



## No Growth - Compromise

**Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good,  
and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**

*James 4:17*

**Conversation** - 1 Peter 3:10

**Offer** - Luke 11:11

**Money** - Luke 16:11

**People** - Deuteronomy 9:13

**Reason** - Job 15:3

**Opinion** - Job 32:10

**Mind** - Romans 7:15-21

**Influence** - Galatians 5:8

**Satan** - 2 Corinthians 2:11

**Election** - 2 Peter 1:10

Compromise: Is it worth it? It all depends on what is involved. Compromise may be an initial agreement or arrangement; In other words, "give and take." However, there are many situations where, initially, an understanding of what is going to take place, as previously discussed or planned, but later, the person changes their plans.

The uncertainty of human life is something so manifest that those who notwithstanding talk in their presumption as if it did not exist, as if their life were not dependent on God, contrary to their own knowledge, do not that which is seemly, but that which is unseemly, and therefore this is so much the more sin unto them. Compromise happens due to unbelief. To leave undone what we know we ought to do.

Believers are always to depend on the will of God. Our time is not in our own hands, but Almighty God's. Our heads may be filled with cares and contrivances for ourselves, or our

families, or our friends, but Providence often throws our plans into confusion. For the ungodly, compromise occurs because some individuals, born into godly families, opt to live their way and choose their own path of life. That explains why some young people compromise and would rather "give and take" chances in exploring the world and live out there than succumb to living under the rules and roof of their parents.

To compromise begins in conversation. Someone says something that draws your attention. Then your mind starts thinking about it and becomes more appealing as you examine the idea. The perfect example of give and take: someone gives you some suggestions, and out of it, you take something from that and pursue it.

Many find it hard to realize that it is the little things that can change the outcome of a person's life. Things can happen so fast, and they are left questioning, "Where did I go wrong? How did I get myself into this situation? Many are looking for answers and thinking of some big mistake, when often, it was a little one.

Eve and the serpent in Genesis three is the first compromise in the Old Testament. The serpent presents a question to the woman in verse one, then Eve replies to the serpent in verses two through three, followed by the serpent again in verses four to five. The serpent got the time to invite himself into a discussion, and later, for her to compromise. Adam and Eve are one flesh, so this could happen to anybody. Conversation takes time: the longer it goes, the more appealing it can become, like a flood. That is how sellers sell, they buy time with you listening.

Today, you have some strict parents with their children on high alert, especially daughters, under tight supervision from their mother and father. Then, the husbands with their wives and vice versa. Adultery and unfaithfulness while young teens get themselves into trouble begins with attraction from the eyes, of course, but to fall into compromise comes with conversation. Eve looked as the serpent talked about the forbidden tree that caused her to compromise. Some daughters are trained not to look at guys as they commute because that sign gives an invitation for the guy to

converse, "I saw you looking at me. You like what you see?"

For believers, those who turn away from compromise, away from evil both in word and deed, and pursue peace will experience lives full of God's blessing and favor, God's close presence with His help and grace, and answers to their prayers.

To compromise is to accept ungodly offers. An offer is a gesture that someone presents to you. The good or bad from it is to be determined by the receiver. The offer may be good visually, but it may not be good in the long run. An offer can be deceiving, and believers must be alert.

Saul, who received the offer of becoming king of Israel, was not of God but the people demanding one to rule over them. However, God, through His servant, issues a warning and offers the people two choices in First Samuel twelve, verses fourteen through fifteen, "If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God. But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers." Saul, now the king of Israel, had his first commandment in Gilgal for the arrival of Samuel to offer sacrifices in chapter thirteen, verse eight. However, he impatiently went ahead and did his own thing in verse nine, "And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering." God tested Saul's obedience again for the providential delay beyond the seven-day plan for Samuel's arrival. In desperation and presumption, Saul compromised instead of following God's Word. Saul did it again in First Samuel fifteen, verse nine, "But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly." However, the Lord said through Samuel in verse three, "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man

and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." He compromised twice, not following God's Word from Samuel. He was later rejected by God, which led to his ruin.

To compromise can come through money. The gain of something at the expense of hurting someone else can have a long-lasting effect on a person. "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows," as in First Timothy six, verse ten. Those who love will sacrifice almost anything to gain. Believers must be careful of such an approach with money, because they would eventually do it with spiritual things.

Judas, one of the twelve disciples, went to the chief priests, "And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him," as in Matthew twenty-six, verses fifteen to sixteen. To compromise for a small portion of money from a disciple who walked among the others with the Son of God, be a witness to miracles, hearing him preach in various places, and yet disregard all of what he experienced for thirty pieces of silver? The greater profession men make of religion, the greater opportunity they have of doing mischief, if their hearts be not right with God.

