

GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART

Family Devotion — Lesson 49

MEMORY VERSE — 1 SAMUEL 15:23

“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

- God hates rebellion and stubbornness. Rebellion is rejecting God through disobedience. It is like the sin of witchcraft (evil magic). Stubbornness is not being flexible with God. It is like iniquity (sin) and idolatry (putting something before God).
- It is easy for us to recognize the evil sinful activities of witchcraft and idolatry. We would never see ourselves involved in casting evil satanic spells on someone or bowing down to a statue and praying to it. But what about rebellion and stubbornness? Sometimes our REBELLION and STUBBORNNESS can be disguised and justified by our:
 - 1) Pride — how it benefits me
 - 2) Thoughts and ideas — it makes sense to me and is humanly logical
 - 3) Strong emotions — doing what feels right
 - 4) Traditions — doing what we have always done
 - 5) Impatience — doing something right, but at the wrong time
 - 6) Looking good in the eyes of others — having an appearance of righteousness
 - 7) Convenience — it is the easy way
 - 8) Fear — being afraid of consequences that we do not desire
- We must see rebellion and stubbornness the way God sees it.
- Sometimes people try to justify their disobedience with sacrificing something. Instead of obeying God, they give something up for God in exchange. *“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Sam. 15:22).
- An obedient heart can never be replaced. Doing the right thing on the outside while being a rebel on the inside is not pleasing to God.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Have you ever disobeyed God and tried to make up for it by doing something else? Explain.
- Why do you think God is more concerned with your heart than with what you do?
- Do you think rebellion and stubbornness toward your parents is rebellion and stubbornness toward God? Why is this?

PRAYER TIME

- Pray for God to soften your heart toward Him.
- Ask God to help you search your heart for disobedience, rebellion, and stubbornness.

CHALLENGE

- The next time you are rebellious or stubborn, think of an evil witch bowing down to worship an idol.