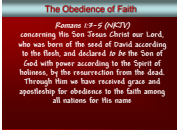


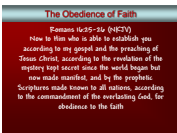
#1



Faith, Part 4 - The Obedience of Faith

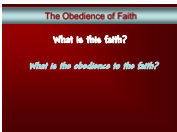
Romans 1:3-5 (NKJV) concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship ***for obedience to the faith*** among all nations for His name,

#2



Romans 16:25-26 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, ***for obedience to the faith***

#3



What is this faith?

Many people say they believe or have faith.
Faith is not what we know is what we do.
 Faith must be brought over into actions.
 Most of us know much more than we do.
 Our Faith is much more than what we know.

What we should do is obey.

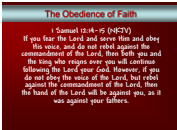
What does it mean to obey?

What is the obedience to the faith?

- Obedience is acting on the basis of what is known, heard, or believed.
- Obedience is patient continuance.
- Obedience is action based knowledge.
- Obedience to God is a sign of worship.

What is the result or benefit of walking in obedience to the faith?

#4



The reward of obedience to faith brings us into the blessing and favor of God.

We can never know the blessing and favor of God without walking in obedience to the faith.

It is obedience to the faith that brings great reward and blessing.

1 Samuel 12:14-15 (NKJV) If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reign over you will continue following the Lord your God. However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

The prophet Samuel told Israel that if they obeyed it would be good.

But, if they did not obey, then the hand of the Lord would be against them.

#5



Luke 11:28 (NIV) He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

We are not going to enjoy God's blessing or His best just by hearing the Word of God.

As much as God wants to bless, help, and prosper you, He cannot until you obey.

Blessing comes to those who hear and obey.

Abraham demonstrated the obedience of faith in a practical application of life.

#6

The Obedience of Faith

James 2:23-24 (NIV)
 And the scripture was fulfilled that says,
 "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to
 him as righteousness," and he was called God's
 friend. You see that a person is justified by
 what he does and not by faith alone.

James refers to the faith of Abraham.

James 2:23-24 (NIV) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

James is emphasizing the joint role of faith and obedience.

Faith is the force behind the deed.

The action or deed is the evidence of faith.

If your faith is weak, you will have weak actions.

When your faith is strong, it is evidenced by firmness of character or purpose and action.

Strong faith will produce strong actions.

Abraham believed and obeyed God.

Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

By faith, Abraham walked by faith in God.

He believed God and obeyed.

He trusted what God had said and took action.

So our faith requires actions that coincide with what we believe.

Faith is not a born again, new heart without deeds.

Faith is a heart that is quick to obey God.

The nature of the unregenerate heart is to rebel against faith.

The nature of the flesh is to do things our own way.

This is the marvel and blessing of Abraham's faith.

When he heard, he believed God, and immediately began obeying his faith in God.

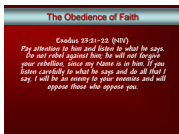
In Exodus, God was directing the Israelites into the promised land.

God had made provision for them to be successful and overcome all of their enemies.

They would prosper and overwhelm the land if they obeyed.

The Angel of the Lord was being sent with them into the land, to bring them to the place God had prepared.

#7



God tells them:

Exodus 23:21-22 (NIV) Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; ***He will not forgive your rebellion***, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

God was prepared to deliver the land and all of His blessings into their hands.

It is impossible for us to weigh out or measure all of God's blessings that are intended for those who believe and obey.

Every nation of people would be defeated and the land would be theirs.

He would be an enemy to their enemies.

If they would listen and obey all that He said to them, they would be blessed.

#8

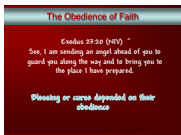


God warned them to not rebel against him.

There is a high cost for rebellion.

Rebellion brings the greatest amount of trouble on us.

#9



Rebellion is the refusal to accept authority, it is opposition to authority.

Rebellion is at the center of the post-modern mind.

It is a refusal to accept any authority over one's life.

It is an attitude of rebellion...

Exodus 23:20 (NIV) “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.

They wanted God to bless them while they did their own thing.

They wanted God's help, but they wanted to do everything their own way.

Rebellion will cost you.

God bless me in what I choose to do.

God's warning to Israel was very clear.

Blessing or curse depended on their obedience.

He said: “He will not forgive your rebellion...”

He said: “if you pay attention to what He says and do all that I say, then He will guard you and bring you into the blessing I have prepared.”

God will bring us to task on this.

He wants to bless.

He has many good things prepared.

Yet, He will not tolerate rebellion.

You need to pay close attention to the blessing of the obedience of faith in the New Testament.

Often faith requires actions that are not logical.

