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## The Doctrine of Obedience

OT Memory: Job 36:11-12

NT Memory: Romans 6:16 Matthew 4:1-11

**Doctrine** {*Didache*} A system of beliefs one is taught. “And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were **obedient to the faith**.” (Acts 6:7) and **Romans 1:5** states “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for **obedience to the faith** among all nations, for his name.” Notice that the Word of God clarifies that many priest had accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior through their **obedience to the faith**. All throughout scripture it can be seen if one has truly been converted by the way one lives. Scripture calls this lifestyle **obedience to the faith**! The Greek word for **obedience** is {*Hupakoe*} and means an attentive hearkening of compliance and submission. It’s from *Hupakouo* which means to listen, heed and conform to an authority. **Faith** in the Greek is *Pistis* and means the conviction of the truth that God exist and is the Creator and Ruler of all things. The provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ. It includes all of the religious beliefs of Christians. This is called **the Faith**. (See **I Timothy 1:2** and **I Timothy 4:1**) **The Faith is the doctrines and scriptures communicated by Christ to His church that they are to live by**. When we see in scripture where believers were **obedient to the faith** (Acts 16:1-5) it simply means they were in complete compliance to the doctrines and standard of living communicated to them through the church (Acts 15:1-29). Some have attempted to believe in God without obedience to the faith. They cite Jesus as their savior and claim that it matters not how they live because Jesus covers them. But the Word of God indicates that faith without works is dead (**James 2:20-26**), and any belief system that doesn’t line up with the doctrine of obedience is error. Let us always consider **I Peter 4:17** “For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begins at us, what shall the end be of them that **obey not** the gospel of God?”

### I. **Jesus Obtains Salvation Through Obedience. (Romans 5:19, Philippians 2:8-13 and Hebrews 5:9)**

In order for the **Elohim** (Gods) to bring **Salvation** (*Soteria* – To rescue, to deliver and preserve) one of them had to become a man and reverse the acts of disobedience which plunged all humanity into sin, (**Romans 5:12-21**) so the Word becomes Jesus. (**John 1:1-14**) The name **Jesus** means God who is Salvation or Savior. The Godhead knew that to legally satisfy the law of sin through disobedience, a man would be required to live and walk in **perfect obedience** to gain righteousness and become the obedience for all who trust Him.

#### A. **Jesus’ obedience is tested and tried! (Philippians 2:5-8 and Galatians 3:13, Matthew 4:1-11)**

- 1) He obeys by leaving His God body and power by which He made everything that was made. (**John 1:1-3, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:15-17 and Hebrews 1:2**) What this act of obedience cost Him only Heaven knows, but He obeyed the plan of God nonetheless. Many attempt to depreciate Jesus for becoming a man, but it magnifies Him as the All Merciful, All Obedient and All Loving God who loved His creation so much He gave up Himself.
- 2) He obeys the plan of God by death on the cross. For the God of life to die is still incomprehensible, what this meant to Jesus we cannot know but thank you Lord for this **unspeakable** (that which cannot be fully declared or understood (**II Corinthians 9:15**) gift. **Note on Obedience in Death (Luke 22:39-46, Luke 24:7, John 12:27-33 and Hebrews 5:7-9)** If Jesus, in order to satisfy every requirement of obedience was

reluctant to die on the cross, this would nullify the willful act of submission and compliance necessary to perform the work of **perfect obedience**. Obedience by definition means to **attentively** observe every requirement. To ensure **perfect** compliance and submission to the authority one is subject to. To be unwilling or reluctant is not a characteristic of obedience, but rather **double mindedness**. **James 1:8** states “A double minded man is **unstable** in all his ways.” Double in the Greek is *Dipuchos* and means two souled, one who vacillates in opinion or purpose; one torn between carnal and spiritual things. To say that Christ was doubtful and unsure about His purpose for coming into the earth, this would mean He vacillated in His mind about the word he himself spoke in **Luke 24:7** and **John 12:27**. This unscriptural way of describing Jesus in the garden is nothing more than a satanic attempt to depreciate the glorious work of obedience by the Lord and lessen His effect on His followers to walk in that same obedience. Let’s now examine the Holy text and forever establish the perfect obedience of our Savior.

