

## The Blessings of Obedience

*Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*  
(Deuteronomy 5:29)

*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)*

*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:7-11)*

We are saved purely by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus and not by our works or obedience to God and to His commandments. But God's law and God's commandments are still good. God gave them to us for our benefit. There are blessings that come about with obedience. When we sin we are actually hurting ourselves. God gave us His commandments for our good and for our welfare. It says in Proverbs 8:35-36 “For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.” We read in 1 John 5:2-3 “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” Yes His commandments are not burdensome. They are good for us.

Obedience brings about blessings. Like the song says “Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to 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 and the joy He bestows are for them who will trust and obey.”

One of the blessings that obedience brings is good health. We read in Proverbs 3:7-8 “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones.” And remember the first commandment with a promise in Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father

and mother which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” It is not a guarantee that if you will obey the Lord you will always have good health. But it is generally true that if you obey the Lord and do what is right in His eyes that this will keep you from going down the wrong path. Obedience will keep you for example from sexual immorality which will lead to disease and from drinking which leads to liver damage.

One great example in the bible of a man who walked in obedience is Abraham. We read in Hebrews 11:8-9 “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.” Also the great mark of obedience Abraham showed was when he obeyed the Lord and did not withhold Isaac his son and was about to sacrifice him on the altar. God rewarded Abraham and said in Genesis 22:16-18 “ By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

The marks of a true believer is obedience. It says in 1 John 2:3-6 “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” On the other hand, the marks of an unbeliever is disobedience. We read in Romans 2:8-9 “But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.”

In conclusion remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 6:46 which says “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Father help us to trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey. In Jesus name. Amen.

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