

Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



信徒生命中的順服

Obedience in the Life of the Believer

創=15-17

撒下12:15; 約14:15-24; 弗6:1-3

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 2:15-16 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 12:15 | John 14:15, 21, 23-24 | Ephesians 6:1-3

01/03/16

SUMMARY

The first lesson on obedience is found in the very beginning of the Bible.

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment surrounded with beauty and abundance; and when the Lord placed them in the garden, He gave only one prohibition: "From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17). If they had obeyed Him, they would have continued to live in the midst of all His blessings; but since they disobeyed, they suffered the consequences of violating His command.

神在創世記開始就已吩咐人的順服

SERMON POINTS

This same principle of obedience still applies to us today. Blessings come with obedience, but disobedience brings problems, heartaches, and burdens.

Obedience is the first lesson we should teach in the home.

Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." The pattern that the Lord established in the home flows from the order He instituted in the Garden of Eden. Just as almighty God is our authority and we are to obey Him, so children are to honor and obey their parents.

* Our obedience to the Lord includes faithfully teaching our children to obey us. If we submit to God's authority as we raise our children, they too will learn to follow the Lord. However, if we tell them to obey us,

學習順從父母，進而順從上帝。

but we ourselves neglect God's commands, they will see the inconsistency and experience internal conflict, confusion, frustration, and ultimately disobedience.

Obedience starts in the morning. 每日早晨以順服神開始

Each day should begin with prayer asking God for a sensitive spirit. We need His help to rightly interact with people and deal with the circumstances we encounter. When we begin the morning with a sincere desire to obey the Lord, we'll be reminded to continually turn to Him for guidance and strength throughout the day.

An obedient life is not one of perfection.

We won't always make the right choices and do what God wants, but a godly person who desires to obey will immediately feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When we are filled and controlled by the Spirit, our first response to sin will be confession and repentance. And if we've offended someone else, we will quickly go to that person and ask forgiveness. But if we delay, thinking, "I'll take care of this tomorrow," we may end up putting it off for weeks, months, or even years. And that is disobedience.

what, how and when He says, I obey.

The opposite of obedience is rebellion.

Since God is our ultimate authority, any time we choose not to heed His commands, we are rebelling against Him. Then we wonder why we're experiencing trouble and conflicts. Samuel told God's people, "If you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers" (1 Sam. 12:15). This is a valuable lesson that

順服的相反是背叛 叛逆

we need to pass down to our children. Sometimes the anger and conflicts in the home are the result of parents not following the Lord, and children not obeying their parents.

Obedience is doing what God says, how he says, and when He says to do it.

顺从：按着上帝的时间及祂所吩咐，做祂所吩咐的工作。

Oftentimes we'd prefer to redefine these terms, but the elimination of any one of them results in disobedience. Partial obedience is still rebellion against the Lord. For example, suppose we believe that God wants us to give a certain portion of our income to Him, but instead of giving Him the full amount, we decide to give less. Or maybe He calls us into ministry, missions, or some other area of service, but we delay or alter our response to the call. Instead of becoming a missionary, we decide to focus on becoming financially successful so we can give more money to the Lord's work. Or maybe we sidestep God's clear call to preach the gospel and opt to teach Sunday school instead.] 你顺服上帝的呼召吗？

Anytime we dictate the terms of our obedience, we are not doing what the Lord has told us to do. We may think that offering an alternate form of obedience ought to please Him, but it won't. Because God loves us, He wants us to follow His commands so we can receive the blessings that follow. This is the only way to spare us from the negative consequences that inevitably come with disobedience.

Obedience is the proof of our love for Christ.

顺服神证明我们对基督的爱。

Three times in the fourteenth chapter of John, Jesus equates loving Him with obedience (vv. 15, 21, 23). 约十四-十五-24. Many of us claim to love Christ, yet we'd have to admit that our actions don't always support our assertion. Our love for Him should motivate and prompt us to keep His Word and please Him in all we do.

Obedience is not only the will of God, but it's the best way to live.

The Lord gave us His commandments for our own good. Any time we try to manipulate or maneuver around them, we are settling for second best. We can

有的！若顺从神，我们的道路最美善。

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never improve on what God has said. Like a loving Father, He protects us by giving us rules to guide our lives. And if we go astray, He provides stinging consequences, which motivate us to return to the path of obedience.

