



# Your Partner Teaching!

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from Pastor/Evangelist Errol Eardly

*Together bringing Salvation, Healing & Deliverance to un-reached millions in Sri Lanka!*

## THE POWER OF VOWS

Dearly beloved Partner, God has revealed in His Word the power vows can bring to us, good or bad. We can bring God's blessing if we know the truth about it and how to use it correctly. A Vow we make to God when fulfilled can bring us an impossible miracle. But if not fulfilled can bring a curse and God's anger instead. Knowing the truth about vows can be a great blessing to us.

### I. WHAT IS A VOW.

A vow is a promise made to God to do something for God in return for a miracle or help we need from Him when there is no other way out.

Our wonderful Heavenly Father who loves us and wants to do so much for us, in His divine mercy has given us the privilege to make a vow and receive a miracle from Him and then fulfill the promise we make to Him.

### II. WHEN IS A VOW NECESSARY?

When one is in a crisis, or missed God and ended up in a dead-end road, or when one is not able to do what it takes to bring the miracle. This can also be used when one cannot fast and pray due to prolonged illness and is physically very weak to fast and pray. Like one who is in the last stages of cancer or other terminal illnesses.

If you are involved in ministering to the sick and you come across a terminally ill patient, then you can make a vow, or a small promise to God and fulfill it on their behalf. We in ministry must also be sensitive to the voice of our wonderful Lord and ask His guidance before we minister to the terminally ill, because sometimes their life span can be over and their work finished, and God wants them home. Sometimes God wants them to be healed and serve Him better. Praying and asking direction from our wonderful Lord before ministering to the sick is of great advantage. God will surely guide you after you pray.

### III. GOD'S REQUIRES WE MUST FULFILL THE VOW WITHOUT DELAY.

**A.** God is a covenant or promise keeping God. He will do what we ask of Him as long as it is in His promises or according to His Word. That is why He requires us to keep ours. God always does His part and works well with us as we co-operate with Him.

*"When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed – Better not to vow than to vow and not pay."<sup>6</sup> Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"*

**Ecclesiastes 5:4-6**

**B.** It is better not to make vow at all than making a vow and not fulfilling it, because it results in sin and opens the door for curses God's anger or even destruction to come into our life.

*"<sup>21</sup>When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. <sup>22</sup>But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. <sup>23</sup>That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth."* **Deut 23:21-23**

#### **IV. GOD HONOURS THE VOWS WE MAKE.**

**A.** Jacob made a vow to God and God fulfilled it.

*"<sup>20</sup>And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, <sup>21</sup>So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: <sup>22</sup>And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."* **Gen 28: 20-22**

(i) If you continue to reading up to the last chapter 50, you will see how God honoured this vow and was with Jacob and blessed him with even more than he asked.

(ii) Even when his uncle Laban deceived him and underpaid him, God ultimately gave his uncles blessings to him.

(iii) It must be noted here that before Jacob made this vow, he was in no position to receive any blessing from God. He had just deceived his father Isaac and stolen his brother Esau's blessings and was running away from home and his family. This is when God appeared to him in a dream. God will always come to us when we are in trouble. One in such a position can make a vow and receive from God.

(iv) Jacob knew the power that a vow can do and he made a vow to God. He also was wise and made a vow which he can easily keep.

**B.** Vows were also made during New Testament times and is not only an Old Testament principle. The Apostle Paul had made a vow and fulfilled it although we don't know what the vow was. But it is sufficient proof God wants us to use vows so He can bless us, even today.

*"<sup>18</sup>And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow."* **Acts 18:18**

#### **V. VOWS MADE MUST BE SPECIFIC**

One of the most important things to remember when making a vow to God is, it must be very specific and easy to fulfill and not rash or careless. God doesn't require us to make big vows to get big blessings from Him. God wants us to fulfill the vow, so the vow can be very small in comparison to the request. Jacob's vow was just a small fraction of what God did for him.

Here we see Jephthah making a rash vow and regretted it when it came to fulfilling it.

*"<sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. <sup>30</sup>And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, <sup>31</sup>Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. <sup>32</sup>So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. <sup>33</sup>And he smote them from*

*Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. <sup>34</sup>And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. <sup>35</sup>And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back. <sup>36</sup>And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon. <sup>37</sup>And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. <sup>39</sup>And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel, <sup>40</sup>That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year". **Judges 11:29-40***

(i) Here we see a very sad story of a father who made a rash vow and regretted it but had to fulfill it.

(ii) We must not make vows such as I will pray two hours a day, or I will preach the gospel to all nations. Just think, if you can't do it, this will result in God's anger and even destruction. We are to make small vows such as a small offering etc, so that we can fulfill it very easily.

## **VI. VOWS DONE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN AGAIN.**

Any vow made before you were born again is forgiven as the old things are passed away, and all things have become new in Christ, according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"<sup>17</sup>Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

Once you have repented and come to Christ all the old things are cleaned out and you are a new creature in Christ. Only thing make sure you have repented of any vows you might have made.

## **VI. VOWS ALSO CAN BE OVERRULED**

Our precious Father has again in His mercy to protect us further from making a rash vow. This is another blessing when a vow has been made rashly, by a wife or child. Here the father or husband can overrule or cancel it for their safety. But a vow a man makes cannot be overruled anyone, he must fulfill it.

### **A. A man's vow cannot be overruled.**

A man's vow cannot be overruled or cancelled but must be fulfilled.

*"And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded. <sup>2</sup>If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." **Num 30:1,2***

### **B. A Daughter's vow can be overruled by her father.**

*"<sup>3</sup>If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; <sup>4</sup>And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. <sup>5</sup>But if her father*

disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her." **Num 30:3-5**

### C. A Wife's vow can be overruled by her husband.

*"<sup>6</sup>And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul; <sup>7</sup>And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. <sup>8</sup>But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her." Num 30: 6-8*

### D. A Widow's vow can be overruled by her husband.

A widow's vow can be overruled or cancelled by her husband only if done while he was alive.

*"But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her. <sup>10</sup>And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; <sup>11</sup>And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. <sup>12</sup>But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. <sup>13</sup>Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void. <sup>14</sup>But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them. <sup>15</sup>But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity." Num 30:9-15*

My humble prayer is that you will use the power of vows to be a blessing to your life, and may you receive more from our precious Lord & Master.

Thanks a million once again for your love, prayers and support for our wonderful Lord's work in Sri Lanka!

With my love for you and the lost!



Errol Eardly

**Dear Pastors!  
Please contact us for a  
Miracle Crusade in your  
Church!**

### Quote of the Month!

"What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer."

- E. M. Bounds

- ✓ Prayer Requests!
  - ✓ Personal Ministry & Counseling!
- Contact Pastor Errol on:  
Phone: 0773-246526 after 2.00pm  
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