

# Obedience

by Dorothy Walker

According to Holman Bible Dictionary, obedience is to hear God's Word and act accordingly. The word translated "obey," in the Old Testament means "to hear." Obedience is described several times in the New Testament. One word means to hear or to listen in a state of submission. "Another New Testament word translated "obey" to mean "Trust."

The person's obedient response to God's Word is a response of trust or faith. Thus, to really hear God's Word is to obey God's Word.

As we already know, God gave us Christian freedom, the right to choose but not the right to sin, which may be more convenient to do than what God expects of us.

We read God's Word and we listen to His Word, but do we really do exactly what He says do? In making our choices, it does not mean that we read or listen to His Word and decide just how much of it we want to adhere to. Our choice should be to do what God says do and not what we want to do.

The Bible views disobedience as a failure to hear and to do God's Word. Psalm 81:11 states; But oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!(Living Bible). God says, If you love me, keep My Commandments.

How does obedience affect our relationship with others? The Bible speaks of obedience from the wife to the husband, from children to their parents, from slaves to master. Obedience with joy should be shown to church leaders. Obedience is expected from all Christians to persons in authority.

The Bible is our guide as to how we should live because we are in the world but not of the world.

Christians are supposed to set the example but you do not set it by doing SOME of what God expects. If adults do not obey God's Word completely, what can you expect of our children? If we think we can get by disregarding rules in one place, we will do it or try to do it wherever we go. Why do you think so many young people are put out of school and so many put in jail? Children say what they hear and do what they see.

True obedience means imitating God in holiness, humility, and love. True disciples do the will of God.

What motivates us to obey God? Obedience springs from gratitude for grace received. Christians obey God as an expression of their spiritual freedom. Jesus taught that our love for God motivates us to obey Him.

Some people obey everything God says do but TITHE. You must be for God all the way or against Him all the way. There is no in between or excuse.

There are rules in churches, cities, homes, nations, jobs, and organizations. If we did not have rules, there

would be chaos with everyone doing as he or she pleases. We can't put ourselves in places in the church because we feel like it. The church has set rules. We have to go through channels or procedures to fill offices or positions in the church. If we do not obey God's word, then we will not obey anyone or anything else.

Gary Hardin states, "God has spoken in the Scripture. Disobedience to God's Word comes from a sinful heart-a heart that will not trust God. Obedience comes from a heart that trusts God. If God's people obey Him, they find the blessings He yearns to give. If they disobey, believers receive judgment and necessary discipline."

How does obedience affect one's spiritual life? Obedience is essential to worship. The obedience of faith brings about salvation. Obedience secures God's blessings. Spiritual insight is gained through obedience. A life of obedience to God is the fruit of faith (Jas. 2:21-26).

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to see it through.

Jefferson believes that the knowledge he has about our universe came from God. That it was given too him for a purpose. Jefferson believes that acceptance of this knowledge will lead to breakthroughs in cures for major diseases and improve space travel. Also, he believes that there may be other possibilities gained through this new understanding.

For many centuries scientific belief and religious belief have clashed when trying to explain the beginning of time. Scientists have always been perceived as non-believers of God. Over time and from their own work some scientists have come to believe in God and in what Genesis tells us about the creation.

Jefferson feels that if one believes in what he is saying that they would also believe that there is life on other planets. Jefferson's theory suggest that there are other planets like earth. That these planets are similar to our and theoretically, would suggest that there is other life. Jefferson said, "I don't believe . . . God . . . this is the only creation put together when it comes to mankind. I think He's got other creations."

From an article in Christian Single May 1995 entitled, *And God Created . . . E.T. ?* by Samuel R. Conner, It states, "It's only in the 19th and 20th Centuries that our understanding of the physical conditions required for life has advanced to the point where it's possible to make tentative statements about the likelihood of life elsewhere in the universe."

Jefferson states that he is not looking to get rich from his claims. He only wants acceptance of his work.

I would say to Willie Jefferson, God be with you. He is undertaking a tremendous task but if God has assigned this too him, then he must see it through until the end.