To compromise is to allow the stiff-necked people to get a person to be out of control. A believer living for God and dealing with family, friends, and other folks who are not, but ungodly, can create some intense situations. There is nothing like leading a flock of people who experience the goodness of God, not yet completely surrendered to Him, the complaining and blaming the leader who is trying to lead by example in helping them, can jeopardize the relationship between them and God.

Moses found this out with the water from the rock, as in Numbers twenty, verse eleven, where he smote the rock instead of speaking to it as the Lord commanded. At the time, the servant of God was receiving criticism from his own people, and simultaneously trying to honor their request while being obedient to

God by His instruction. Constantly doing three things in one is not easy. As for Moses, this is the challenge he had on his hands.

"Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also," as in Numbers twenty, verses eleven to twelve. Moses spoke and acted rashly, which was out of character. Dealing with nagging from people, following godly instruction, and requesting from others can take its toll on a spiritual leader.

To compromise is to reason. To run the risk of something intolerable is dangerous. Amnon defiles Tamar in Second Samuel thirteen, verse one through sixteen. Absalom's sister, Tamar, is the victim here because David sent her to Amnon to cater to him while he was presumed sick, with both of them not knowing what would transpire. Amnon's compromise is telling his friend Jonadab in verse four, his feelings for Tamar, only made things worse, not better.

Amnon's actions leading up to the assault on Tamar show how far a person will go to compromise to satisfy fulfillment even though it may offend God, hurt family, and be a public shame for both themselves and the victims involved. In this case, compromise involves temptation, fabrication, humiliation, and eventually destruction to the one who created the incident. Is it really worth it? There are many criminals today who suffer for similar actions and are now constantly evaluating if it was worth it.

To compromise is to fall for an opinion. Many individuals get themselves into trouble with others because of some idea a person suggests, only to listen and fall into the trap of exercising what was said. Rehoboam, king of Israel in First Kings twelve, had a request from the older generation to make their lives a little easier in verse four concerning the heavy taxes and forced labor. However, Rehoboam later consulted with the younger generation and compromised, making it more difficult than they previously experienced, from verses thirteen through fourteen.

Compromise involves the mind, which works with the heart. What a person lets in through

the eyes and ears may affect both. It is so easy for the mind to play tricks on people when they hear something and start thinking all sorts of things. Saul was relieved when David played the harp to alleviate the evil spirit within him in chapter sixteen, and when he killed Goliath in chapter seventeen, respectively. However, his attitude towards David changed in chapter eighteen, verse seven, "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul replies in the following verse about David capturing the kingdom, and David did not do anything.

Those who attempt to obey God's commandments without the saving grace of Christ find themselves unable to accomplish the good intentions of their heart. They are not their own master; evil and sin rule within them. They are slaves to them and are in "captivity to the law of sin." Only in Christ will God "make a way to escape" such temptation "that ye may be able to bear it," as in First Corinthians ten, verse thirteen.

Compromise from others can influence another. Aaron, Moses' brother, as a leader seriously compromised God's standard to please the people he served in Exodus thirty-two, verse one, "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." Aaron gave in to the godless pleasure of the Israelites and violated the second commandment. Only Moses' intercession saved him from God's wrath and from death, as in Deuteronomy nine, verse twenty, "And the LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time."

To compromise is to allow Satan to take advantage of God's creation, especially the believers. One of our key defenses against Satan's attack is awareness of the enemy's continual effort to gain an advantage over us and lead us away from devotion to Christ. The devil provokes people by using others to get to those he desires. He did it to David in

First Chronicles twenty-one, verse one. And David did so in verse two, "And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it." He caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie in Acts five, verse three, "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" Then Sapphira at the start of verse nine, "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?" The enemy will attempt to tempt you to cheat one another. To be honest and upfront with each other will take fasting and prayer to resist such temptation.

To compromise is to choose wrongfully. Today, many compromise due to failing to make the right choices that would navigate them to being godly and serving God instead of living ungodly. Lot, who was related to Abram, had a decision to make in Genesis thirteen, as to which way he would take his flock and family because they both had a lot of flocks and herds. Lot chose the plain of Jordan that was near Sodom and Gomorrah. However, this was fatal for Lot because he lost his wife to that city, which she became a pillar of salt in Genesis nineteen, verse twenty-six, "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

Compromise. Is it worth it? No, when it comes to wrongdoing. Yes, when it involves righteousness, which is right doing. For believers, prayer and fasting are the solution for path of righteousness, the straight and narrow way, the godly path of life. Without the guidance of the Almighty God, it is so easy to fall into the wrong hands, that is not God's.