

## OBEDIENCE PRINCIPLE

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True obedience is submission to authority in our heart and in our actions

Don't just 'say' but **obey** - Matthew 21:28-31

Teach to **obey** everything Jesus commanded his disciples - Matt.28:20

Jesus obeyed God fully - John 8:29      Obedience brings revelation - John 7:17

God wants **Total obedience** - Psalm 119:4      (partial obedience is disobedience)

God wants **Joyful obedience** - Psalm 119:14      (not grudging or murmuring obedience)

God wants **Instant obedience** - Psalm 119:60      (delayed obedience is disobedience)

Obedience to: \*God - Acts 5:29    \* Faith - Acts 6:7    \* Truth - Galatians 5:7

\*Gospel - Romans 1:5, 16:26

\* Rulers/authorities - Titus 3:1-3; Romans 13:1-2; Hebrews 13:1-2

Paul was set apart to call people to **obedience** that comes from faith - Romans 8:5

God wants all nations to believe and **obey** Him. - Romans 16:25

The gospel has truths that belong together in sequence: repentance and faith.....

then faith and obedience. If we truly believe in Jesus, we will follow and obey Him.

(Obedience to God sometimes overrules obedience to authorities. - Exodus 1:15-20;

Daniel 3:4-6,12-30...three to fiery furnace; Daniel chapter 6 / Daniel disobeys prayer law and is thrown to lions den... he sleeps well while the king is sleepless!)

Obedience is essential in order to live with God forever. Disobedience is dangerous.

'.....when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power on the day He comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 NIV

'For a long time I have believed that truth, to be understood, must be lived; that Bible doctrine is wholly ineffective until it has been digested and assimilated by the total life. There is a vast difference between fact and truth. Truth in the Scriptures is more than a fact. A fact may be detached, impersonal, cold and totally disassociated from life.

Truth, on the other hand, is warm, living and spiritual. A theological fact can be held in the mind for years and have no positive effect on moral character. Truth is creative, saving, transforming and it always changes the one who receives it into a humbler and holier man. At what point, then, does a theological fact become for the one who holds it a life-giving truth? **At that point where obedience begins.**

Theological facts are like the altar of Elijah on Carmel before the fire came: correct, properly laid out but altogether cold. When the heart makes the ultimate surrender, the fire falls and true facts are transmuted into spiritual truth that transforms, enlightens and sanctifies. The person that is Bible taught without being Spirit taught has simply failed to see that truth lies deeper than the theological statement of it. We only possess what we experience. The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still.

To escape the error of salvation by works we have fallen into the opposite error of salvation without obedience.' - A.W. Tozer

Charles Finney is considered America's greatest revivalist. When I was age 28, I read his book: Revival of Religion, and that subject has drawn my interest ever since. I have read about various revivals in history and would like to experience one some day on a larger scale. Revivals have many external and internal manifestations, however, we will focus here on what Finney said about revival: **'Revival is fresh obedience to the will of God'**.

### **The Kingdom of God :**

1. Where Jesus Christ is recognized as **king**.
2. Where His will is **obeyed**.
3. Where His subjects reap the benefits of **obedience**. - David Mains

Obedience to Jesus' teaching validates that its truth is from God. - John 7:17

Obedience proves our love for God and He then manifests his love for us. - John 14:21-23

Obedience proves our friendship and brings intimacy with God. - John 15:10,14

My Dad loved horses and we had many on our dairy farm. My brother-in-law was recruited when a wild one needed to be tamed. He was fearless as he brought the horse to a place of submission to the authority of its rider. I would later learn from experience that horses can sense when one is afraid of them.

**Jesus is training us to reign** with Him in this life and the next. A wild colt needs to be broken so it will be useful to its master. When Jesus, the Prince of Peace sat on a wild colt....He became its master.- Luke 19:29-35.

### **Here are five steps to tame a wild colt or person.**

- Their **will** must:
1. Recognize the voice of authority
  2. Respond by faith to the master's voice.
  3. Refuse to listen to other voices
  4. Yield all rights
  5. Submit to the master and let him take the reins.

I remember our horse Flash. He was fast and hard to stop. We put barbed wire at the lower part of the bridle to keep him under control (I know that sounds bad). However, how often do we force God to do extreme measures to get our attention? (I learned many years later that there are techniques with the reins to prevent a horse from bucking or getting out of control.)

We had another horse named Beauty, she was so gentle, even a young child was safe on her. She was very slow to get into motion. I remember one day that I had to push off from the side of the house to get her going. Sometimes we are slow to obey God.

The Welsh Revival of 1904-1905 - 100,000 converted in 6 months and 4 things that occurred:

- \* People put away any unconfessed sin
- \* People put away any doubtful habits
- \* They **obeyed** the Holy Spirit promptly
- \* They confessed Christ publicly

God wants to take over the reins of our life so that we will live life to the fullest. When Jesus began his ministry, John the Baptist was there to proclaim.....

**‘the ax is at the root of the trees’**

God refers to humans as trees - Psalm 1:3. The root of a tree is the conduit from which it draws water and nourishment. For man, his spirit or heart is the root of his nature, therefore God must change us from the inside out. God’s order is mentioned by the apostle Paul.....

.....**spirit**, soul and body.....- 1 Thessalonians 5:23

This begins when we are born again (a topic covered in another message).

**We are being trained to reign with Christ. God starts with our heart attitudes.**

We must first learn to reign over our fears, greed, thoughts, time, temptations, trouble and our tongue! Sermon the Mount covers those. Matthew 5-7. Jesus begins the sermon with the **Beatitudes** / Beautiful attitudes that **display Christ’s character** and kingdom lifestyle Matthew 5:1-10 (we have a complete section on this website on this wonderful topic)

**BLESSED** = Happy, life joy and satisfaction in God’s favor regardless of outward conditions

<b>AX TO ROOTS</b>	<b>KINGDOM ATTITUDES</b>	<b>BLESSINGS</b>
1. Proud heart	Poor in spirit / humble heart	Kingdom of heaven access now
2. Apathetic heart	Mourns / sensitive heart	Will be comforted
3. Stubborn heart	Meek / yielded will/heart	Will Inherit the earth
4. Self-righteousness	(like wild stallion under the reins of master) Hunger and thirst for Righteousness	Filled and fulfilled
5. Heartless	Merciful	Will be shown mercy
6. Mixed motives	Pure in heart, single focused	Will see God continually
7. Division/ Discord	Peace makers	Called mature sons of God
8. Persecutors Lying tongue	Persecuted for Righteousness Persecuted for Jesus’ sake	Kingdom of heaven now Great reward in heaven

Prayer: Holy Father in heaven, only you can transforms hearts and wills from proud to humble, apathetic to caring, stubborn to pliable, self-righteous to compassionate, heartless to merciful, compromised to pure. Give me a heart transplant. I want your heart, the same one of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I will be forever grateful. Thank you. Amen.

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