**1<sup>st</sup>** – We see Jesus praying in the garden **Luke 22:39-46** and we know that every time He prayed, God answered His prayer. (**John 11:41-44** and **I John 5:14-15**) So when He prays for the removal of the **cup** of death, **God answers**. The cup of something was figurative of one’s lot or experience, joyous or sorrowful. (**Matthew 20:22 Dake’s Bible ref Q**) We know from scripture that the cup of death here is referring to the experience of Christ being under attack by Satan. **Luke 22:43** says God responds to His prayer by sending an angel to strengthen Him. **Verse 44** Shows us why an angel was needed, Jesus is in **Agony** {*Agonia*} in Greek which means a struggle or conflict. (**Luke 22:44 Dake’s Bible ref T**) The Devil tried to kill Christ before He could get to the cross, but God heard His prayer and saved Him from this death. (**Hebrews 5:7**) He was not saved from the death on the cross, (**Luke 23:33,46**) nor did He ever pray to be delivered from the death on the cross **John 12:27**, but this conflict of dying before He could complete His mission is what He prayed about and was heard. He had to get to the cross. (**Galatians 3:13 Dake’s Bible ref A**)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – What a great contradiction it would be to the character and authority of the Word of God if Jesus said one thing and prayed for something different than what He said. The Bible cannot contradict itself; it’s teaching in one part must agree with its teaching in another part. Therefore, any interpretation, which makes the Bible inconsistent, is false interpretation. Remember, that which exalts God and magnifies Him and His work is the correct revelation. To say that Jesus prayed to not go to die on the cross is defiantly not the correct interpretation!

**B. Jesus, The Author and Finisher of Our Faith. (Hebrews 12:2 & Hebrews 5:7-9)**

- 1) Author in **Hebrews 5:9** is {*Aitos*} in the Greek and means one who causes an event to happen. Jesus as the concrete and active cause of Salvation to all that follow Him in obedience. Jesus fulfills all of the requirements for eternal Salvation by His **perfect** obedience and now those who obey Him receive what His perfect obedience provides.
- 2) Author in **Hebrews 12:2** is {*Archehos*} in the Greek and means chief leader, one who takes a lead in, or provides the first occasion of anything. Jesus goes through everything and is tempted in all points. He alone can author and finish the faith for all of humanity because He alone walked in the perfect obedience necessary to complete Redemption. **Hebrews 2:18 NLT** says “Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.” **Hebrews 4:15** tells us that Jesus is tempted in every possible way a human can be tempted but without sin. Tempted in the Greek is {*Peirazo*} and means to scrutinize and entice through examination. This is the evil examination we find in **Matthew 4:1-11** where the devil attempts to cause Jesus to obey him. The whole encounter was a futile attempt to railroad the work of Redemption. If Christ had yielded and obeyed the Devil He would be



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no different than Adam who obeyed him and caused the whole human race to be plunged into sin. (**Romans 6:16, John 8:34, & I John 3:8**) Jesus only obeys God the Father. **Know This** – Obedience is a Jesus characteristic and true Christians exhibit this righteous behavior. Disobedience is a satanic characteristic that scripture forbids the child of God from returning to. **Ephesians 2:1-3!**

- 3) Everything Jesus did was a systematic step-by-step walk of obedience to perfectly fulfill the plan of Salvation. When Jesus uttered on the cross, “It is finished” in **John 19:30** He signified that His part in the plan of Redemption had been accomplished. Now the Father and the Holy Ghost would work out all the legalities as to properly appropriating His work to humanity. Finisher in **Hebrews 12:2** is *Teleotes* and means the state of perfection or completeness. “And ye are **complete** in Him, which is the head of all principality and power” (**Colossians 2:10**) proclaims (**Colossians 2:11-15**) Jesus is the finisher and the work is complete!

