

OBEDIENCE

Here we have a very easy-to-understand word -- Obedience -- which simply means to Obey. Every day we face laws and signs that are there, and enforced, for our safety and well-being. Stop signs, traffic lights, warnings on medicine bottles, instructions on appliances and tools -- all for our benefit.

No father can train his children unless they are Obedient -- no teacher can teach a child who continues to Disobey -- no general can lead his soldiers to victory without prompt submission to authority. Ask God to imprint this lesson on your heart -- "The life of Faith is a life of Obedience. As Christ lived in Obedience to the Father, so we must live in Obedience to God."

Do you think it is impossible for you to be Obedient? It may be impossible to you, but not to God. He has promised, *"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them"* (Ezekiel 36:27).

One of the most disastrous things in life today is Disobedience. Rules and laws are put in place for our safety and well-being -- most can be traced back to God's Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) -- ten simple to read and understand Commands given in Love by the God who cares for us and wants the very best for us. Keep in mind that these are NOT the "Ten Suggestions or Rules When Convenient."

God gave a Command to the Israelites in Jeremiah 11:4 -- *"Obey My voice, and do according to ALL that I Command you -- so shall you be My people and I will be your God."*

This carries on to the Church today -- His Love never changes -- His Commandments never change -- His desires for us to live a Victorious life never change. His wonderful promises give the Assurance that Obedience would be our desire. Ask God to imprint this lesson on your heart -- the life of Faith is a Life of Obedience.

Jesus said, *"He who has My Commandments and keeps them, he it is who Loves Me -- and he who Loves Me shall be Loved by My Father, and I will Love him, and will make Myself known to him . . . and We will come to him and make Our home with him"* (John 14:21,23).

Three key words are found here -- Has, Keeps and Loves -- which lead to the intimate fellowship with God the Father and Jesus the Son. God is the author of this intimate relationship He desires for each of us.

Finally -- let's look once more at our title word -- Obedience. We are told in the Old Testament, *"Behold, to Obey is better than sacrifice"* (1 Samuel 15:22), which simply translates to the fact that IF we Obey the laws of the road we need not fear the Patrolman -- IF we Obey the laws of the IRS we need not fear the Tax Man -- IF we Obey the rules of simple health we need not fear the Doctor's diagnosis -- IF we Obey God's Ten Commandments we need not fear one day standing before Him, *"It is appointed for men once to die -- and after that the Judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27).

Throughout our lives we will face the Rules of God and man -- and we have the choice of Obedience or Consequence -- it's up to us!

Perhaps we have led a life of Disobedience and are suffering for it in one way or another -- but Forgiveness and Assurance are still in the Bible -- *"IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

ALL Disobedience is sin -- and must be dealt with according to God's Word.

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