神会引导我们归回王路！

When we follow the Lord's instructions, they influence every area of our lives. Each day as we encounter various situations, we'll ask ourselves, "What has God said about this?" For instance, if someone wrongs us at work, we'll remember that Jesus said to forgive others. Although we may not be able to quote a verse, we'll know what's right and wrong. Furthermore, we have the Holy Spirit living within us who prompts us to do what's right. And if we sin, He convicts us with deep sorrow over our disobedience so we will repent and change. In our own strength, we can't overcome our sins, but the Spirit gives us the power to develop godly attitudes, actions, and habits.

要饶恕别人的过犯

要圣灵住我心

要悔改，赦免，
要圣灵指引

He promises us to empower us to do the work.

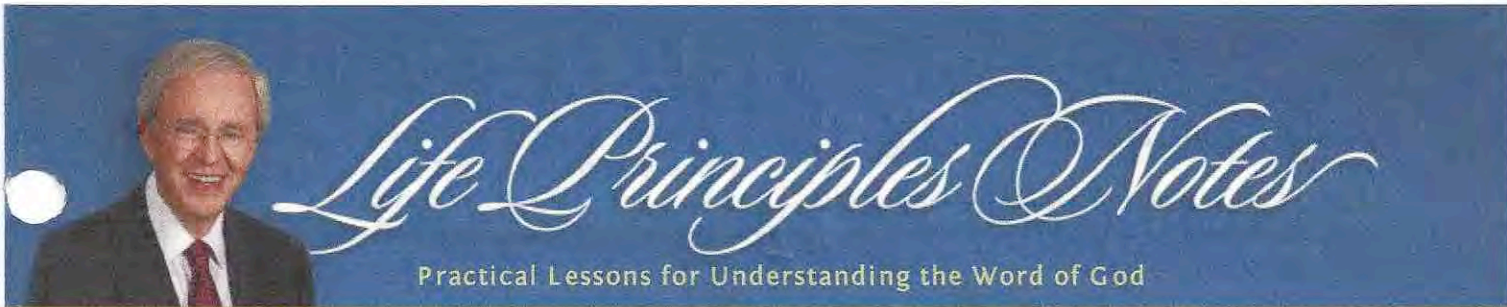
What is our motivation for obedience?

- **A reverence for who God is.** He deserves our obedience because He is our holy, sovereign Lord who gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross so we could be forgiven. 祂配受我们的敬拜与顺服，因祂为神和子。
- **A desire to please Him.** If we revere and love Him, we won't want to displease Him in any area of our lives. Furthermore, disobedience never gives us what we truly want—peace, joy, and happiness. Even if the path of obedience is painful, it is still the best option. 渴求讨上帝喜悦。

RESPONSE

- Think about a time you fully obeyed the Lord in a difficult situation. How did God work in your life?
- Now consider an occasion when you either disobeyed or partially obeyed. What consequences resulted? How did it affect you?

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#2

順服神的一生

A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE

02-23-15

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 5:14-29 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Numbers 32:23 | Joshua 1:8 | Psalm 103:19
Romans 8:28 | Galatians 6:7 | 1 John 5:3

SUMMARY:

What are the determining factors?
⇒ Consequences

How do you make decisions?

Maybe you try to determine what will benefit you the most. Perhaps you strive to please or impress others. You may let emotions take control or attempt to make rational decisions based on the facts. Wise men and women seek the Lord's guidance when making decisions. They eliminate choices that violate the Word of God. Then they listen for the Father's specific direction for their particular situation or circumstance. They learn to *obey God, and leave all the consequences to Him*. There is nothing more important in life than following Jesus Christ and trusting Him to take care of you.

順從神並將一切後果交託神。

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

A Biblical Example

After Pentecost, the church grew rapidly in Jerusalem. The Bible says that "multitudes of men and women were constantly added to their number" (Acts 5:14). The Jewish leaders became fearful of losing power and were jealous of the apostles' influence. To keep the gospel from spreading, they threw the men in jail. That night, an angel opened the doors to the prison, and they escaped. The next morning, they publicly taught about Christ *again*—despite the threat of arrest. When the authorities told the apostles to stop preaching in Jesus' name, they responded, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

順服神不順服人是應當的！徒五：29

Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." This is a divine principle that cannot change. *We reap what we sow, more than we sow, and later than we sow*. Many people today fail to consider the long term effects of their choices. But as followers of Jesus, we know that every action has an impact for good or evil. Our decisions—and the choices of others—determine the quality of our lives. For example, poor diet, a lack of exercise, and inadequate rest generally lead to poor overall health or illness. Spending beyond our means typically leads to poverty. And our rebellion harms not only ourselves but also those around us.