## II. The Children of Obedience or Disobedience? (I John 3:1-24, I Peter 1:13-23 & Ephesians 2:1-13)

It is a fact of scripture that not everyone is a child of God. Jesus places great distinction on this fact when He speaks to the Jews in **John 8:44** “Ye are of your **father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and abode not in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” Notice Jesus states the proof that they are children of the devil is that they do everything that the **lust of Satan** tells them to do. The lust of Satan is called **the lust of the flesh** in **Galatians 5:16-21**. Because every human is “shaped in iniquity and in sin did our mothers conceive us” (**Psalms 51:5**) we naturally obey the lust of Satan. Adam obeyed Satan and plunged all of humanity into the nature of disobedience. (**Romans 5:19**) All humanity was born with the spirit of disobedience inbred in their DNA. (**Romans 7:14-25 NLT**) God provides a way for humanity to be born again and become His children when Jesus accomplishes Redemption. (**John 3:3-7**) **Know This** – One must be born again or he is not a child of God!

### A. The Children of Disobedience. (**Ephesians 2:1-3 and Colossians 3:5-10**)

- 1) Unsaved, unregenerate humans who have not been **born again** are called **the dead**. The cycle of death for sinners comes in 3 phases.
  - a) **Spiritual Death** – He is born a sinner with the spirit of disobedience in his DNA.
  - b) **Physical Death** – He dies naturally, (**Luke 9:60**) spirit and soul leave the body.
  - c) **Eternal Death** – Whole spirit, soul and body eternally separated from God, all death is a separation from the goodness of God. (**Revelation 20:11-15**) Scripture teaches that man's fallen nature causes him to live in **trespasses and sins**. (**Ephesians 2:1** **Dake's Bible ref \*B & \*C**) He obeys the lust of Satan because of the spirit of disobedience that's at work in him. **The spirit one has in him determines whose child he is!** The spirit of disobedience helps one to obey Satan just as the Holy Spirit helps the child of God obey Christ. (**Romans 8:5 NLT**) **Romans 8:1-15 NLT** describes the control each influence has on one. They are called laws. **Law** – The system of rules that a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and may enforce by imposition of penalties. **Nomos** in Greek where the law (of Moses) is to restrain the evil tendencies natural to man in his fallen

state, yet in experience law is ineffective. It actually provokes sinful activities to greater activity. **(Romans 7:5-8 NLT)** The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus is everyone who has accepted Jesus with their whole heart has been forgiven of sin and through the power of the Holy Ghost has power over it and its penalty. **The law of Sin and Death** is everyone born in Adam is a sinner and under sin's control, no matter the law given to regulate his actions, under this law man receives death, the grave and Hell. **Know This** – Religion allows one to believe and serve God without the Holy Spirit. The born again experience produces a miraculous change in a person and they become a new creation, **(II Corinthians 5:17)** where as doing things religiously allows a person to remain the same. To claim to be a child of God and walk and live as a child of Satan is great error in the least and great deception in the major. **Know This** – Whoever you obey is who you serve, and whoever you serve is your God and father! **(Romans 6:16 and Romans 2:8)**

**Babe** – A term used to describe the beginning stage of Christian living and that of living more in the natural than the spiritual life.

**\*Note on Babe in Christ (I Peter 2:1-2, I Corinthians 3:1-3 and Hebrews 5:11-14)**

There is a difference between a babe in Christ and a child of disobedience. A babe in Christ is developing, growing and becoming a mature believer. He may come up short in an area but because of the development being formed in him by the Holy Spirit, he does not remain in the short coming **(I John 3:9 NLT)**, but he is learning Christ **(Ephesians 4:20-24)** and his fruit is growing in righteousness (Christ). If one has truly been born again, he will not live in sin because the Word of God (seed) through the Holy Spirit is developing him. **(I John 3:9 NLT)** If he sins, the Holy Spirit prompts repentance and aids in deliverance. **(I John 2:1-6)** The child of Satan lives in habitual sin and is unchecked by God's Word or Spirit. The confusion arises when the babe in Christ refuses to obey the Word and the Holy Spirit and lives in a fallen manner.

