

## Elder Bobby Willis



### How Oft Are We Compelled?

I Samuel 13:12, **“I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.”**

There are many excuses for doing that which is not according to the word of God, including erroneous thinking. King Saul was questioned by Samuel as to why he had not kept the Lord’s commandment in waiting for Samuel to come and offer a burnt offering before the Lord. The sight of the Philistine Army had caused Saul to lose faith and take matters into his own hands.

There may come times in our lives when we feel compelled to act without waiting upon the Lord to guide us. We often lose patience, wanting an answer on our own terms and on our own timetable. By not waiting and doing as the Lord had commanded, it cost Saul dearly as the kingdom then was passed on for David to rule.

To say we are compelled, or that we had to force ourselves to do that which we know is not pleasing to God is asking for trouble. We should know better, and in most cases; we do. Then, there are times when others compel us to that which we may not have done otherwise. The Roman soldiers of the governor found Simon, of Cyrene, and **“compelled”** him **“to bear his... (Christ’s) ...cross”** (Matthew 27:32). This compelling came from an outside source. Don’t think for a moment that such does not happen. Satan and his cronies are always seeking to compel God’s children into doing that which is not pleasing to the Lord.

The use of the word **“compelled”** was used in Galatians 2:3 in speaking of Titus and Paul in not feeling strongly about the need to be circumcised. They simply did not feel led to do so and therefore refused, knowing there were **“false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:...”**

The Holy Spirit will never lead nor force us to do wrong or to make bad decisions in our lives. If there is anything I desire to be compelled in life to do, it is to serve the Lord with all of my ability. May we all be compelled (led by God's Spirit) to be better soldiers as we fight the good fight of faith. ***"Think About It"!***