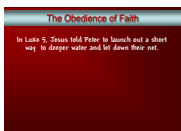
In Luke 5, Jesus told Peter to launch out into deeper water and let down their net.

These men had fished all night and had caught nothing.

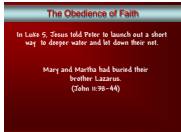
Peter made that very clear.

It was not a good time to fish, **THEY WERE TIRED.**

#10



#11



It was a good time to clean nets and take a break.
It was a good time to go home and get some rest.

Peter said: “because you said it, I will do it.

When they obeyed, they caught the great number of fish.

Mary and Martha had buried their brother Lazarus. (John 11:38-44)

They believed that Jesus could have healed him, if He had not been so late. (It was too late now...)

Jesus told them to roll away the stone.

Martha said: “He has been dead for four days, by this time there is a bad odor...”

Jesus has the word of authority.

If Mary and Martha allow rebellion to faith to dominate their actions, they will see nothing happen.

Jesus said: “If you will believe you will see the glory of God.”

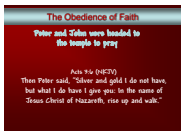
So, what did they do?

The Bible says they rolled away the stone.

Walking in obedience to faith does not always make logical sense.

When they rolled away the stone, Jesus was free to call Lazarus out of death and the grave.

#12



Peter and John were headed to the temple to pray.

This poor cripple man was sitting at the gate of the temple begging for money.

His interests were for his immediate need.

He reached out to Peter and John and asked for something.

Acts 3:6 (NKJV) Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

The man had a choice at that instant.

There was not time for theological debate.

He could stand up and walk in the obedience of faith or he could rebel to the word of faith.

All he was asking for was some money.

He was not proposing some grand or marvelous action. ***Yet, He did not sit there and attempt to reason this out.***

He could have said: “Would I be here sitting here begging for money if I could walk?”

Faith gripped his heart and he stood up in obedience to faith and started walking and leaping and praising God.

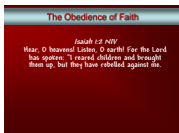
You want the Holy Spirit to find you easy to work with.

This man was not stubborn or slow to obey.

Very quickly, he responded to the quickening of the Holy Spirit and Peter’s words.

God is watching over the way we respond to His Word.

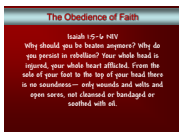
#13



Isaiah 1:2 NIV Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: “I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.

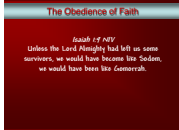
If you follow this text, you can hear God say how unhappy He is with what has happened to them.

#14

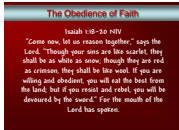


Isaiah 1:5-6 NIV Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness— only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

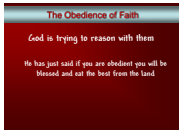
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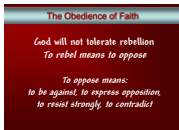
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#17



#18



Isaiah joined in and said:

Isaiah 1:9 NIV Unless the Lord Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.

Isaiah 1:18-20 NIV “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

God is telling them that He wants to bless them.

He wants to take away their sin.

He wants to give them the best from the land.

He wants to do good for them but they have rebelled against Him.

God is trying to reason with them.

He just said: “if you are obedient you will be blessed and eat the best from the land.”

Then He warned them against rebellion.

Deception and rebellion go hand in hand.

You need to know that God is primarily a blessing God.

He wants to bless His people.

He wants to cause you to prosper.

He wants to guard and protect.

He wants to heal and restore.

God will not tolerate rebellion.

To rebel means to oppose.

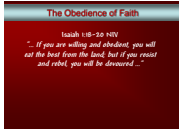
To oppose means: to be against, to express opposition, to resist strongly, to contradict.

Rebellion has the idea of disobeying one who is in authority or control.

Rebellion has the spirit of Antichrist in it.

Anti- means against. Anti-Christ is against Christ.

#19



The spirit of antichrist works against what God wants to do.

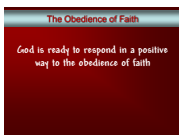
God is saying: "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured."

Have you ever tried to reason with someone who was opposing you?

They were working against you.

You were trying to help them, but they would not here you.

#20



God is ready to respond in a positive way to the obedience of faith.

God wants to reason this out with you.

Do you want the blessing and favor of the Lord in your life?

Do you want God to be on your side?

Do you want the fullness of His Spirit?

If you do, you must respond to Him with obedience.

He is going to quicken your faith.

He is going to challenge you to do the right thing.

He is going to bring you to the place where you must choose if you are going to obey Him.

If you will step out in faith, God has already planned to load you down with His blessing.

If you will obey Him, He has already provided you His best.

If you refuse, rebel, or oppose God will step back and disaster will come.

If you will walk in obedience to the faith God will pour out His blessing and favor on you.