加大：7

attitude 態度 (心思)
↓
actions 行動、
↓
Consequences 結果/後果

Disobedient Biblical Characters

Imagine how different the stories in the Bible would be if mankind knew what disobeying God would cost. Adam and Eve would never have eaten the forbidden fruit. The nation of Israel would have chosen to fight for the Promised Land the first time around instead of wandering in the desert for 40 years. After seeing Bathsheba bathing, David would have turned away and walked back inside. He would have realized his sin with her was going to affect the entire nation. If Jonah had known how miserable he would be in the belly of the great fish, he would have willingly traveled to Nineveh to preach the Word of God.

不順從的例子

以色列國

大衛

約拿

魔鬼

The devil tells us that we can get away with disobeying the Lord—that we will be the one exception to the rule. But the Bible says, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23).

民三：23

get caught!

no yet!

Follow the will of God. 当刚强, 勇敢, 壮胆

Faithful Biblical Characters 順從的例子

God expects us to obey His commandments. Noah was asked to build a massive boat, which made him the laughing stock of the town. But he was ready when the flood came. Moses had to appear before Pharaoh, the leader of a powerful civilization, and demand freedom for the Israelites. Ultimately, the people were allowed to go free. Joshua was told to march around Jericho for seven days instead of relying on the military tactics he knew—and God destroyed the enemy.

Nehemiah asked the Babylonian king for supplies to rebuild Jerusalem and received all he needed, including guards to help him safely reach his city. In captivity, Daniel and his three friends refused to eat meat because it was not prepared according to Hebrew dietary laws, and they still looked healthier than the other young men. Finally, Peter and the apostles refused to stop preaching about Jesus—even though they were threatened with flogging and imprisonment. In every case, the Lord showed Himself faithful to those who were willing to follow His commands.

The Requirements

What does it take for us to obey the Lord? We must believe that God is sovereign—He controls all things at all times (Ps. 103:19). Even when we don't understand, you and I must trust that God will work for our good in every situation (Rom. 8:28). The Bible says we show our love for the Father by obeying Him (1 John 5:3)—and not just when what He commands is convenient or desirable. We also must listen to Him. When you pray, don't do all the talking. Make time to hear what the Father has to say to you. Obeying God takes courage, and following His will often leads to conflict. You must be willing to do what is right anyway. Fully surrender to Him; otherwise, you can't expect the Lord to use everything in your life for good.

羅八:28; 林後五:3 順服的力量來自神!

The Results of Obedience

Following God leads to great reward. The Lord told Joshua that he would prosper if he meditated on the Word of God and obeyed Him completely

(Josh. 1:8). You may not be considered a success in the eyes of the world, but you will experience personal victory if you follow His will.

Obedying the Father brings peace and joy. No matter what happens around you, God can bring serenity and happiness. Suffering is another thing you and I can expect when we follow the Lord's will for our lives. God uses our troubles and trials to change the world. And in the midst of conflict and difficulty, we develop spiritually—growing more like Christ.

There have been many times when God told me to do something that didn't make sense from a human perspective. The Father may lead you to give up a hobby or donate a valuable item. He may prompt you to give financially when you feel you can't afford it. God may ask you to serve in your church or take a leadership role though you feel inadequate. Your faithfulness can inspire others to surrender to Him as well. In every situation and circumstance of life, you can be sure God will supply all your needs and will glorify Himself through your obedience.

CONCLUSION:

Act of obedience ignites the whole church. Dr. Stanley's church examples, (a ring triggers...)

When you need to make an important decision, don't rely primarily on your own reasoning, the opinions of others, or even what worked in the past. Get on your knees before the Lord and pour out your heart to Him. Spend time prayerfully reading His Word. Take time to listen for His voice, and then follow His specific guidance for your life.

Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him. If you take this one principle to heart, you will have the awesome privilege of watching the Lord accomplish great things in and through you.

* Marching the entire block of the church neighborhood
* donate/sold his camera equipment

* trust and obey *

* 順從神, 將一切後果交託祂 *



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You can't lose when you obey God. 順服神绝对不会失败!

Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



順從(順服)神的必要條件及工作 The Requirements of Obedience

詩三:8-11

書一:9; 六:1-20 詩一:105 箴三:5-8

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 32:8-11 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:9; 6:1-20 | Psalm 119:105 | Proverbs 3:5-8

Isaiah 64:4 | John 16:13 | Acts 5:28-29; 16:5-10

賽六四:4 約十六:13 徒五:28-29; 十六:5-10

05/01/16

SUMMARY

We all need guidance now and then, but whom are we allowing to influence us?

There are many strange voices in the world clamoring for our attention and offering to help us with whatever concerns us. However, all these voices could lead us astray. The only one who can give us perfect guidance is our heavenly Father. But to receive His instructions, we must listen, trust, and obey Him.

我們的天父會給我們最好的指引。

SERMON POINTS

順從: 按著神的时间及祂之所說做祂所指示的工作。
Obedience can be defined as doing what God says, how he says, and when He says to do it.

All three of these aspects are required, or it's disobedience. To intentionally ignore what the Lord says and do what we desire in the way we want and according to our time schedule is outright rebellion. In essence we are telling Him that our way is better, and we want control of our lives. Now we might try to excuse our deliberate disobedience by claiming it was just a mistake, but in reality, we are rebelling against almighty God.

Life at its best is only found in obedience to the Lord. He created us, loves us, and knows exactly how we should live and what we should do. Therefore to turn our backs on His plans for our lives is equivalent to rejecting the best He could possibly give us. The wisest thing we can do is to submit to the Lord and learn what is required to live in obedience to Him.

Obedience requires that we . . . not lean on your own understanding" (v. 5). 箴三:5 (Proverbs 3:5)

■ **Meditate upon God's Word.** Since the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, we need to carefully consider what it says so we won't stumble or lose our way in life (Ps. 119:105).

Meditation includes reading the Word, thinking about it, and asking God questions regarding its meaning and application. The world constantly bombards us with messages designed to lead us astray, but when we make the Scriptures a vital part of each day, our hearts and minds are protected and tuned in to the Lord so we can discern His guidance.

■ **Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.** God has given us the awesome gift of His Spirit who lives within us. He's the one who convicted us of sin and opened our hearts to accept Jesus' wonderful offer of salvation. Now one of His jobs is to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). When we read the Scriptures, He helps us interpret it. Then throughout the day, He reminds us of those truths or convicts us if we sin. No one can live the Christian life without Him. Only as we listen to the Spirit will we become Christ-like and accomplish what God desires.

■ **Be sensitive to God's timing.** Whatever the Lord tells us to do is to be done according to His time schedule not ours. Isaiah 64:4 says that the Lord acts in behalf of those who wait for Him. If we're consistently listening to God through His Word and His Spirit, over a period of time, He will train us to discern not only what He's saying, but when

默想神的話

箴一:105

敏感於聖靈

(信徒有聖靈的內住)

約十六:13

敏感於神的聲音

賽六四:4

神要等候祂的人行事

He wants us to act. Since God is omniscient, He knows the perfect timing for every situation. If we get ahead of Him or lag behind, we'll miss what He had in mind. To help us, He's given us an internal timer in the person of the Holy Spirit. When we're sensitive to His voice, He shows us when to move ahead.

即使前程不明,仍與主同行

■ **Walk where the way is not always clear.**

Obedience would be much easier if we knew exactly where we're going, but sometimes God calls us to step out in faith when the way is not clear. When doubts arise, we should remember that the sovereign God of the universe gave us the assignment. Proverbs 3:5 reminds us to trust in Him and not in our own limited understanding. If He chose the path, He will reveal the way as we move forward in obedience.

箴三:5-8 專心仰賴主...

■ **Follow God's instruction even if it seems unreasonable.**

The Lord might ask us to do something which seems illogical or beyond our ability. Even if we feel unqualified, afraid, and resistant, instead of making excuses or denying that God could have possibly said that, we should be like Joshua. When the Lord told him to conquer Jericho by marching around it seven times, he must have thought it was the strangest battle plan ever devised. But God knew exactly what He was doing and secured the victory through Joshua's trusting obedience. We can never put the Lord in a box by confining Him to what seems reasonable to us.

