

The Obedience Factor

1. Must come from the **HEART**
 - Pharisees – “*outward only, hearts far from me.*” *Matthew 15:8-9*
2. Will be **TESTED**
 - Abraham and sacrifice of Isaac *Genesis 22:2, 7-8, 12*
 - Adam and Eve - Garden *Genesis 3:4-7*
 - Jesus in Gethsemane *Luke 23:42*
3. Obedience is **LEARNED**
 - Jesus learned obedience through the things he suffered. *Hebrews 5:7-10*
4. Highly **VALUED** by God
 - Obedience is better than Sacrifice (David) *Psalms 51*
 - Saul’s disobedience (loss of kingdom) *1 Samuel 15:22, 23*
 - Jesus on the Cross (redemption for all mankind) *Philippians 2:8*
 - Jesus in the Wilderness (overcame temptation) *Matthews 4: 1ff*
 - In keeping God’s Word there is great reward *Psalms 19:11*
5. Obedience reflects **LOVE** for Christ
 - *If you love me you will obey my commandments John 14:15*
 - *He who keeps my commandments loves me John 14:21*
 - *If anyone loves me he will keep my word John 14:23*
6. Obedience reflects faith and confidence in God’s **PROVISION**
 - Tithing (test me) *Malachi 3:10*
 - Honesty (Abraham in Egypt, white lie, fear, can’t trust God) *Genesis 20: 2 ff.*
 - Integrity (Joseph in Egypt, obeyed God’s law, ultimate reward) *Genesis 39:9*
7. Obedience yields greater **RESPONSIBILITY** in the Kingdom
 - *You have been faithful in a little... (increase) Luke 19:17;26*

8. Obedience brings **PEACE**
 - When we do it God's way, we have inner peace that cannot be taken away
 - When we disobey God, we suffer guilt, anxiety, fear and condemnation

9. Israel's **EXAMPLE**
 - Obedience to the covenant (peace, prosperity, plenty) *Deuteronomy 28:1-15*
 - Disobedience to the covenant (curse, captivity) *Deuteronomy 28:16-68*

10. Obedience brings **ETERNAL** rewards
 - *Well done good and faithful servants (enter into the kingdom) Matthew 25:21;23*

11. **VOWS** and our Obedience
 - Baptismal covenant (seven promises: prayer, worship, study, giving, ministry, fellowship, witness)
 - Confirmation
 - Marriage vows
 - Ordination vows
 - Lay orders – DOK, etc.
 - Monastic vows

12. Lack of **OBEDIENCE** is rooted in
 - Can I trust God?
 - Is God faithful?
 - Confidence in God's plan – walk by faith, not by sight
 - Confidence in God's Word – it will not return void
 - Lack of experience – no track record with God
 - Fear of failure – image
 - Fear of risk – step out of the boat
 - Need to be accepted – Pharisees sought praise of men – outward showing
 - Need for approval – seek approval of God not man
 - Human sin and stubbornness