



**OBEDIENCE AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE**

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*If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. John 15:10-11 (The Message)*

***1. JESUS HAS QUESTIONS, TOO!***

*"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,'" Jesus says, "and not do what I tell you?" Luke 6:46*

❑ OBEDIENCE: soldiers or lovers?

Jewish people repeated a person's name as an expression of intimacy (love - deep connectivity).

***You can never separate "LOVE" from "OBEDIENCE."***



*You can obey without loving but you can't love without obeying.*

*Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me... John 14.21*

The key to obedience is love, not determination.

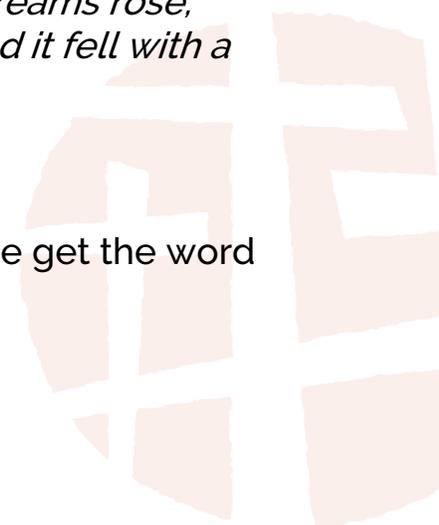
The key to obedience is love, not willpower.

- ❑ Not merely “suggestions for living.”

## ***2. UNUSED TRUTH IS AS USELESS AS AN UNUSED MUSCLE***

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. Matthew 7.24-27*

The Greek word for “foolish” is *moros*, from which we get the word “moron.”



*...everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man... v.24*

*...everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man... v.26*

*The true nature of hearing is not just listening. It's listening, learning and living.*

*Lesson 1. The storms are coming.*

*Lesson 2. The storms will test the foundation of your life.*

*Lesson 3. Those who build on the rock aren't sheltered from the storms of life.*

*Lesson 4. People who build on the rock don't escape from the storms - they are able to stand through them.*



*Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves, do what it says. James 1.22*

### **3. THE HEART OF OBEDIENCE**

*If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. John 15.10-11 (The Message)*

*But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in Him. 1 John 2.5*

"Our failure to follow God's leading reflects a lack of deep confidence in His goodness...The problem of unsteady commitment is not centrally a problem of the will; it is rather deficient belief...If we knew He was good, we would sense a deep desire to follow him..." – Larry Crabb

"Difficulties in obedience or surrender are often viewed as problems of the will. This is the reason some Christians try over and over again to "surrender all," each time attempting to do so with more fervor and resolve. But this misses the point of surrendering first to love and allowing obedience to be an obligation of love, not a response to a commandment. Ultimately, problems in surrender and obedience are problems of knowing God's love. They are problems therefore of the heart, not the will."  
- David Benner, Surrender to Love, p.66

"...the less one trusts, the more they disobey..." - Alexander Maclaren

*...God's kindness that leads us to repentance.* Romans 2.4

Loving hearts are obedient hearts.

God is as good as Jesus made Him out to be.

Live like what He said is true really is true.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Obedience and Joy are correlated within scripture. What experiences do you have in your own life that make it difficult to join those two in your mind?
- 2) The true nature of hearing is not just listening. It's listening, learning, and living. Which one do you struggle with the most? Which one do you succeed with the most?
- 3) As a small group, re-read Matthew 7.24-27, and answer these three questions:
  1. How does this passage speak to me personally?
  2. What does this passage say about the world around me?
  3. What about this passage is weird, cool, or confusing?