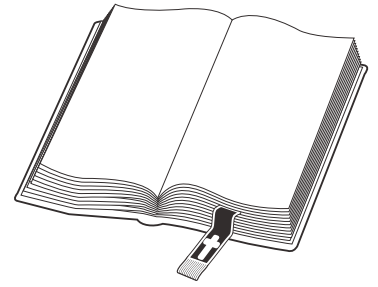


God's Word Is My Heritage

"Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart." Psalm 119:111



Number 65 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Many people have a godly heritage of parents and even generations of ancestors who loved and served the Lord. Many other people have an ungodly heritage of parents and generations of ancestors who lived wicked, evil, sinful lives. I came from the second group.

As a child in Scotland during World War II, bombed night and day, raised in a violent, alcoholic home where I was constantly beaten and sexually abused—my life was a disaster. However, even as a nonbeliever, I never blamed other people for the sin I got involved in. As soon as I gave my life to Christ in 1976, I started to read and obey my Bible. I repented of everything in my life that the Bible called sin—no excuses, no blame-shifting. I was overwhelmed by God's love, mercy, and AMAZING GRACE. The more I came to know the Lord, the greater my trust and love for Him grew. I accepted His grace to forgive my parents and everyone who had sinned against me, and I had the joy of praying with my mother when she put her trust in Christ as her Savior.

Beloved, I am not in bondage to my past—the Lord has set me free! As I daily read and obeyed the Bible, the power of the Holy Spirit delivered, cleansed, healed, restored, and gave me a new heritage. I love God's Word! Obedience to it has given me freedom and a peace and joy I never knew possible. Untold numbers of men and women for many generations have died so that we can have the freedom of owning our own Bible. They died so that we could have the testimonies of God's Word for our heritage. However,

Psalm 119:111 says, *"Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart."*

Beloved, it is our choice. We have to choose to take God's testimonies—the Bible—as our heritage. We have to choose to daily apply it. I know many people who spend thousands of dollars in counseling and on medications. They have read countless books. For many years, they have tried one thing after another to get help for their broken lives. But if they had daily read, believed, and obeyed the Bible, the power of the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ would have transformed their lives. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reads, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* This is the Lord's promise to every believer who loves Him.

The evidence that we love Him is that we love and obey His Word! I want to repeat that. I hear so many professing believers say they love God, but if we truly love God, the evidence will be that we love His Word and that we obey His Word. Only then will we have that true rejoicing in our heart. I hope that you choose Jesus and His Word. The Bible is your heritage, and if you are not a believer, today is the day to acknowledge you are a sinner and to put your trust in Christ as your Savior, and you can be set free from the past.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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