

Jesus' prayer for believers

Obedience to His Word

Sir Leonard Wood once visited the King of France and the King was so pleased with him he was invited for dinner the next day. Sir Leonard went to the palace and the King meeting him in one of the halls, said, "Why, Sir Leonard, I did not expect to see you. How is it that you are here?" "Did not your majesty invite me to dine with you?" said the astonished guest. "Yes," replied the King, "but you did not answer my invitation." Then it was that Sir Leonard Wood uttered one of the choicest sentences of his life. He replied, "A king's invitation is never to be answered, but to be *obeyed*."

John 17:6-8

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

1) Obedience isn't an optional extra

- Jesus revealed the Father to us and passed His Word on to us
 - If we have had a revelation of the Sovereign Father and His Word, we will know that He is a God to be obeyed
 - Imagine a king who dresses like everyone else and mingles with the crowd. No one recognizes him and when he tells people what to do they don't listen to him. Who is he to tell them what to do? Then his royal entourage, who had been looking for him, arrive and reveal him for who he really is – the king. Suddenly, those who didn't listen to him start jumping in obedience to his every word. Now this is different. He is their king who they are subject to
 - So, when we know who God is we will obey Him by nature of Him being our sovereign and we His subjects
- Jesus was clear that doing the will of God was essential for entering the kingdom of God
 - Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- If you know that God loves you, you should never question a directive from Him. It will always be right and best. When He gives you a directive, you are not just to observe it, discuss it, or debate it. You are to obey it.

Henry Blackaby
- There are numerous examples of obedience that impacted the world
 - Noah obeyed God and built the ark, thus preserving human heritage
 - Abraham obeyed God and left his home in Ur to go to the land that God had promised him, which was part of God's purposes for all people
 - Jonah eventually obeyed God leading to the salvation of the people of Nineveh
 - Jesus obeyed the Father and went to the cross resulting in the atonement of the sins of all people and the salvation of all who believe
- Disobedience to God is, in essence, the same as rebellion.
 - It's saying to God that I we don't recognize His authority over our lives and that we will do what we want to do
 - Adam and Eve disobeyed God and plunged the world into sin and darkness
- We then need to ask ourselves what the positive impact would be on others if we walk in obedience to God, and what the negative impact would be if we live in disobedience to God

2) The roots of obedience

- John 17:8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.
- The first root of obedience is faith
 - Romans 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.
 - Romans 16:25-26 Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith.
 - The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin.
A. W. Tozer
- All the examples of obedience obeyed because they believed God
 - Noah believed God and thus obeyed by building an ark
 - Abraham believed God and thus obeyed by leaving his home and family for another place
- We are saved by faith that leads to obedience. We aren't saved by obedience without faith
 - Obedience is a fruit of salvation. Without obedience there is no faith, regardless of what we say
 - Matthew 7:16-20 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
- The second root of obedience is love for Jesus
 - John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.
- We don't obey because of fear or obligation, but because of love for God
 - When I was in the army, I obeyed my corporals and sergeants, but I didn't love them
 - Obedience comes from love of God, but love of God never comes from obedience

3) Obedience as a lifestyle

- Psalms 119:1-5 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— they do no wrong but follow his ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!
- Faith is constant and love is constant, therefore obedience is also constant in life.
- We cannot obey when we feel like it. God remains sovereign over our lives at all times throughout our lives and we are expected to love and obey Him throughout our lives
- Obedience is lived on two levels
 - That which is stipulated for all believers at all times
 - Random acts of obedience where God wants us to do something specific, like go encourage someone who might be going through something that we don't know anything about

- Commands of Christ to be obeyed
 - Repent and believe
 - Mark 1:15 He said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
 - Be baptized
 - Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 - The Lord's supper – communion
 - Luke 22:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
 - Love God, one another, and your enemies
 - Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
 - Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
 - Pray
 - Matthew 6:9 This, then, is how you should pray:
 - Forgive
 - Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
 - Give
 - Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
 - Make disciples
 - Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."