



The Benefits of Obedience

- I. Introduction.
 - A. A relationship is built on two pillars. Love and trust. You cannot love someone deeper than you can trust them. Trust is built on truth. Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:7 that in the last days people “are always learning but never come to the knowledge of the truth.” This describes our culture. There has never been a time in history where there is so much learning going on and so little truth. In John 14, Jesus declares that He is the truth.
 - B. To love you must have trust. Trust is based on truth. Truth is revealed through action. Talk is cheap. Words are not to be trusted. Action reveals the heart of a person. Action validates love. This is true in all relationships- including our relationship with God.
 - C. 5 times in John 14-15 Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” He then lays out for them 5 benefits of walking in obedience before God.
- II. Benefits of Obedience
 - A. Obedience leads to power in the Holy Spirit- 14:15-17.
 - 1. Jesus begins with this recurring theme statement, “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” Then He introduces the first benefit of walking with Christ.
 - 2. “I will ask the Father and He will give you another”- there are two possible meanings of another. One is another that is not of the same kind. The Greek word here though means “the exact, identical kind.” Jesus says that He will ask the Father and the Father will give us a clone of Jesus.
 - 3. “Advocate or counselor”- the Greek word literally means “one called alongside to help.” The Holy Spirit is given to us to come along side us and help us live out our faith. How does He give us help? He leads us into all truth. We will always have access to the perfect truth in all situations.
 - 4. He will never leave you. The world does not have access to the Holy Spirit. He is a gift to believers from God to empower them to live by faith and walk in truth. He lives in us. He will never leave us.
 - 5. When we were saved God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to live within us till we see Jesus face to face. He gives us the strength to obey God. The more we walk in

obedience to God the more powerful is the work of God in our lives. However, when we begin to walk in disobedience, the power of the Holy Spirit goes dormant within us. He doesn't leave us; He just goes quiet. This is the cycle of obedience/disobedience. Don't miss the importance of this truth. The more I obey the more power I have to obey. The less I obey the less power I have to obey. There is a reset button. It is called confession and repentance.

6. What value does the Holy Spirit have in your life? How does the Holy Spirit validate your obedience? What does he do when you disobey?

B. Obedience leads to revelation- 14:18-21.

1. Jesus tells His disciples that He will see them again after the resurrection. He is not abandoning them as orphans. Then He gives the same refrain again. "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me."
2. Jesus gives the second benefit of obedience- "I will reveal myself to the obedient." Obedience leads to revelation from Jesus. Jesus says that when we authenticate our love for God through obedience, we will receive the revelation of Jesus. Obedience reveals my love and allegiance. It is not the reverse. We don't obey our way into loving God. Obedience without love is legalism. When we fall in love with God, obedience becomes a natural response. When we walk out obedience based on our love for God, Jesus promises to reveal Himself to us.
3. How does Jesus reveal Himself to us? The Word, friends, circumstances, prayer and intuition. Obedience opens up the pathway to communication between me and God.
4. Matthew 7:3-5. Once I remove the log from my eye, then I can "see clearly." What enables me to see clearly? Obedience.
5. How does obedience help us "see more clearly?" What does this reveal to us about disobedience?

C. Obedience leads to intimacy with God- 14:22-26.

1. Judas asked, "Lord why will you reveal yourself only to us and not to the world?" Jesus response: "All who love me will do what I say. We (my father and I) will come and make our home with each of them."
2. This is a beautiful word picture painted by Jesus. God wants to make His home in the hearts of the obedient. Home is the place of family. It is comfortable. It is where

we go at the end of the day to enjoy those who love us most and “kick our shoes off.” It is a place of safety and security. It is a place of intimacy and love. That is where God wants to live. He wants to live in every part of our “house.” What does it mean that Jesus wants to make his home in us? What are the implications of this truth? How do we make our entire “house” available to God?

D. Obedience leads to peace- 14:27-31.

1. Jesus wants to leave us a gift- peace of mind. It is a gift the world cannot give. His peace takes away fear.
2. It is the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7), and it is a gift of obedience.
3. There are two rulers: the ruler of this world (Satan vs.30), and the ruler of the universe (Jesus Christ). Jesus has all authority over everything. Satan has no power over Jesus. When we walk in obedience Satan has no power over us either. The result is peace. The first thing we lose when we sin is our peace. How do we get peace in our lives? How do we keep peace? Why are peace and obedience linked?

E. Obedience leads to fruitfulness- 15:8-10. The fruit is the fruit that comes from remaining in Christ. Obedient Christians are fruitful Christians. We have fruit in relationships. We have spiritual fruit. We have the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The fruit of obedience is an incredible blessing that God gives those who walk with Him. In what ways does obedience produce fruit in our lives? What is your takeaway from this study?