即使不合理,仍服從主的指示

■ **Have courage.** When God called Joshua to accomplish the gigantic task of leading the

Israelites, He told him, "Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (v. 1:9). And the same is true for us today. Courage is essential for obedience in the Christian life. If we're afraid of the challenges God places before us, we need to keep listening to Him and move ahead believing that He will be with us every step of the way.

書一:9 約書亞信心的例證。有勇氣

■ **Accept conflict.** Sometimes obedience to the Lord results in conflict with others. This is what

接受因順服主而有與世界的衝突。

happened to Peter and the apostles when they were preaching about Jesus in Jerusalem. When they were confronted by the Council, they replied, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). If we stop doing what God says every time someone objects, we'll never fulfill His will.

徒五:29 順服神不順服人

■ **Be willing to be corrected by God.** There may be times when the Lord alters our course.

願意接受神的指正

During Paul's second missionary journey, he was redirected several times until he finally perceived where God wanted him to go (Acts. 16:6-10). We should always hold our plans loosely so the Holy Spirit has our cooperation when He wants to change them.

徒十六:6-10

Our responsibility is to obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.

順服神,將一切後果交託神

Since the Lord has promised to guide us, we have nothing to fear if we're following His leadership. He is sovereign over everything and controls all the consequences. There is nothing He cannot handle or will not provide for us if we'll listen, trust, and obey Him.

主權在神,若我們順從並堅心依靠祂,祂一定負責到底。

RESPONSE

■ Think of a time you disobeyed the Lord by either not doing what He said, not doing it as He desired, or doing it at the wrong time. What happened as a result? What lessons did you learn?

■ Have you ever sensed the Lord calling you to something that seemed unreasonable? How did you respond? Looking back, what have been the results of your choice to either obey or disobey?

■ Look at the list of requirements for obedience. Which ones have you done or experienced? Which ones do you need to work on?

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Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



順服的要素

What Does Obedience Require?

詩-103:19

創-1:1

書-8:9; 6:1-20

詩-27:14

賽六四:4

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:19 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1 | Joshua 1:8-9; 6:1-20 | Psalm 27:14 | Isaiah 64:4
Matthew 5:6; 26:39 | Mark 4:24 | Luke 22:42 | Acts 5:29 | Romans 10:9 | Ephesians 4:25-32 | Hebrews 11:6 | 1 John 1:9

太五:6; 二六:39 可四:24 路二二:42 徒五:29 羅十:9 弗四:25-32 來十一:6 約壹一:9 01/17/16

SUMMARY

Obedience can be defined as doing what God says, how He says, and when He says to do it.

We might prefer to redefine it in another way, but this is exactly what the Lord expects of us. Furthermore, He always enables us to do whatever He requires. Yet there may be times when we're afraid to obey Him because we don't know what will happen as a result. Sometimes obedience is costly. However, if we know that He's our loving heavenly Father who always does what's best for us, we'll be able to trust Him and leave all the consequences to Him. Obedience is not always easy, but it's essential if we want to live in accordance with God's will.

SERMON POINTS

Obedience requires the following characteristics. We must be willing to ...

- **Recognize that God is the sovereign ruler of this universe.** Because He allows human beings the freedom to make choices which sometimes result in heartache, suffering, and even disaster, it may seem like He's not in control; however, Psalm 103:19 assures us that "His sovereignty rules over all." When we acknowledge His right as the Creator to reign over the earth, we also recognize our responsibility to submit to Him as our authority. 祂的權能統管萬有

- **Have faith.** If we're going to obey God, we must believe what He says. Hebrews 11:6 says, "He who comes to God must believe that He is and that

He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." The Lord loves us and has chosen the best path for our lives if we will follow Him. But unbelief is the enemy of obedience, and the consequences of rebelling against Him are terrible. 有勇氣

- **Be courageous.** When the Lord picked Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land, He told him, "Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:9). God knew that as Joshua obeyed, he would face all kinds of difficulties and challenges that required confident boldness. This has been the common experience of all the Lord's prophets and apostles, and it will be the same for us as well. We must be careful not to let fear stop us from fully obeying the Lord. 當即強壯胆 書一:9 信心胆識

