



SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

God has revealed to me that making what we hear from Him a reality in our lives requires something from us. It's called "simple obedience." This is something we all struggle with because we think that we know what's best for us more than God. It's like you telling a child to look both ways before crossing the street and them telling you nothing will happen to them if they don't.

I think we struggle in this area because we are so comfortable with taking care of ourselves, doing things on our own and in our own way. The result is that now we don't know how to operate in simple obedience to God. Or in the case of many, "I'm grown." Don't get me wrong there is nothing wrong with having a mind of our own, God created us to be able to think for ourselves and to do things for ourselves.

However, the "I'm grown" mentality which equates to the "hard head makes a soft behind" mentality is the disobedient mentality of stubborn people. I know, I know, to "cool people," it's considered boring to just follow instructions from God. But if you think about it, it's not really boring because God is giving us instructions for life. Instructions not only on how to have and live an abundant life but also on how to fight demons and devils that are trying to destroy us mentally and physically. Aint no such thing as a boring fight.

One question that "cool people" need to ask themselves is, "is it worth it, is doing it my way and not God's way going to be worth it in the end?" Everything that we see in this world is temporal, it will all pass away. Then what? God is real and the devil is real, Angels are real and demons are real, heaven is real and hell is

real. The life choices that we make are real, they not only determine our destiny here on earth but also for all eternity because our spirit never dies.

Everyone may not admit it but most people know that there is a spiritual realm where God exist. But many want God to submit to their ideology of Him and to keep Him locked up in the little trinket boxes of their mind like a good luck charm. Then they want to use Him like a Jeanie in a bottle or a Santa Clause. But here's the thing God almighty who created everyone and everything, is not a good luck charm, He's not a Jeanie and He's not a Santa clause. He is all-powerful, all knowing, the one, true and living God and He does not submit to us, we are to submit to Him. He is "God the Father," creator of everything in heaven and in earth. THINK ABOUT THAT!

Furthermore, after He created us, His plan was not for us to be His puppets but rather He gave us liberty through freedom of choice (Deut. 30:19). When we receive instructions from God through whatever source He chooses, our response should be simple obedience. Simple obedience does not mean that we cannot ask questions. By all means ask God for understanding if it is needed. He said we can ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5) and He also said that we should get understanding (Prov. 4:7) but still at the end of the day He requires our obedience. One thing that we should always remember is that God is not out to get us, He is not out to harm us, so if He is telling us to do something it is for our own good. He sees the bigger picture because everyone is not for you but God is. (Jer. 29:11).

Mary's obedience caused her to conceive and give birth to Jesus. Jesus' obedience on the cross caused Him to bring about the salvation of the world. Why is it such a struggle for many of us to walk in simple obedience to God in order to see Him move in our lives in this lifetime? I'm speaking to myself as well because I am definitely for the right thing but sometimes, I still think I know what's best for me. However, I do not want that to be the final say. I want to walk in "simple obedience" to God. My desire is to hear and obey, you cannot get any simpler than that. And this is one of the reasons why I pray. I know that I cannot live this life in my own strength and my own wisdom. I'm gonna mess it up every time so I need Jesus to help me stay on track.

God used an angel to bring Mary a message the same way that He uses ministers of the gospel to bring messages to us today. We don't know everything but we do need one another, this includes people whose job it is to bring the good news on Sunday mornings a.k.a. the Pastors (Eph. 4:1-13). If you are skeptical of the Pastor whose church you attend then maybe you are in the wrong church. You need to pray to God to lead you to the right one, but just know that there are no perfect people and there are no perfect churches. If you are looking for something to be wrong with the man or woman of God in your church, you will find something wrong. But at the end of the day the question will be "what is God saying to you" and "are you walking in simple obedience?"

Mary could have thought to herself of the angel, "oh he's just trying to take advantage of my virginity" and thereby refused to receive God's word for her life. And if Mary had not received the Word of God from the angel, Gabriel, Jesus would not have been born to her. He would still have been born but maybe to a Rebecca or a Renita or a Teresa. Mary however, would have regretted rejecting her assignment for the rest of her life. (Ref. Luke 1:26-38). Living with regret is living a life of misery. (*Note to self, disobedience has the potential to lead to regret and misery*). But after she had asked all of her questions and even though she did not fully understand Mary told the angel, Gabriel, "be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38). I thank God for Mary's "simple obedience" because I am grateful for Jesus and for salvation.

QUESTION:

Has God told you to do something that you still have not walked in simple obedience to?

PRAYER:

Father God, as I vow to put my trust in You, I ask that You would continually show me the path of life that You have preordained for me. For I know that in Your presence is the fulness of joy; and at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore. Your word says that Your sheep know Your voice. I am Your sheep and I decree that I know Your voice. It is my desire to walk in simple obedience to You. I pray that Holy Spirit would help me in guarding my ear gate, that I not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. I ask that when you are speaking to me that You would confirm Your word through the mouth of two or three witnesses. And even if I have questions or I do not fully understand, help me Holy Spirit to still walk in simple obedience to God, whereby in my response I will say “be it unto me according to thy word.” These things I pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scriptures:

- Ps. 16:11
- Eph. 1:4
- II Cor. 13:1
- Eph. 4:14
- Job 22:28
- John 10:14