

Why is Sin Such a Great Problem?

The problem with sin goes all the way to the Garden of Eden. God had placed mankind in a paradise where all that they needed was available to be picked by the hand. God was the sovereign and He was a great provider for His children. All that mankind needed to do was to observe a simple command to obey Him. Mankind was to come to God for knowledge because God was able to provide the knowledge in the proper time and in the proper manner. Mankind choose to ignore this command and they began to seek wisdom on their own. Mankind was not wise enough to handle the information, so sin began to spread from person to person. When we choose to ignore God and we seek our own way, we then withdraw from the intimacy with God. We tend to become self-sufficient and arrogant in our ways, which will cause us to be outside the blessings of God. Adam and Eve hid from God when they heard His voice in the Garden.

We have been running from the voice of God ever since. While we may still receive some blessings from God during our sinful rebellion to His will, we miss the fullness of the blessings that come from restoration with Him as detailed in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:22-24 NLT: *But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.* It is easy to see from this lesson the level of joy that the Father has in His children. He wants to bless us, but He can't, if we disobey.

One of the primary references to the blessing of obedience was given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 NLT: *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."* Abraham received the ultimate of blessings in that through him all of the world would be blessed. Abraham became the father of all those that believe in the promises of God. The blessings on Abraham were tied to his obedience to the commands of God – leave your country and go to an unknown land.

Later the children of Israel experience a similar situation when God tied the blessings of the Promised Land to their obedience to the instructions of righteous (the Torah), Deuteronomy 28:1, 2 NLT: *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully keep all His commands that I am giving you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey the LORD your God:* And then Moses goes on to describe the many blessings that they will receive. On the other hand, disobedience was tied to curses or negative consequences, Deuteronomy 28:18 NLT: *"But if you refuse to listen to the LORD your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overwhelm you:* And God goes on to describe the consequences for their disobediences. The same thing holds true for us today, for we feel closer to God and more blessed when we are obedient to His will and we feel more distant and less blessed when we don't obey God's will. It really comes down to a matter of loving God for who He is and the obedience, with the blessings, will come.