**(Hebrews 3:11-12)** This is called **the old man** – The spirit, nature and power of sin working in the DNA of fallen man, also called the flesh. **(Galatians 5:16-25)** To live by the old man is to stop the development of the Word and Holy Spirit in one's life. This disobedient way of living leads to staleness of spirit and breaks fellowship with God. Some grow incorrectly and eventually die spiritually, but because they did have an experience with God there mind forms **a memory of God** even though He is no longer there. This mental phenomenon allows them to believe that they still belong to God even though they lack the desire, will or power to live by His Spirit and in accordance with His Word. This is not descriptive of a babe, but one who has fallen from Grace and has not the Spirit of Christ **(Jude 19)** working in them any longer. Let the church goer beware **“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil;”**. **(I John 3:7-8 & Ephesians 5:1-10)** Children of God are not partakers with the children of disobedience! **(Romans 2:2-11)** The child of God now has the spirit of obedience move him to obedience!

- 2) The **children of Satan** are moved by his spirit and will not live by God's Word. They can quote it, preach it and even attempt to live parts of it. Remember their father the devil quoted it to Christ. **(Matthew 4:1-11)** This evil ability to cite God's Holy Word without obeying it is



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certainly one of Satan's greatest deceptions. **Know This** – It matters not what one knows or can quote, but rather what one can live! (**Romans 8:2-17 NLT, I John 3:9-10 NLT and Matthew 7:17-20**)

- 3) The **children of wrath** is another name for the children of disobedience. (**Ephesians 2:3, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 3:6 and Romans 2:5-8**) Because they willfully reject the Lord Jesus and do not obey the Gospel, but instead obey the Devil they will receive the same judgment that God has ordained for him. (**Matthew 25:41**) **Hell** is the full release of God's wrath!
- 4) In **Matthew 25:41** Jesus calls the devils children **cursed**. **II Peter 2:14** states "Having eyes full of adultery, **and that cannot cease from sin**; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; **cursed children**." They have no favor or goodness from God. **Know This** – When one has all the world's goods, the riches, fame and acclaim, **it is not** an indicator that he has received these things from the Lord. If one lives contrary to the faith and lives in direct contradiction to the Gospel it does not matter who he gives the credit to. The curse is on all "who hold the truth in unrighteousness" and **II Timothy 2:19** "The Lord knoweth them that are his, and let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." It matters not how they proclaim Jesus but rather how they obey Jesus! (**Matthew 16:26-27 & I Peter 4:17**)

**B. The Children of Obedience (I Peter 1:3-23, I John 3:1-10, Romans 8:14-19, Galatians 4:5-6, Philippians 2:15 and Hebrews 2:9-13)**

- 1) The only way for mankind who is "shapen in iniquity and in sin did his mother conceive him". (**Psalms 51:5**) To become a child of God is for God to enact an adoption process. (**Romans 8:15**) Jesus performs this task by obedience and releases the same spirit of obedience upon all who trust and obey Him. (**Galatians 4:4-6**) The children of obedience have the spirit of obedience! "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man **have not** the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (**Romans 8:9**) **Know This** – If one attempts to know God or serve Him and does not have His Spirit that man's religion is in vain. Is there any wonder why such a one can say he knows and serves God but his lifestyle is in total violation of the Word of God and the spirit of obedience? "**Ye must be born again.**"

**Born Again** – Is Gennethe Another in the Greek and means to be begotten from above, it literally means there must be a transformation from God and a **renewal** in righteousness and **true holiness** to be saved. (**John 3:1-10**) When one has the born again experience he begins to walk in obedience to the new spirit who now resides within him. Being begotten from above is a real powerful experience that happens when one fulfills the requirements of believing.

So for one to claim he has had this wonderful adoption happen to him and remain in his same sinful lifestyle is a **deception**. **Know This** – Many believe with their mind power alone or that which emanates from ones own mind. This mental religious approach comes from a fallen mind that views God through a darkened prism. Also, a religious upbringing and particular church affiliation one adheres to without receiving God's Spirit is dangerous

because they embrace God's Word without having the power to obey God's Word. "Holding to a form of (outward) godliness (religion), although they have denied its power (for their **conduct nullifies** their claim of faith) avoid such people and keep far away from them." (**II Timothy 3:5 AMP**) Yes, there is a powerful transformation that takes place when one leaves the Family of Disobedience and is translated into the Family of Obedience. **Colossians 1:13** says "We have been **translated** (*Methistano*) in Greek and literally means to deliver from Satan and his power and Kingdom of sin, sickness and depravity to be placed under the government of the Son of God's love". Only Jesus could do this, only Jesus did do this. **Hebrews 2:9-13**. Reference U, V, W Dakes Bible

