**Cross And Crown Christian Outreach**

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**Avoid His Affliction**

**And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. -** Ex. 15:26 KJV

The Israelites had just successfully crossed the Red Sea in one, if not the greatest miracles of all times. The Red Sea in that miracle parted into two, with heaps of water forming a wall on both sides of a dry path, through which the Israelites marched across to the other side. God had also created a clog in the wheel of the Chariots of the Egyptians, such that they were slowed down, and so could not progress quickly enough to avoid the effect of the breakdown of the wall of water, neither could they retreat after realising their folly in following the Israelites into the Red Sea, and so got drowned in it – Ex. 14:15-21.

They broke into songs of joy, led by Moses himself, acknowledging the greatness of the Lord throughout the whole earth – Ex. 15:1-19. Mariam, Moses’s sister was to follow in praising the Lord by leading the women to sing and glorify God for his greatness and His wonderful works – Ex. 15:20-21.

However, like it is with life generally, one victory is quickly followed by a new challenge and this situation was no different. They had hardly settled into the great victory when they realised that drinkable water was going to be an issue as the water in that location, which was later called Marah, was not fit for consumption as it was bitter. Like all followers, they grumbled to Moses who in turn approached the Lord and rightly so too, for solution. God did hearken to his request by showing him a piece of wood to be thrown into the water. The water immediately became fit for consumption but the Lord was not done, he issued a ruling and an instruction for them that was going to be a test according to the scriptures – Ex. 15:22-25. That ruling, instruction and test is the foundation scripture for today’s devotion. The Bible describes God’s comment as a Rule, an Instruction and a Test. A Rule because it was to be a regulation or a principle that will govern their relationship with Him. An Instruction because it was not subject to debate. It was a take or leave directive and a Test because it was to determine at all times how much they were willing to respect and obey Him and violation was going to have very serious repercussion. This three-in-one statement reveals the willingness of the Almighty God to save them from all the diseases that He inflicted on the Egyptians, in His attempt to free the Israelites from their bondage – Ex. 8:16 – 13:16. He was binding Himself to this promise, on the condition that:

1. They acknowledge Him as their God.
2. They diligently hearken to Him.
3. They at all times do that which is right in his sight.
4. They are willing listen to his commandments.
5. They are willing to keep all his statutes.

It was set clear from the beginning and well communicated in order to avoid any ambiguity and negative experiences from their God, and the Almighty God did not hesitate to evoke the necessary penalty when deserved.

Today’s Christian needs to understand clearly that the Almighty God always sets out the terms of His relationship with people or His involvement in any situation. Claim to ignorance of such Rules and Instructions will never stop the negative effect of violating them, so it is very important at all times to know what those Rules and Instructions are. They are Instructions so your view is not required. All he asks for is diligence in hearing and observing them. He wants those who intend to benefit from his graciousness to be careful and conscientious with regards to his Rules and Instructions. The repercussion of dis-regard to this advise may just be some of those experiences that you are presently having. You may need to confirm that you have diligently hearkened to all the Rules and Instructions that he gave you concerning your relationship with Him. Note that it is not subject to debate and it will remain a test of your loyalty to Him for as long as you live. You can save yourself from very grave situations by ensuring that you constantly do the following:

1. Meditate in His Words regularly so you can have his view on general issues.
2. Plead with Him to give you His Holy Spirit to help update you regularly on His view on specific issues, and give you a better understanding of His Words.
3. Resolve to apply His confirmed Words in all situations.

Doing the above will no doubt keep you abreast of his views with regards to all situations and help you to carry out those views. Then He will save you from all those afflictions He brought on the Egyptians and more. May He grant you the strength to walk in His Will in Jesus name. Amen.