



**Rejoice Learning Center**  
USA, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh,  
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Benin

## **Lesson 3: Believing Is Obeying**

### **Today we discuss:**

1. Why is believing obeying?
2. Jesus is Lord. Are you obeying your boss?
3. Obedient people in the bible.
4. Disobedient people in the bible.

### **BREAK**

5. Jesus warned: the disobedient will not inherit his kingdom.
6. Different kinds of faith mentioned in scripture.
7. What is needed to be obedient?
8. Results of obedience.

**We learn:** When we obey God, we prove that we love him. Obedience is mandatory to enter into his kingdom.

### **1. Why is believing obeying?**

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.

#### **We are commanded to love God. But how can we love him?**

**Jesus said in John 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments".

**Jesus said in John 14:23** "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."

**John inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote in 1 John 5:3** In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

**Moses, Mary, and God the Father** said that we should do whatever Jesus tells us to do – we must listen to him.

We obey the Lord because we love him.

**1. John 4:19** We love him because he first loved us.

## 2. Jesus is Lord: Are you obeying your boss?

### **The Wise and Foolish Builders: true faith means we obey**

**Matthew 7:24-27**<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the wind blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and **does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

### **Philippians 2:12-13**

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

## 3. Obedient people in the bible.

### **Jesus demonstrated obedience while in this world.**

**John 12:49-50 Jesus said:** <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

→ He was instructed by the Holy Spirit and walked in obedience to the spirit.

### **He submitted Himself fully to the Father's will.**

**Philippians 2:8** says, "...He humbled Himself and became **obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

### **Was obedience easy for Jesus? In the Garden of Gethsemane it wasn't:**

Matthew 26:38....Jesus began to feel sorrow and distress. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them (his disciples), "My soul is sorrowful even to death.

Matthew 26:39: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

**Hebrews 5:8-9** states, "Though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience** by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey Him.**"

→ Jesus was led by the holy spirit, and we also, once we are born again, must follow the leading of the holy spirit.

**Abraham, the father of faith, believed and obeyed.**

**Genesis 12:1-4** <sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram: **Go forth from your land**, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will find blessing in you. <sup>4</sup> **Abram went as the Lord directed him**, and Lot went with him.

**Genesis 22:1-18 God tested Abraham's faith.**

<sup>2</sup> Then God said: **Take your son Isaac**, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There **offer him up as a burnt offering** on one of the heights that I will point out to you.

**Hebrews 11:17-19** Abraham obeyed, believing that God could even raise Isaac from the dead if necessary.

**Joshua demonstrated faith and obedience throughout his life.**

**In Joshua 6:3-5 we see one example of his obedience, the Lord said to**

**him:** <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

→ Joshua obeyed, and his obedience led to a miraculous victory.

**Noah's story is found in Genesis 6–9:**

**Genesis 6:9** Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

**Genesis 6:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress<sup>[c]</sup> wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: (a set of precise instructions follow.)

**Genesis 6:<sup>22</sup>** Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household. Through this he condemned the world and inherited the righteousness that comes through faith.

**Gideon** was obedient and tore down idols in the middle of the night.

**Judges 6:25-32** <sup>25</sup> That same night the Lord said to Gideon, "Take the bull that belongs to your father and a second bull seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole (Canaanite fertility goddess) beside it. <sup>26</sup> Then build an altar to the Lord your God with its stones in the right order on this high ground [stronghold]. Kill and burn a second bull on this altar, using the wood from the Asherah idol."<sup>27</sup> **So Gideon got ten of his servants and did what the Lord had told him to do. But Gideon was afraid that his family and the men of the city might see him, so he did it at night, not in the daytime.**

**David** inquired of the Lord and obeyed when the Lord told him to pursue his enemies.

**1 Samuel 30:8-9**, David asks the Lord if he should pursue a group of Amalekites who had raided his town, and the Lord instructs him to go after them, assuring him of victory.

**The Apostles understood obedience.**

The religious authorities forbade the apostles to speak in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 5:29** **Peter** and the other apostles boldly proclaimed:

"We must obey God rather than men".

**Romans 1:5** **Paul** said he received grace and apostleship "to call all the gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for His name's sake."

**1 John 2:3-4**, **John** wrote: "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

## 4. Disobedient people in the bible.

**Adam and Eve** were deceived by the devil.

In Genesis 2, God tells Adam that he can eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 3:9-12** Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> **And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"**<sup>12</sup> Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

### **Israel was rebellious and full of unbelief.**

The history of Israel serves as a warning against unbelief. Despite witnessing God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt, many Israelites rebelled against God and died.

### **The Wilderness Generation (Numbers 14:26-35).**

After being miraculously delivered from Egypt, the Israelites refused to trust and obey God and Moses. They also rebelled against the only two who were faithful: Joshua and Caleb.

**Result:** They perished in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land

**Numbers 14:20-23** <sup>20</sup> The Lord answered: ...<sup>21</sup> ...by my life and the Lord's glory that fills the whole earth,<sup>22</sup> of all the people who have seen my glory and the signs I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and who nevertheless have put me to the test ten times already and **have not obeyed me**, <sup>23</sup> **not one shall see the land which I promised on oath to their ancestors. None of those who have spurned (rejected) me shall see it.**

### **The Time of the Judges (Judges 2:10-23)**

The book of Judges describes how the Israelites would repeatedly turn away from God to follow idols. The result was their defeat. When they repented, God would deliver them, but their pattern of disobedience made life hard for them.

