

True Fellowship With God Part III  
*Requires a Biblical View of Obedience*  
(1 John 2:3-6)

**Introduction:**

1. **OBE'DIENCE**, *n.* [L. *obedientia*. See *Obey*.]  
*Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition. To constitute obedience, the act or forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience. Obedience is not synonymous with obsequiousness; the latter often implying meanness or servility, and obedience being merely a proper submission to authority. That which duty requires implies dignity of conduct rather than servility. Obedience may be voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary obedience alone can be acceptable to God. (From Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary)*
2. I remember this children's song about obedience:

**OBEEDIENCE Song**

Obedience is the very best way, to show that you believe.  
Doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it happily.  
Action is the key - do it immediately, joy you will receive.  
Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

We want to live pure we want to live clean.  
We want to do our best.  
Sweetly submitting to authority, leaving to God the rest.  
Walking in the light, keep our attitudes right,  
On the narrow way.  
For if you believe the Word you receive,  
You always will obey

Chorus - O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E  
Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

3. There is also a hymn that serves as a good reminder that obedience is really the very best way to show that we believe and it's called "**Trust and Obey**"

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
But is blessed if we trust and obey.*

*But we never can prove the delights of His love  
Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,  
Are for them who will trust and obey.*

*Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;  
Never fear, only trust and obey.*

CHORUS:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy with Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

4. Paul tells the Philippians' that the **evidence of their salvation** is in their \_\_\_\_\_ to God; "So then my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; **for it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as **lights in the world**, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain or toil in vain" (Philippians 2:12-16)

## True Claims of Obedience

1. The mark of a true follower of Christ can be summed up in this statement made by the Apostle John; "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments" (I John 2:3)
  - John is pretty much restating what Jesus taught them; "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and disclose Myself to him." (John 14:21)
    - 1) Obedience grows out of \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus and His Word (I John 3:24)
    - 2) Those who \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ Him, are in \_\_\_\_\_ with God (John 14:23, I John 1:3)
  - In contrast Jesus says this about those who are not true followers; "He who does not love Me, does not keep My words, and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father who sent Me" (John 14:24)
    - 1) To not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is to not \_\_\_\_\_ God
    - 2) To not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is to not \_\_\_\_\_ God
    - 3) To not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is to not \_\_\_\_\_ God
    - 4) To not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is to not \_\_\_\_\_ God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ really is the very best way to show that we believe and we are able to \_\_\_\_\_ by staying connected to the Word who is Jesus.
  - "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105)
  - "I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me, you can do nothing.....if you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10)

## **False Claims of Obedience**

1. If living in obedience to Christ (obeying His commands) is a mark of a follower of Christ then to live in \_\_\_\_\_ reveals that such a person is not a genuine follower of Christ and therefore is not in fellowship with God. (I John 2:3-4)
  - “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments” (I John 2:3)
  - “The one who says I have come to know him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4)
2. The New Testament writers reveal to us that some people claim to follow Christ but their faith is a false faith (**faith that does not save**):
  - Simon the magician (Acts 8:9-24):
    - 1) His interest in the gospel appeared to be for personal gain
    - 2) His life appeared to be governed by pride and selfish motives before and even after his decision to believe and be baptized.
    - 3) It would be the Apostle Peter’s response of outrage that is very telling as to the genuineness of Simon the sorcerer’s conversion; “may your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money. You have no part or portion in this matter for your heart is not right before God” (Acts 8:20)
    - 4) Time doesn’t permit to explore all of the detail of this text as to whether Simon the sorcerer ever showed genuine repentance and genuine faith. However, church history/tradition alleges that Simon (while in Rome) went on to establish various Gnostic heresies, and perversion of Christian doctrine that the church battled in the early centuries. In addition (according to tradition), he went on to compete with the Apostles in the area of performing miracles, even though he was unsuccessful.

- Paul speaks of Demas; “Having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica” (II Timothy 4:10)
  - Paul warns Timothy that there will be those who will; “hold to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power, avoid such men as these” (II Timothy 3:5). He will go on to declare; “For a time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths” ( II Tim. 4:2-4)
3. Jesus declared; “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is heaven will enter” (Matthew 7:21)
- Jesus also told us that the seed (The Word of God) is capable of falling on good soil as well as bad. (Matthew 13:1-23)
  - There will be branches that abide in the vine and those branches that do not and are subsequently cut off. (John 15:1-11, Matthew 7:17-23, Matthew 12:33-37)
  - There will be houses built on sand that will collapse and be ruined while others are built on the rock and will survive. (Matthew 7:24-27)
  - There will be sheep together with wolves and in some instances the wolves try to look like sheep but in the end they are still wolves and as such will be destroyed. (Matthew 7:15)
  - There will be tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:24-43)
  - There will be those with a “**working faith**” (Philippians 2:12), and those with a “**demon faith**”. (James 2:19)
  - There will be those who have “**faith to the preserving of the soul**” (a true faith) and those “**who shrink back to destruction**” (a false faith). (Hebrews 10:39)

### **Evidence of True Obedience (I John 2:5-6)**

1. A believer (follower of Christ), who models his life after Jesus and is obedient to His teachings (the Word of God), will enjoy the fellowship with God that he/she seeks and what God intends them to have.
2. The evidence of our belief is in our \_\_\_\_\_ to the commands of Jesus.
3. We show our obedience in our actions toward God and others by conducting ourselves in a manner that is consistent with what Jesus lived and taught:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ God
  - \_\_\_\_\_ others
4. By displaying and living out the fruit of the Spirit which is consistent with the life of a follower of Christ; “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control, against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23)
5. “Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence, if there is any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8)
6. “Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10)

### **Concluding Remarks:**

1. The theme of John’s message is fellowship with God which requires that we walk in the Light.
2. This task is not impossible for the believer since “genuine faith” will produce genuine obedience to God through the indwelling Holy Spirit.
3. We must not kid ourselves though, there will be moments of disobedience, and in those moments is when we cry out to God, confess our sin (I John 1:9), and get back in the game.