

Attitude #6 Obedience

**Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
I desire to live day-by-day under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit**

Obedience - the act or practice of following instructions, complying with rules or regulations, or submitting to somebody's authority. Compliance, duty, conformity.

There is nothing in us that naturally compels us to obey. Because we were born with a sin nature, we are inclined to rebel. Many of our lives have been controlled by rewards or consequences that have dictated our decisions regarding obedience. If there is something in it for us, we might obey; or if that is something in it for us, we might disobey. Obedience motivated by reward is not a bad way to live, there will be reward, but it is also not the expectant way for us to live. **Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments."** In other words, as we cultivate our relationship with the Lord, we should develop a desire to obey Him based on our love for Him. Knowing what He has done for us and how He has been so merciful and patient with us; these are all things as we grow that should draw us closer to God.

In the Christian life there is no arrival regarding obedience, there is the steady gradual change of our will surrendered to the will of God. As our statement says, our desire to live day by day under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit will be the key to living a practical obedient life that glorifies God. When we glorify God with our lives, we are lining ourselves up for the Lord to bless our lives. This does not mean that we will not experience adversity and trials along the way, but if we continue to evaluate and eliminate the self-inflicted struggles of our lives we will experience a better life.

A Biblical example:

Psalms 40:1-3 - I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

1. **A disciplined start. I waited patiently (look for, hope, expect) for the LORD; and he *inclined* (to stretch out, extend) unto me, and heard my cry.**
 - The discipline is in the waiting. More problems occur when we refuse to wait on the Lord.
 - *He waited patiently*, which implies that his relief did not come quickly; yet he doubted not that it would come and resolved to keep believing, hoping, and praying till it came.

- He expected relief from no other than from the Lord.....**"I waited patiently for the Lord."**

James 1:2,3 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into *divers temptations* (various trials); 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith *worketh* (develops) patience.

For most people, the discipline of waiting is a cultivated discipline. Some are better than others, but all of us can become better at waiting on God. Waiting not only requires trust, but it also develops trust. When we are waiting on the Lord we are, by our actions, showing Him that we trust Him. We are also showing Him that we believe that His ways are best for us and that we are willing to wait on Him to reveal them. As God works in our lives, develops patience, He will also increase our faith which will in turn develop our obedience. When we are waiting on God, we are committed to obey God as He leads us through the trails of life.

2. **An orchestrated method. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.**

Notice the progress: He brought me up, He brought me out, He anchored me down and He leads me on!!

God is all about process and progress. He has a process for our spiritual growth, and we would be correct in saying, by application, it is much like the process we see here in this verse. The pit of sin that we have been in may have looked different for everyone, but the likeness of each one is the same; we cannot work ourselves out of it. Only by the grace of God can I be forgiven of my sin and "brought up" out of it.

- He brought me up.

Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Ephesians 2:1 - And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

- He brought me out.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of

you: but ye ARE washed, but ye ARE sanctified, but ye ARE justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

- He anchored me down.

Proverbs 10:25 - As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Isaiah 48:13 - Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Matthew 7:24,25 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

- He leads me on.

Psalms 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 32:8 - I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide (advise, consult, give counsel) thee with mine eye.

3. **An encouraging result. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.**

When we have joy, when we trust and obey, and people see that in our lives; they are more inclined to see it and consider what the Lord has done in our lives, He can do in theirs.

Never underestimate the power of praise! When the Lord has done a new work in our lives our first response should be gratitude. All that we are or ever will be has been and will be because of the amazing grace of God. The more I acknowledge the work of God in my life the more it should compel me to love Him and the more that I love Him the more that I should praise Him and the more that I praise Him the more likely I am to obey Him.

Psalms 34:3 - Oh magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Psalms 69:30 - I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.