- 2) How to born again? **I Peter 1:3-23** By the Word of God and the Holy Spirit!
  - a) You must hear the Gospel. **Romans 10:14-17**
  - b) Believe with your **whole** heart. **Romans 10:9-10**
  - c) Repent of your sins with all your heart. **Mark 1:15, Acts 26:19-20**
  - d) Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. **Romans 10:9, Acts 4:12**

Following God's plan for Salvation will bring the Holy Spirit into the life of the **true believer**. When man's whole being is engaged then the Holy Spirit will move. Only the Holy Spirit performs the work of sonship. (**Colossians 2:12**) **Ephesians 1:13** proclaims "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your Salvation; in whom also after that you believe, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of Promise". **Sealed** in the Greek is *spiragizo* and means to stamp with a private mark for security or preservation. It is the sealing of believers by the Holy Spirit upon believing in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. This gives believers Holy Spirit enablement and revelation, which gives them the ability to last until Jesus comes for them. (**Ephesians 1:14 NLT**)

3) **As Obedient Children (I Peter 1:14)** Now that we have been adopted into God's family, we must now obey our parent. The Father has given us **the Faith** and commanded you to keep it. (**John 14:15-23, John 15:10, I John 2:3,3:22-24, 5:2**) Our obedience to the Word of God is proof that we are his children. (**Romans 6:16-17**) The mature, full aged child of God can obey in all points and requirements of **the Faith**. He is not governed by his feeling, circumstances or things. He is governed by the Word of his Father. Obedient children follow the example of the Lord Jesus and grow in obedience. "Though he were a son yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered". (**Hebrew 5:8**) The child of God must seek to learn and make practice of being obedient. You must practice obedience in order to learn obedience. Those that are disobedient in their walk are developing in disobedience. Don't you realize that you become **the slave** of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living." (**Romans 6:16 NLT**) Obedient children are living righteous lives. (**I Peter 1:22**) They are right in their worship, conduct and service. They don't allow a disobedient spirit to guide their lives but instead "And having in a readiness to revenge all **disobedience** when your obedience is fulfilled". (**II Corinthians 10:6**) They refuse to be governed by the old spirit and are constantly checking it and putting it in its place. **Say this with me** - I rebuke the Spirit of Disobedience in the name of Jesus and I now walk in the Spirit of Obedience that God gave me at Salvation. Hallelujah! I'm free to obey in every area in **the Faith!** (**Romans**



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**16:19)** Now let's look at the authorities we are to heed and conform to in **the Faith**. “But ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine”. (**Romans 6:17b**)

- a) **We Obey God’s Word!** “But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded. **This message is made known** to all gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe **and obey Him**”. (**Romans 16:26 NLT**) This is the first responsibility of the child of God, to obey God’s Holy Word. (**John 14:15, 23, I John 2:3**) We read, study and hear it so we can know it. We cannot obey what we do not know. Sadly, many believers are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (**Hosea 4:6**) Those who have God’s Spirit will be moved by Him to search the scriptures to make sure they are living by its standards. “They **purify their souls** by obeying the truth through the spirit. They are the ones who proclaim, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee”. (**Psalm 119:11**)
- b) **We Obey the Church!** “I am **writing these things** to you now even though I hope to be with you soon. So that if I am delayed, **you will know** how people **must** conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the **Church of the Living God**, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth!” (**I Timothy 3:14-15 NLT**) The church has rule and requirement that all Christians are supposed to abide by. Obedient children learn quickly how to enter into the culture of his church family and keep the unity of the house. He knows that the church is the Body of Christ and receive its direction, nourishment, edification and purpose from his head, the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Colossians 1:18**) Edification and purpose from it’s head, the Lord Jesus, governs His followers through the Church. “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the **Body of Christ**”. (**Ephesians 4:11-12**) The churches authority is manifested through His delegated authority, His giftings! **Know this** - To be out of step with God's delegated leadership is to be out of step with God. **Hebrews 13:17 NLT** says **obey** your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. Obedience protects God’s sheep from the wolf. Jesus the Chief Shepherd (**1st Peter 5:1-4**) uses His under shepherds to guide them by His word and will when they hear the voice of his giftings they hear his voice”. (**See John 10:1-5**) Many are devoured by the devil because they refuse to hear the voice of God’s delegated authority. They say,” I can hear God for myself or they take their own interpretation of scripture over their **spiritual gifting**, who by the way is anointed for the very task of feeding the flock of God. “*As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovener upon an obedient ear.*” (**Proverbs 25:12**) The obedient child is kept from much heartbreak and hurt by yielding to the culture and rule of the church for they promote the Word and Will of God!
- c) **We obey the Holy Ghost!** “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (**Roman 8:14 NLT**) and “So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives, then you