- **Wait upon the Lord.** God's timing is always perfect, but from our perspective, it may seem slow. If we focus on the circumstances or the advice of others, we may be tempted to jump ahead of the Lord, but Isaiah 64:4 says that God "acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him." When we wait for the Lord, we are not sitting idle but are being sensitive to His direction before making decisions. He knows all the facts and the perfect timing for every situation. 賽六四:4 等候上帝 上帝美哉成就 God's timing

- **Meditate on God's Word.** To obey, we must first know what the Lord wants us to do. That's why He told Joshua, "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it" (Josh. 1:8). To meditate means to mull something over in our minds and reflect on it. If we desire to follow the 書一:8

有信心 蒙上帝喜悅, 相信, 依靠並順服

默想上帝話語聖靈中
Textbook of life

Lord, the Bible must fill our minds and hearts and become our text for living. Meditation helps us thoughtfully consider His directions, promises, and truths and apply them to our lives. As we read and meditate on His Word, it will challenge us to examine ourselves, and if necessary, change our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

- **Learn to listen to the Lord.** Since so many voices could lead us astray, we must be careful what we listen to (Mark 4:24). God wants to speak to us if we're willing to quietly listen for the Holy Spirit's inaudible voice. Sometimes during prayer, He may lay something on our heart or give us a sense of direction regarding a decision we must make. However, the Lord never tells us anything that contradicts His Word. That's why meditation on the Scriptures is essential. It's our source of guidance, comfort, and strength. If a particular passage grabs our attention, we should pause and ask the Lord if He's trying to tell us something. Then as we meditate on those verses, God will begin to shape our minds to think the way He does. *學習聆聽神，聖靈微小的聲音。*

- **Suffer a head-on collision with the world, if necessary.** When Peter and the disciples were told by the Sanhedrin not to preach the gospel, they said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). This is the same choice we may be called to make as we live in this world. For example, on the job we could be asked to do something that is contrary to our faith or told not to do something which God commands. There may be times when we have to go against people and their expectations in order to be obedient to the Lord. *與世界直接的衝突可致受苦。*

- **Forsake any and all sin.** There is no way to walk obediently with God while tolerating sin in our lives. According to Ephesians 4:25-31, we are to lay aside all our sinful practices. This doesn't mean we have to be perfect, but when the Holy Spirit convicts us of a particular sin, our first response should be confession and repentance. And if a sin keeps cropping up, we must

continually deal with it until it ceases to have a hold on us.

- **Surrender our will to the Lord.** When it comes to obedience, we should have the same attitude as Jesus, who said, "Yet not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Each morning, we need to yield everything to the Lord, wanting only what pleases and honors Him. However, if we don't yield to His will, we'll follow our own desires and eventually suffer the consequences of our disobedience. *降服於神*

- **Walk where the way is unclear.** God doesn't always give us full understanding of the path He wants us to walk. When He called Abraham, He told him to leave his country and go to the land He would show Him (Gen 12:1). Abraham didn't know where He was going, but God faithfully led him each step of the way. And sometimes that's the way the Lord works in our lives. He doesn't show us the entire picture up front, but promises to guide us if we'll take one step of faith at a time. *新=1*

憑信心跟隨主，即使是未知的路程；主必保守、安排、引領。

RESPONSE

- Read through the requirements of obedience again. Which ones are the hardest for you? Which are the easiest?
- How is your obedience affected by your level of trust in the Lord? What circumstances or outcomes cause you to doubt that His way is the best way? What can you do to increase your trust in Him?

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Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



The Courage to Obey

心灵的好品质与决心

順服的勇氣

書一:1-9

申三:8; 九:1-105

申三:7, 10-12

書一:10-11

04/19/2015

KEY PASSAGE: Joshua 1:1-9 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 34:7, 10-12 | Joshua 1:10-11; 23:1-3, 6-8; 24:29-31 | Judges 21:25 | Psalm 32:8; 119:105 | Proverbs 3:5-6 | Romans 8:28 | 1 John 5:14

He is speaking to you. He repeats Himself.

SUMMARY

Obeying God is always the right thing to do, but it isn't always the easiest. wisest

When His assignments seem beyond our capabilities, we need brave determination to follow through.

Courage is the quality of mind and spirit enabling us to meet danger, opposition, or the challenges of life with fearlessness, calmness, and decisiveness.

Joshua was a man who understood the challenges of obedience because the Lord entrusted him with the responsibility of leading the Israelites into the land He'd promised to give them. Although Joshua lived thousands of years ago, the Lord's message to him is still applicable to us today.

