

## ACTS OF OBEDIENCE

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*“ If ye love me, keep my commandments.” Jn 14:15*

There is a common misunderstanding throughout Christendom that needs to be addressed.

We as a people have been led astray by the hardness of our hearts. We do not take the time to truly consider what the Love of God is, Who it is and what that means when we read God's word. We generally read the bible from a worldly perspective. We have not read it from a heart of love. Therefore, we have missed a vitally important motivational factor when we act on God's word.

Let's go back to Exodus 20

*. And God spake all these words, saying,*

*2. I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

*3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

*5. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

*6. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

*7. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

*8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

*9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

*11. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

*12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

*13. Thou shalt not kill.*

*14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*15. Thou shalt not steal.*

*16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

*17. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

It is sad to say, but most people no longer even know the ten commandments of God. It is obvious to see as we look in the world around us. The commandments were given as law, they were to serve as a plumbline; a standard by which we were to measure our actions. These were given as rules for people who did not have a personal relationship with God. Yet, were God's people.

When we do not have a personal relationship with the God, we will always be looking for loopholes to escape the law. We will not keep His commandments, we will not have fresh words from God to act on in our lives either.

God is love. Everything God does or says is motivated by His love. His very essence is love. Not the mushy, emotional type of love. His love is pure, the frequency of His love is pure. The motivations of His love is pure.

We, as people, may only have glimpses of this type of love. The more time we spend with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the more of this love will be emitting from us too.

We, as Christians, are not supposed to obey God's commands because we fear His wrath. We obey them and Him because we are motivated by love and our relationship with Him. I don't disobey because I'm afraid. I obey because of the Love I have for my Father. What has He done to me, but love me, that I should betray Him?

*“He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.” Jn 14:24*

God is always speaking to us. Are we always listening? Are we always obeying?

Look around in the church right now. What do you see? Do you see the love of God in action? Or does the church look like the world?

Ministers of God, are falling into deception. Wrongly falling on the Grace and Mercy of God to justify sin. Sin is motivated by the flesh and the desire to fulfill carnal desires. We have cried for too long...“the devil made me do it”. Wrong...he might have introduced the thought but WE choose to do it.

We do not obey, because of the lack of love in our hearts. The lack of love comes from the lack of time we have spent getting to know our heavenly Father.

We have caused our lives to be judge, unwittingly. How? Through not acting when God commands us to do something. What does that mean?

How often have you felt prompted to give something you have to someone? Money, food, clothes, a car, furniture...something. How quickly did you move when you were prompted or told directly by God to do that?

YOU are supposed to be the answer to someone else's prayer. Yes you. When you do not obey God, through the hardness of your heart. You cause someone's prayers to go unanswered, and that reflects on God.

We may find reasons for our disobedience like “those people didn't look like they needed that.” When God tells us to do something we are just supposed to say, “Yes, sir.”

God will allow people to cross our paths that have needs on purpose. He will give us a command. Based on our obedience to that command we will either be judge or blessed.

We must ask the Lord to help us to be immediately obedient. Delay can mean disaster. Do you want that held to your account when you stand before the throne?

When God tells you to give something, or to do something for someone. Do it as quickly as possible. This will also release an answer to your prayers into your life. The more outrageous the command the more likely it is God. What if I miss God. You cannot miss God in giving, as long as you believe the Lord was telling you to do it. You don't give because someone is begging, you give because the Lord told you to. If you see your brother in need and are able to help them, you are to do so. Right then.

The greatest blessing I received from obedience was not in giving to some new church building plan, it was in giving to an individual in need.

We are deceived in our hearts when we think God is O.K. with our disobedience. He's not. How often have I heard, “God told me I was supposed to do...but I haven't, or I didn't” Do you think He is alright with that? No, He's not. Yet, we want more of God. We expect God to pour out more of His presence and trust us with more, when we haven't been faithful with what He's already entrusted us with... His name and reputation.

I will give you some examples in my life and others of waiting for answered prayers.

Years ago, in the 90's I was believing God for a van. My family was growing and I needed a larger vehicle. I had an old Chrysler Newport car at the time. It was a boat of

a car. The Lord told me to give my only car to a minister. A man, who could not even drive. I obeyed the Lord and gave the man my car. I thought surely I would be receiving my van in no time since I had obeyed God. I didn't. I walked for 2 ½ years. During this time I was continually before the Lord, questioning. Did I hear you correctly? Where's my van? Where's any vehicle? Believe me I was asking a lot of questions as I would have to walk with my twin boys in a stroller with a large bag sewn on the back so I could carry my groceries home. I questioned God. I questioned what I heard. I questioned my own obedience. I got angry with God. Why are you making me walk, I obeyed? Finally the Lord told me, "I've told 5 people to give you cars, none of them have obeyed." At the end of 2 ½ years someone did finally obey. They are now driving a nice new vehicle. That's when I found out about the judging for disobedience. One of the people the Lord had spoke to came to me and told me. They had received a large sum of money. The Lord had told them to buy me a car. They didn't. Because of the their disobedience they had lost all the money in one year.

What about the minister I gave my car to. His daughter was driving in that big old boat of a car one day. She was parked at a stop light when another car ran through a light and hit her going 40 mph. She walked away from that accident. If she had been driving any other car she would have been killed. My obedience saved her life.

The Lord blessed me to see what my obedience did, but sometimes He doesn't and we still need to obey.

A friend of mine was telling me the other day of an instance in her life where she had been praying for some postage stamps. She needed to mail something and didn't have the money to buy stamps. She was unable to send what she needed because the stamps didn't come in time. She said, about a month later someone came up to her and told her God had said to bring stamps to my friend. The person reasoned in their mind, surely they can get stamps and therefore didn't bring them. That person missed an opportunity to obey God and be a blessing.

Another time the Lord had told me to get rid of my bed. It was a nice heated water bed and I liked it. I had gone through a divorce though and God told me to get rid of it. I didn't have the money to go out and buy another bed but I acted on what I was told. I found someone to give my bed to. I reminded the Lord that I really didn't like to sleep on the floor and asked Him for a new bed. The day I was to get rid of my bed a neighbor came over and asked me if I needed any mattresses. They said they were getting a new mattress and was going to put their old one in their guest room because it was larger than the one already in there. They said it's only been slept in about three times. Of course, I said yes. Thank you very much.

God uses people to answer our prayers. You could be the answer to someone else's prayer. Our acts of obedience or disobedience will either cause us to be blessed or

cursed.

I want to encourage you. When God tells you to do something. Do it immediately. Someone's life could be at stake. Don't look at the people, just obey God. Don't assume that just because people appear to live a certain way they don't need what you have. We are called to be stewards with our time, money, talent and belongings. We are to be channels of blessings.

Repent for times when God has told you to do something and you didn't. Even if was just to make a phone call. Ask Him to forgive your disobedience. If it's possible, for you to obey a previous command. Do so. Ask the Lord for His love to be shed abroad in your heart. Begin to spend more time with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You become what you focus your attention on. Set your focus on the Love of God, His very being, then you will be transformed into His image.

God bless you.