### **The Time of The Kings: The Fall of Israel and Judah**

Out of the approx. 40 Kings only 8 were good.

Despite numerous warnings from prophets, both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah fell into idolatry and rebellion against God's commands.

Their disobedience ultimately led to their exile—Israel by Assyria in 722 BC and Judah by Babylon in 586 BC (2 Kings 17:7-23, 2 Chronicles 36:15-21).

Israel's history is a reminder that **disobedience leads to destruction.**

### **Lot's wife disobeyed and looked back at sinful Sodom and Gomorrah.**

**Genesis 19:** <sup>15</sup> With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

(They commanded them not to look back.)

<sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife looked back, and **she became a pillar of salt.**

### **King Saul: Partial Obedience Is Still Disobedience.**

King Saul was commanded to totally destroy the Amalekites, but instead, he spared King Agag and the best livestock, justifying his disobedience by claiming he intended to offer sacrifices to God.

**1 Samuel 15:22-23:**"And Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination (witchcraft), and presumption (stubbornness) is as iniquity and idolatry. **Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.**"

**Ananias and Sapphira:** In Acts 5, they disobeyed and received immediate judgment.

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about the profit from the sale of their property. They died because of that. This act of disobedience serves as a firm warning to the early church about the seriousness of sin. **The fear of God was installed to the early church through that immediate judgment.**

**The Church in Corinth engaged in sexual immorality and idols.**

**1 Corinthians 10:21** Paul said that they can't partake from the cup of our Lord Jesus Christ and at the same time partake of the table of devils. -→ **1. Corinthians 6:9-10 No sexually immoral or idolater will inherit the kingdom of God.**

**Titus 1:16** **They (people following the law or tradition of man, people rejecting the truth)** profess to know God, but by their deeds, they deny Him, being detestable, disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

## **5. Jesus warned: the disobedient will not inherit his kingdom.**

**Warning for Ministers: Matthew 7:21-23: (Jesus speaking)** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

### **Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the talents**

A master gave his servants talents. Two multiplied their talents, but one servant did nothing with his given talent. **The lazy servant said:**

<sup>25</sup> I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! .....

<sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### **Warning for all Children: Luke 13:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. <sup>25</sup> Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' <sup>26</sup> **"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.** <sup>27</sup> "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

## **6. Different kinds of faith mentioned in scripture**

- **Dead faith: James 2:17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- **Demonic Faith: James 2:19** Even demons believe and shudder at the name of Jesus. (Demonic faith is a mere intellectual faith.)

- **Vain Faith: Matthew 7:21-23** Not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those **who do** the will of the Father.

- **Saving Faith 1 Peter 1: 8-9:** Though you have not seen him, **you love him**; and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him** and are filled with an **inexpressible and glorious joy**, **9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

## 7. What is needed to be obedient?

### 7.1. The Word of God

The Word of God informs us about God's will and his ways. His ways are higher than our ways. We are commanded in Proverbs not to lean on our own understanding. We need to surrender and trust the Word of God.

To align our lives with God's will, we must study the word, meditate on it, and apply it. **James 1:22** warns us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Romans 12:2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### 7.2. The Power of the Holy Spirit

Obedience to God is not something we can accomplish in our strength. Our human nature is weak, and apart from Christ, we can do nothing (John 15:5). This is why God has given us the Holy Spirit—to empower us to live a life of obedience.

**Romans 8:13-14**, "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.  
For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

**Galatians 5:16** instructs us to "walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

**Obedience to God is not just a matter of following rules; it is an act of faith. We trust the voice of the Holy Spirit over our thinking.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** reminds us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."



## 8. Results of Obedience.

### **We have a good character: the fruit of the spirit.**

**Galatians 5:22-23** <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### **We have good works.**

**Ephesians 2:10** <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Matthew 5:16** <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your **good deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **We have peace.**

Psalms 119:165 declares, "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble."

### **We bear much fruit.**

**John 15:5** If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

### **We receive blessings.**

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2** promises, "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all His commands, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God."

### **We receive a promotion.**

**Matthew 25:23** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**Luke 16:10** Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

### **We receive eternal salvation.**

**Heb 5:8–10** Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of **eternal salvation for all who obey him** and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

**Matthew 24:13** Jesus said, "But the one who endures to the end will be saved"

### **We receive rewards.**

**Galatians 6:9** (Paul speaking) "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap a reward, if we do not lose heart."

Those who continue in obedience, trusting in God's promises, will receive the ultimate reward—eternal life with Christ.

### **We receive a crown: The bible mentions 5 names to describe the crown.**

#### **The Imperishable Crown – We are Kings forever.**

**1. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25** "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [disciplined] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown"

#### **2. The Crown of Rejoicing – We bring people into the kingdom.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"

#### **3. The Crown of Righteousness – for living righteously to the end.**

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 (Paul writing)** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day."

#### **4. The Crown of Glory – it will not fade.**

**1 Peter 5:4 Peter is addressing the elders:** "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."

#### **5. The Crown of Life – We love (obey) God.**

**Revelation 2:10** "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you **the crown of life.**"

**James 1:12 James tells** us that this crown of life is for all **those who love God.**

And we learned today that loving God means obeying God!

### **We will receive an inheritance.**

**1 Peter 1:4** an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"