當剛強壯胆, 不要懼怕

SERMON POINTS

Courage is needed to fulfill God's assignments for our lives.

Why would Joshua need bravery to achieve the job God designed for him? He needed it because:

- **He was stepping into Moses' shoes.** After performing many miraculous signs in Pharaoh's presence, Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty long years. There had never been a prophet like Moses "whom the Lord knew face to face" (Deut. 34:10).
- **Conquering the Promised Land was a seemingly impossible task.** Its walled cities were like fortresses, and the soldiers were skilled in

* 看似不可能達成的任務!

warfare and equipped with weapons and chariots. Furthermore, there were giants in the land. Because of all these challenges, the Lord told Joshua three times to be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:6-7, 9).

Although all of us face different situations than the one Joshua encountered, we each have areas of obedience that require courage. Perhaps it's confronting a friend who is living in sin, or responding to a boss who wants us to compromise our moral values. Or maybe God is calling us to stand up for our beliefs in a classroom or refuse to give in to peer pressure. Whatever the issue, we also need courage to do what's right.

Courage is strengthened by God's promises to us.

The Bible is filled with assurances that give us the boldness to move ahead in obedience. Although many of these assurances were written to people who lived long ago, the scriptural principles within them still apply to us today. To encourage and assure Joshua, the Lord gave him the following promises:

- **The land.** "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses" (Josh. 1:3). When God makes a promise, He sees it as already completed.
- **His powerful presence.** "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you" (Josh. 1:5).
- **Success.** The Lord promised Joshua success in his mission if he would "be careful to do according to all the law" and "meditate on it day and night" (Josh. 1:7, 8). That was the only way Joshua would be able to guide the people wisely and protect them

約書亞記:6-9

順從神是勇氣

神的應許
絕不落空
都要成就

* 神是成就
我們在過程中, 神已知道結果

我服從神
於神的話語
誠命

obeying God
↓
godly

from the pagan influences that would surround them. Like Joshua, we need to read the Scriptures to receive God's instructions in order to succeed.

What does it mean when we meditate on God's Word?

Meditation is a process by which we apply Scripture to our lives. It begins with reading God's Word and asking Him questions such as: *What are You saying to me in this passage? Is there something You want me to do? Is there an area of my life You want to change?* Meditation on the Scriptures reveals any hidden areas we've reserved for ourselves, prompting us to fully surrender to the Lord.

Since God speaks to us personally through His Word, that's one way we'll find out what He wants us to do and how we are to live. When we go to His Word, the Holy Spirit interprets it for us in a way that speaks to our individual needs and circumstances.

The key to courage is meditation upon God's Word.

→ godly character

When we reflect on Scripture as part of our daily lives, we can expect the following results:

- **It quietsens the spirit.** Instead of fretting and becoming discouraged, we can rely on the best counselor in the world—Almighty God. His words bring comfort and peace to our souls. 心灵平静
- **It purifies the heart.** The Word of God is a lamp to our feet, revealing things that shouldn't be in our lives. It shows us the right way to go (Ps. 119:105). 辨別心思
- **It sharpens perception.** Meditation opens our minds to understand truths we'd never comprehend otherwise. When we search the Scriptures, the Lord increases our knowledge and leads us to His promises. In time, we can build a promise bank of verses that strengthen our faith and fill us with the courage to obey. 分辨方向
- **It clarifies direction.** Whenever the path is unclear, and we need specific direction for decisions, the Lord uses our time of meditation to speak to our hearts, guiding us to the choices He would have us make.

■ **It confirms or cautions counsel.** The wisdom found in God's Word helps us evaluate the advice of others to determine if it's godly and wise or if it should be rejected. Be careful looking for counsel.

■ **It increases faith.** When the Lord blesses us for our obedience and does what He's promised, our confidence in Him and His Word increases. 增加信心

■ **It enlarges our view of God.** Meditation opens our eyes to who the Lord is. He's not just a God who resides in heaven, but also one who lives within us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. 書三:1-8
= 10:29-31
vs. 士二:25

■ **It keeps us aware of His presence and power.** When we listen to the Lord in His Word, we'll discern that He is continually with us and is constantly displaying His power through us as He works in our lives. 增強我們認識神並經歷祂的同在及能力!