won't be doing what your sinful nature craves". (**Galatians 5:16 NLT**) Every child of God sense in his spirit what he can and cannot do. Many ignore the unction of the Holy Ghost (**I John 2:18-20**) as He attempts to govern their behavior. A lot of wrong conduct and missing the mark can be avoided by being obedient to the Holy Ghost. It's not good to make it a practice of ignoring Him, for the Spirit of God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him". (**Ephesians 1:14 NLT**) In order to obey the Holy Spirit the child of God must live in an illuminated state of mind so he can receive God's truth and revelation which can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit through our spirit. (**I Corinthians 2:9**) Illumination is the strong interaction of the Holy Spirit in our mind. It's the flowing of the Holy Spirit into our soul to produce revelation and closeness to God. Because some don't develop spiritually, they don't understand this very important principle. They attempt to serve God only with their mental power. Such believers are not accustomed to following the leading of the Holy Ghost because everything is covered in their own mind! This is why some feel they can serve God on their own terms and not according to the will of the Spirit. This is a great error! "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto Him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned". (**I Corinthians 2:14**) **Know this** - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that enables the child of God to walk in obedience, we therefore are able to obey the rules of our church culture that is promoted by the Holy Ghost. Being fruitful to church attendance (**Hebrew 10:25**), faithful to the call of prayer (**Matthew 26:41, I Thessalonians 5:17**) faithful in giving (**Luke 6:38**) and obedient to those who have the rule over you are done intuitively by those who are led by the Holy Ghost (see **Philippians 3:13-17**). Do you have the Holy Ghost? **Acts 5:32** says those who obey do!

### III. **The Blessing of Obedient Children (Job 36:11, Isaiah 1:19, Deuteronomy 11:26-27, Deuteronomy 28:1-4)**

Throughout scripture we can see clearly that God rewards obedience. He promises great blessing and favor to those who obey in **the Faith**. When we walk in the doctrine of obedience we walk in authority. This is a great secret to the power of Christ, "So by the **obedience** of one shall many be made righteous." Jesus provides eternal Salvation to all who follow His example of obedience. (**Hebrew 5:8-9**) Notice that everything obeyed Jesus. "And he said unto them, where is your faith? And being afraid wondered saying one to another what manner of man is this for he commanded even the winds and water, **and they obey him!**" (**Luke 8:25**) Everything obeys Jesus because He is in perfect obedience with the Father. Consider **John 8:29**, "And he that sent me is with me: the father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him". You see Jesus understood why every prayer of His was answered and everything was obedient to Him. When we walk in obedience, we have authority, and everything will obey us. One thing is for certain, **nothing obeys the disobedient!** (**Luke 17:6**)





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- A. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (**Psalms 84:11**) Those obedient children will spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures for God is a blesser, a righteous judge who metes out reward to those who deserve it. When He commands us to be obedient to things it's so He can legally bless us and open up His favor in our lives. The Accuser of the Brethren (**Revelation 12:10**) has no legal jurisdiction to stop or hinder God's blessings on His people because we walk in obedience. God can legally and without contradiction to His Word pour out his great favor upon his people. **Psalm 75:6-7** says "For promotion coming neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South but God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another". He asks His children to:
1. Be obedient to government. (**Romans 13:1-7, Titus 3:1, I Peter 2:13-15**)
  2. Be obedient to our employers (jobs). (**Ephesians 6:5-8, Titus 2:9-10, Colossians 3:22-25**)
  3. Be obedient to parents. (**Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1-3**)
  4. Be obedient to the rule of the church, the different auxiliaries, departments. (**Philippians 3:15-17**)

When we obey the Word, the favor of God will be upon our lives. The blessing is for the willing and obedient. They are the ones who will eat the good of the land. Not those in partial obedience.

