

Gospel Lighthouse Church
1/5/25

Obedience I

Scripture text: Joshua 1:7-8

Introduction: In the progression of spiritual life we must seek to live according to God's Word. God prescribed its importance to Joshua. We cannot successfully live without obeying God. What's the concise meaning of obedience?

Two primary biblical words, one from the Old Testament "shama" (Deut.6:4) and one from the New Testament "hupakoe" (Phil.2:8) give meaning to obedience or obey. The Old Testament word signifies "to hear," "to listen." It carries with it, however, the ethical significance of hearing with reverence and obedient assent. In the New Testament a different origin is suggestive of "hearing under" or of subordinating oneself to the person or thing heard, hence, "to obey." (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/obedience-obey/>, adaptation by JDF).

Key aspects of obedience

1. Central to the Christian faith.
 - Reflects love and respect for God's authority (Deut. 6:4; John 14:15).
2. Relational, not transactional.
 - Focus is on who is giving the command, not just the promised outcome.
3. Rooted in God's character.
 - God is perfect, wise, and trustworthy.
 - His instructions are the best and most reliable.
 - His credentials are supreme.
4. Companion of love.
 - Modeled supremely by Jesus (John 14:31; Phil. 2:5ff).
 - Mirrored in our surrender and obedience (John 14:15).
5. Immeasurable effects.
 - Abraham's obedience brought generational blessings (Gen. 22:15-18).
 - Obedience overcomes opposition (John 3:16-19; Heb. 12:2).

Application: Listen and following God's instructions:

- With a humble heart (Joshua 1:7-8).
- Aligning our wills with God's.
- Trusting in God's wisdom, purpose, and plan.

Conclusion: Reflect on the spiritual significance of obedience. Embrace a life of obedience rooted in love and trust in God.

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