

# **Step-by-Step Discernment Reference Guide**

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## *How to Identify the Obedient vs. the Disobedient (Based on Scripture)*

This guide provides a biblical step-by-step approach to discern between those who are truly obedient to God and those who are not. Based entirely on scriptural principles, the fruits of behavior, speech, and lifestyle are key indicators.

### **1. Examine the Fruit of Their Life**

Refer to Galatians 5:22–23. Do they demonstrate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? These are the fruits of the Spirit found in the obedient.

### **2. Listen to Their Speech**

Matthew 12:34 and James 3:10 emphasize that the mouth reveals the heart. Obedient people speak blessings, truth, and wisdom. The disobedient speak curses, lies, and strife.

### **3. Test Their Response to God's Word**

Psalms 50:16–17 warns of those who quote Scripture but reject correction. The obedient honor and follow the Word. The disobedient ignore or twist it.

### **4. Observe Their Reaction to Authority and Instruction**

Proverbs 13:10 reveals that pride breeds strife. Obedient individuals receive instruction with humility. The disobedient resist or rebel against godly authority.

### **5. Check for Consistency in Behavior**

Psalms 15 describes the one who dwells with God as consistent in speech, action, and integrity. Obedience is not part-time—it shows up in every aspect of life.

### **6. Watch for Works of the Flesh**

Galatians 5:19–21 lists the works of the flesh: adultery, hatred, jealousy, selfish ambition, etc. Those who consistently exhibit these are not walking in obedience.

### **7. Evaluate Their Influence on Others**

Matthew 7:15–20 says false prophets are known by their fruits. Do they cause others to grow closer to God or to stumble in sin?

## **8. Observe Their Peace-Making or Peace-Breaking Nature**

Matthew 5:9 and James 3:18 highlight peacemakers as children of God. The obedient seek peace; the disobedient stir division.

## **9. Test Their Counsel Against Deuteronomy 13**

Even if someone performs wonders, if they lead people away from obedience to God's commandments, they are false. Obedient individuals point others to God, not away from Him.

## **10. Do They Endure in Righteousness?**

Galatians 5:7—"You ran well; who hindered you?" Obedience is not a moment, but a lifestyle. True obedience endures and grows.

### **Scriptural Principles Reinforcing Obedience vs. Disobedience**

1 Samuel 15:22-23 – "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

Hosea 6:6 – "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Matthew 12:7 – "If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

James 2:13 – "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

James 3:16 – "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."