**Note On Partial Obedience (I Samuel 15:10-35, II Corinthians 2:9, Revelation 3:15-16)** Real obedience protects the Christian by keeping him in the safety of God's Word. But let the child of God understand God's principles of obedience. God will not condone half-heartedness, lukewa

rmness and He most certainly will not condone **partial obedience**. To obey in the area that you have no issue with but disobey in the areas you do is **partial obedience**. The case study of King Saul is a perfect example of **partial obedience** for he performs the part of God's Word that was advantageous for him and not the entire council of God (**vs19**). Sadly, those who walk in partial obedience believe, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me (**vs 20**). They do not realize that God will not accept what they desire to give but rather what He expects from them. God calls **partial obedience** rebellion and places it in the spiritual realm of witchcraft. No matter how long one is in church or what their position, it will never end well for those who do not follow God with all their heart. **Know this** - Partial obedience is disobedience! It's effort is only out of the natural man and can never fully obey through the spirit! (**Romans 8:6-7**)

- B. **We Are God's Giftings Through Our Obedience! (Romans 1:5, I Corinthians 12:27-28)**

It is an awesome privilege to be connected to the Lord's body. This grace guarantees our part in God body. "However, He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ". (**Ephesians 4:7 NLT**) Every Christian has been given a gift to function in God's church. The church is going to be raptured up into Heaven and receive great reward. Those who are outside of His body will not be! All gifting connects us to His body. "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly as each part does its own special work. It helps the other parts grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (**Ephesians 4:16 NLT**) Because we are obedient in the Body, we are used by our Head to edify the whole body. No wonder Paul declared, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." (**I Timothy 1:12**) There is a great blessing in being obedient in your gifting. (**II Timothy 4:8, I Peter 5:4.**)

**Know this** – Giftings comes by obedience! To claim one is a gifting used by God when they are out of order with the culture and rule of the church is a gross error. Such people often break away from the body and deceive the simple. (**Romans 16:17-19**) If one is to serve, he must do it in an obedient and orderly way. Christ does not sanction disobedience in any form!

### C. The Obedient Go to Heaven! (**Hebrews 5:9, Romans 2:6-8**)

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept **the faith**: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (**2 Timothy 4:7-8**) Let me be perfectly clear, those who are disobedient will not go to Heaven! "What shall be the end of them that obey not the Gospel of God." (**I Peter 4:17**) Just as Jesus was obedient to dying on the cross, we who have the Spirit of Obedience will be obedient to die on our cross. No cross, no crown. When we finish our course and remain faithful to **the Faith**, the Righteous Judge will surely reward us for our obedience!

### Final Note

The Doctrine of Obedience is a large part of **the Faith**. Therefore, obedience is not an option but a command and is essential to Salvation. God told Adam what to do and what not to do and demanded his obedience. We know that through his disobedience many were made sinners. (**Romans 5:19**) All humanity has sinful DNA because all humanity is from Adam. In this fallen soul is the propensity to disobey the commandments of God. Scripture declares that we have the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience and or by **nature** the children of wrath even as others. Of course, this refers to our old life of sin and not to the new overcoming born-again life. I have a new Spirit of Obedience in place of the Adamic Spirit of Disobedience. Thank God for the perfect obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ who now gives me the same Spirit of Obedience and we are **His witnesses** of these things, and so is also **the Holy Ghost** whom **God hath given to them that obey him.** (**Acts 5:32**) Please know that the Spirit of Obedience is given to the obedient. As a matter of fact, the Holy Ghost involvement in any life is to bring that person into obedience in the face! A discerning truth that one has the Holy Ghost is the manner in which he obeys. The Holy Ghost enables us to walk in the safety of God's Word and gives us power to remain in the faith until the end. We must continue in **the Faith** to the end in order to be saved. (**See acts 14:21-23 and Colossians 1:18-23**) Let the child of God, "continue thou in the things which thou has learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom that has learned them;" (**II Timothy 3:14**) Amen!