



# Obeying His Commands

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*(Various Scriptures)*

## **Choosing Jesus**

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- C** — Choosing Jesus
- H** — Holding to His Word
- O** — Obeying His Commands
- O** — Opening Your Life to Community
- S** — Serving the Kingdom
- I** — Investing in Others
- N** — Nurturing Faithfulness
- G** — Glorifying God

## ◆ Review

This is the third lesson in our Jesus Journey series.

### **C - Choosing Jesus**

Choose to follow Jesus, surrendering your life to Him and beginning your journey of faith.

### **H - Holding to His Word**

Choose to root yourself in Scripture, for the sake of knowing Him and growing to spiritual maturity.

- Jesus is the very Word of God — He is eternal. By His word, He brought everything into being, He holds everything together. His Word never fails.
- We are called to Abide in His Word - which will teaches the Truth, and will bring us true freedom.
- The Word helps us fulfill our destiny - leading us to be complete in Jesus, and to the specific work that God has for each of us. (It helps us Be what we are to Be, Do what we are to Do, and Go where we are to Go.)
- And we talked through some practical ways to fill our lives with the Word of God.

*The next stage of our Jesus Journey...*

### **O - Obeying His Commands**

Choose obedience, prioritizing God's will above everything else, and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your character and actions to reflect Christ.

- **Illustration:** “As long as you live in my house, you’ll follow my rules.”

## ◆ #1 — A True Disciple Desires God's Will

**(John 7:16-17) —**

So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup> *If anyone's will is to do God's will*, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

This is what separates those who choose Jesus and those who don't.

### ◆ What does the Bible say about desiring God's will?

#### JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE (THE FATHER'S WILL WAS HIS PRIMARY FOCUS)

- (John 6:38) — For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
- The Lord's prayer: (Matthew 6:10) — Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- His prayer in the Garden: (Matthew 26:38–39) — Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

#### THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF REPENTANCE

- (Luke 9:23) — ...“If anyone would come after me, let him *deny himself* and take up his cross daily and follow me.” — Following Jesus is a choice to lay down (*turn from*) our own will for our lives and to choose God's will for our lives.
- (Romans 12:2) — Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the *will of God*, what is *good* and *acceptable* and *perfect*.
- **NOTE:** We suffer great frustration in life when we are clinging to what we want and are not surrendering to what God wants.

## ◆ #2 — A True Disciple Does God's Will

(James 1:22-25) —

But be *doers of the word*, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but *a doer who acts*, he will be blessed in his doing.

Obedience requires action. If we are not *acting* (in obedience) then we are in disobedience.

● **NOTE:** You don't actually believe the Word of God unless you obey it.

## ◆ What does the Bible say about doing God's will?

### THIS IS THE EVIDENCE OF WHO IS TRULY SAVED

- (Matthew 7:21) — <sup>21</sup> “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.
- (Romans 2:13) — For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the *doers* of the law who will be justified.

### WORSHIP IS USELESS APART FROM OBEDIENCE

- When Saul had totally disobeyed the command of the Lord:  
(1 Samuel 15:22) — 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.

## ◆ #3 — A True Disciple Loves God

**John 14:15, 21, 23-24 —**

<sup>15</sup> “If you *love me*, you will keep my commandments...

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is *who loves me*...

<sup>24</sup> Whoever does not *love me* does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

Obedying God is a matter of love, not duty or legalism.

● **NOTE:** This means obedience is an act of worship

## ◆ What does the Bible say about loving God?

### LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

- (Matthew 22:36–40) — “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall 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 great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> *On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.*”

### OUR LOVE FOR GOD FINDS IT’S ROOTS IN GOD’S LOVE FOR US

- (1 John 4:16) — So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- (1 John 4:19) — We love because he first loved us.

## ◆ #4 — A True Disciple will be Blessed

### John 14:21, 23 —

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be *loved by my Father*, and *I will love him* and *manifest myself to him.* ...

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “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.*”

God’s desire is not to enslave you, but to bless you.

## ◆ What does the Bible say about being blessed by God?

### GOD’S INITIAL PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

- (Genesis 12:1–3) — Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and *I will bless you* and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

### PROMISES TO THE ISRAELITES GOING INTO THE PROMISE LAND

- (Deuteronomy 28:1–2) — “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God *will set you high above all the nations* of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And *all these blessings* shall come upon you and overtake you, *if you obey* the voice of the Lord your God. (Read Duet 28:3-14)

### WE CAN’T FATHOM ALL GOD DESIRES TO DO FOR US

- (1 Corinthians 2:9) — But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”

## ◆ Closing

### Disobeying God Comes with a Cost

- Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden.
- Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt.
- Moses could not enter the promise land.
- Jonah was swallowed by a whale.
- Saul was rejected as king and died in battle.
- The Israelites suffered 40 years wandering in the wilderness.
- Later the Israelites were sent into 70 years of exile and captivity

### What are some things that hinder our obedience?

- Fear (Lack of Faith)
- We think we know better (Our thinking and understanding is limited)
- We are loving something else more than God

### O - Obeying His Commands

Choose obedience, prioritizing God's will above everything else, and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your character and actions to reflect Christ. *Choosing Jesus Every Day means obeying him in all things, because we love Him.*

- **IMPORTANT:** We must mature into everyday, immediate obedience; obeying the Word and obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Disobedience = No Peace, No Joy, No Rest**

#### ● QUESTIONS:

- If someone were to make an assessment of your day to day life, would they find that you are obeying God fully?
- What changes need to happen in your life right now to ensure that you are obeying God every day from this time forward?

