

## **The Warning Hidden in the Obedience of Demons and the Gift of Free Will.**

*Written in truth and instruction by John, servant and disciple of Christ, Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry*

Brothers and sisters, there is a truth we must understand if we want to walk in the power and purity God calls us to. Matthew reminded us that the demons believe and tremble. That statement is not given to compare us to them. It is given to warn us that belief without obedience and repentance has no saving power.

Demons do not love God, yet they obey when He speaks. This does not mean demons lack free will. Satan chose rebellion by his own will. The angels who followed him chose it by their own will. Their fall was the result of their decision, not because they lacked the freedom to choose otherwise. They still have free will today, yet when the command of God confronts them directly, they cannot resist His authority. Their will is free, but His authority is absolute.

Look at Job. Satan could not touch Job until God permitted it. In Job 1:12 God allowed him to strike Job's possessions but commanded that he could not touch Job's body. Satan obeyed the boundary exactly. In Job 2:6 God permitted him to strike Job's health but commanded that he could not take Job's life. Again, Satan obeyed the boundary. His will was free. His fear of God's authority forced him to stay within the limits God set. Even the ruler of darkness trembles before the command of the Almighty.

We see the same pattern in the Gospels. Demons begged Christ for permission in Mark 5:7 to 13 before they moved. In Luke 4:33 to 35 they left the man the moment Christ commanded. In Matthew 8:31 to 32 they asked to enter the pigs and waited until He said Go. They did not obey because they loved Him. They obeyed because the fear of the Lord is real, and His authority cannot be resisted when He speaks.

This is the warning to the ministry. Demons have free will, but they obey when confronted with the authority of God. Believers claim to love God, yet many resist His commands even though they carry the same authority that demons fear. Demons tremble before the Holy One. Many believers no longer tremble at all.

The fear of the Lord is the dividing line. Demons fear God but do not repent. Their fear is terror, not surrender. Their obedience is forced, not willing. They believe, but their belief produces nothing but dread. In contrast, the fear of the Lord for the believer is holy reverence. It produces repentance. It produces obedience that comes from the heart. It produces humility, transformation, and a desire to honor the God who saved us.

Free will is the place where salvation is proven. God does not remove our ability to choose. He calls us to use our will to surrender to His. Satan used his will to rebel. Demons used their will to follow him. Every believer must use their will to follow Christ and crucify the sin that resists Him. Saving faith is not forced obedience. It is the willing obedience that flows from the fear of the Lord and the love of His truth.

This is why belief alone is not salvation. Demons believe. Demons tremble. Demons obey when He speaks directly. Yet they are condemned because they refuse repentance and refuse surrender. Their free will chooses rebellion even while their fear forces obedience when confronted with God's command.

Many today confuse obedience by feeling with obedience by faith. They say within themselves, "I cannot obey that command because it feels forced," as if the authority of God must first be measured by the comfort of their emotions.

But obedience does not begin with agreement. It begins with surrender. When we obey only what we agree with, we are not following God. We are following ourselves.

God never asked us to feel that His commandments were convenient. He asked us to keep them because we love Him. Love does not wait for comfort. Love chooses obedience even when the flesh resists. If our obedience depends on our mood, our comfort, or our understanding, then our obedience is still self-centered, not God-centered.

Demons obey when God commands, yet their obedience is without love. Many believers disobey when God commands, because they obey only when they feel like it.

Both reveal hearts disconnected from true love.

To God, obedience without love is forced fear, and love without obedience is empty talk.

When a person says, “I do not want to obey because it feels like I am losing my free will,” they have already chosen rebellion. God does not see that as confusion. He sees it as lack of love. Because love, in His eyes, is proven only through obedience, especially when it costs us our will.

So, what does this say to us? It says that a believer who claims faith yet refuses obedience is walking beneath the level of obedience shown by the very spirits that oppose Heaven. It says our issue is not the absence of free will. Our issue is the absence of the fear of the Lord. Without the fear of the Lord, free will becomes the doorway to rebellion. With the fear of the Lord, free will becomes the doorway to holiness.

Let every person examine themselves. If God speaks through His Word and we resist Him, then the problem is not confusion. The problem is that we have not allowed the fear of the Lord to shape our choices. The ministry cannot walk in power without walking in obedience. And obedience cannot exist without surrendering our will to His.

But here is the hope. God does not turn away the heart that responds. He restores. He cleanses. He changes the will. He gives strength to obey. He teaches us to fear Him in a way that brings life, peace, and holiness.

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**For a deeper study on John's message see the following study: B3-C02-S06- "The fear of the Lord".**