

## TRADITIONS

One of the most powerful things working against us in the kingdom of God is our traditions. According to the Bible, they can even invalidate God's word in our lives, which makes them extremely dangerous.

Mark 7:8, 13

*“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”*

*“{thus} invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”*

From our youth we have been instructed by many people about many things, some in agreement with God's word, some in the world's thinking and methods. Mindsets have been established that dictate our lives, which are not in agreement with God's thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

2 Corinthians 10:5

*“{We are} destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and {we are} taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”*

Whether it be false teaching, a conviction (Romans 14:22) that is someone else's, or a practice that worked once before for us, we must be careful to be led by the Spirit and not by what we think we know or have done before. God doesn't change in His nature or purpose (Hebrews 13:8), but the way He does things may change dramatically.

When we do anything based on our traditions – thoughts, perceptions, methods, timing, etc. – we trust in ourselves and what we know. This is not trusting in God and submitting to His will.

Jeremiah 17:5, 7

*“Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD.”*

*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD.”*

So even when we do know what God wants us to do, we still have to consider when and how it is to be done. His wisdom is reflected in the “when and how”.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19

*“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise.*

*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, ‘{He is} the one who catches the wise in their craftiness’;”*