

Obedience

Fellow believers what do you think is the key to God's heart? Is it humility, perseverance, or faith? Although these attributes play a vital role in a Christian's life, what is the key to God's Heart?

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father who sent Me.

So then, this passage tells us that the best way to express our love, honor, and reverence for God is obedience.

I have three points on this.

One; Obedience is not optional for believers.

Jesus Christ simply states the fact: "If you love me you will keep my commandments. Jesus is not giving here an optional obedience. It says: "if you love me, then obey what I command you."

He is saying that the man who truly loves Him will obey His commandments.

To the believer there is no option. He loves Jesus; therefore, he obeys His commands. It means we follow them and treasure them.

In 1John 2:3-4 we read, "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Do we obey God's commandments? Obey all ten commandments? If we want to know Him obedience should be the priority in the life of all believers. If we desire to know God more and please Him more. Then the more we walk in love, the more we will come to know God. Therefore, if we obey His commands, we know Him.

As a follower of Christ, you have a specific responsibility. Jesus is asking you, just as He asked the apostles, to keep His words. We are to write them on our hearts so we are close to God.

Psalm 119:11, “I have laid up they word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Point two: Our obedience Brings Blessing!

See the words, “My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

What a blessing to be loved by God the father. What a blessing when both the Father and Christ come to abide in the believer by the Holy Spirit.

When we obey God, the love of God will enrich us greatly, as there is no such thing as obeying Him and not being blessed. Blessing follows obedience.

So, who are blessed of God?

Those who Trust the Lord –

Those who Fear the Lord –

Those whose Sins are Forgiven –

Those whose way is blameless –

Those who walk (who obey) in the law of God –

Our obedience to God allows Him to demonstrate His awesome power in our lives. Our obedience also allows God to bless others through us.

Does this mean that we should obey God for the sake of blessings? No, it does not. Instead, we should please God and obey Him because of who He is. We should honor Him and reverence Him as God the Father, creator of all things. Therefore, the greatest reward we can attain is His Love and Favor.

So, there’s a blessing to those obeying the word of God. There’s a blessing to those who keep seeking with the whole heart the will of the Lord.

Point three: Our obedience is tied to knowing God and loving Him.

1 John 2:5 “But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in Him. This is how we know we are in Him”.

There’s the obedient man. The obedient man obeys God’s word and knows God and loves God.

Remember; one reason Jesus Christ came to earth is to reveal God and to show us how to draw near to God. Therefore, to know God, we must draw near to Jesus and follow the example He left us. We must follow the Word of Christ; we must keep the Word of Christ living exactly by His examples.

The more we draw near to Him and obey His word and please Him, the more we learn about Him and love Him.

The word translated “obeys”, in 1 John 2:5, means a continuous action. It means to continue on and not stop. It means day by day obedience. If we obey God day by day, then we learn more about Him; we learn to love and obey Him more.

The obedient person is the one who knows God and loves God.

“In 1 John 3:18 it is clearly seen that to love God is to love not in tongue only, but in deed and in truth”.

John 15:14 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.” –

Let me share with you what we must do to learn more obedience.

We need to learn to wait upon the Lord in Prayer.

Isaiah 40:31, “ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength , they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

We are to develop more love for the Word of God.

Psalms 119:47, “for I find my delight in thy commandments with love.”

We realize that to obey God often means a head on collision with our human reasoning and world system.

Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

We know that sometimes God will allow us to walk in the dark so that we will learn to trust Him more.

James 1:2-3, “count it all joy, brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness’.

We should expect some inner struggles.

Romans 7:15, “I don’t understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”

We know that there’s no substitute for obedience.

(Deuteronomy. 11:26-28)

"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse:

27 "the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today;

28 "and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

Learn to leave all the consequences of our obedience to God.

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plan will be established.

As a believer we will face many decisions in life. If God in His word requires us to do something that may conflict with our personal priorities, what would be our response? Is our response in keeping with our commitments to obey God?