

Lesson 7: The Obedient Christian Life

INTRODUCTION

In order to live a victorious Christian life, a servant of God must make a decision to live in obedience to his Master, making Him the center and Lord of everything he does. It is an essential factor to our Christian growth.

OUTLINE

I. REASONS FOR OBEDIENCE

1. God deserves my obedience because of who He is and what He does for me (Galatians 2:20).
2. God commands every believer to be obedient to Him (Deuteronomy 10:12-13, James 1:22)
3. It is the only way to prove my love for Him (John 14:15,21; I John 5:3).
4. It is a prerequisite to living a life of blessings (Deuteronomy 8:1).

II. HINDRANCES TO OBEDIENCE

1. The Flesh

The flesh refers to our sinful nature or selfish natural desires. We experience battles within us at times because the flesh desires those that are contrary to the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-21).

2. The Devil

It has always been the Devil's purpose to blind unbelievers from their need of God and to deceive, tempt and distract us so as to make us ineffective for God (2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:3).

3. The World

The "world" refers to the world's system, values, philosophy and purposes which are in direct opposition to the ways of God (I John 2:15-17).

III. INNER OBEDIENCE

True obedience is not only done by outwardly following the commandments of God. The Pharisees in Jesus' time were guilty of legalism and hypocrisy because they honored God with their mouth and deeds while keeping their hearts away from the Lord (Matthew 15:7-9).

1. Obedience with our heart

We cannot be truly obedient to God if we put our relationships, work, finances and hobbies ahead of God. Being obedient to God with your heart simply means loving God more than anything else.

2. Obedience with our will

Complete dedication of oneself to God is necessary to be obedient to the Lord. It means to be one hundred percent committed to following God's will.

3. Obedience with our mind

Obedience to God requires knowledge of His Word, principles and values. No person can be truly obedient to God without knowing what pleases Him. Knowledge of the Bible helps us in making good decisions and in living out God's plan for us.

IV. STEPS TO OBEDIENCE**1. Saturate yourself with Biblical knowledge**

Develop a love for the Word of God (Job 23:12; Psalm 119:23). In order to see clearly what God intends for us to do, one must develop a growing knowledge of God's Word. In addition to reading the Scriptures, other activities that may help us to be grounded in God's Word include memorizing Scriptures, listening to sound Christian music, watching Christian films, etc.

2. Be prepared to struggle

Obedience to God will always mean a struggle against the world and human reasoning (Proverbs 1:6-7). It is important to realize that inner struggles are also likely to be experienced by those who will choose to obey God (Romans 7:15).

3. Rely on God's power alone

We cannot be obedient to God by our strength and ability, we need the power of God to accomplish His will (Philippians 4:13)

4. Maintain a healthy attitude

To be obedient to God, one must develop the attitudes of sincerity and delight in doing the will of God (Luke 8:15; Psalm 40:8).

5. Leave everything to God's care

Learn to trust the Lord in prayer (Isaiah 40:31). Trust His goodness for the consequences of your obedience to God (Proverbs 16:3).

CONCLUSION

Obedience is an important ingredient in living a life that is pleasing to the Lord --- an outward conformity of an inward attitude of submission to God's will.

Knowing the importance of obedience to God, a commitment to obey God becomes necessary in one's Christian life.