■ **God guides us to success.** God doesn't want us to fail. His goal is to teach us valuable lessons that will ensure that we eventually succeed. He'll take each experience and work it out for our good if we'll obey Him (Rom. 8:28). 羅八:28 神引領我們得勝成功。

RESPONSE

- What types of situations are you dealing with that require courage to obey God?
- Have you meditated on God's Word today? How is He speaking to you through the Scripture you've studied?
- How can you encourage others to courageously obey God despite the difficult circumstances in their lives?

a zeal and a courage in his soul that all the forces of the world can't destroy!

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Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



順從上帝

Obeying God

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 5:7-8 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:7-9 | Psalm 32:8; 62:1-2, 5; 119:105
John 4:34; 6:38; 8:28-29 | Romans 10:9 | 2 Corinthians 6:2 | Philippians 4:19 | Hebrews 11:8

約四:34; 六:38; 八:28-29 羅十:9 林後六:2 腓四:19 來十一:8

SUMMARY

The most important issue in life is whether we're obeying God.

It won't happen automatically, but it must be learned and put into practice in both our attitudes and actions. Hebrews 5:8 shows us that even Jesus "learned obedience from the things which He suffered." This doesn't mean that He sinned at one point, and therefore, had to learn to obey. He always did His Father's will (John 6:38). However, in His humanity, He learned from experience the costly impact of full obedience when He went to the cross.

SERMON POINTS

Obedience is doing what God says, when He says it, how He says it, for whatever reason He says it, or with whom He says it.

There's no room for passivity when it comes to obeying the Father. This level of commitment requires an active choice.

Partial obedience is the greatest enemy to obedience. 部分順從是真正順從的最大敵人。

If the Lord gives instructions, He expects us to do exactly what He has said. Yet, some believers choose to obey only when it's convenient. Going to church, reading the Bible, and praying are all good, but if we're allowing things in our lives that don't fit our identity in Christ, we're only partially obeying Him. God loves us unconditionally and has amazing plans for our lives if we follow Him wholeheartedly.

The Garden of Eden was God's first classroom to teach obedience. 伊甸園是上帝教導人順從的第一課堂。

The importance of doing what the Lord says is demonstrated in the story of Adam and Eve. He didn't talk to them about faith or humility, but only about obedience. He gave them permission to eat from all the trees in the Garden—except one. When they failed the test, sin and its consequences entered the world.

All of us have failed the same test because we naturally want our own way. The Lord has given us so many blessings, but if He wants us to release one thing in our lives, we're quick to rationalize why we should keep it. Or sometimes we excuse our rebellion by claiming that situations, needs, and hurts are legitimate reasons for disobedience. But in doing so, we forget that the Lord is engineering our circumstances and working them all out for our good. He's never promised that life would be free from pain and hardship, but He's committed to blessing those who obey Him.

Jesus is our pattern for obedience. 耶穌是我們效法的順服榜樣！

When He was talking to the Samaritan woman, He explained that, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). Jesus was basically saying that obeying His Father brought Him fulfillment. It wasn't the approval of the crowds who came to hear Him speak, but the joy of pleasing the Father that satisfied His soul.

We're always happier when we obey, yet oftentimes we struggle, thinking we'll miss out on something good or experience hardship if we follow the Lord. It is possible that we might be misunderstood, lose a job, or be rejected by friends.

However, if we'll obey His instructions, we'll experience His best and enjoy the satisfaction of pleasing Him.

How do we learn to obey the Lord? 如何顺服上帝:

No one comes into this world knowing how to obey. Every parent must invest time and effort in training their children to follow instructions. Learning obedience with God works in a similar way. We can obey our heavenly Father if we:

■ **Choose to trust Him.** If we don't trust the Lord, we won't obey Him. Anytime we're tempted to disobey in a particular area, that's the point at which we don't trust Him. The solution is to actively choose to believe that God is who He says He is, and that He will do what He has promised. 相信祂

■ **Determine to wait upon the Lord in prayer.** The first step in making sure that we're walking in God's will is to ask Him to show us what He wants for our lives. While seeking the Lord, we should also search the Scriptures for passages that clarify His will and give us guidance. Then we must wait for His instructions and timing. Even when we can't figure out what God is doing or why He delays, remembering that He knows every aspect of the situation should bring us assurance. 下决心在祷告中

■ **Meditate upon His Word every day.** We'll never live obediently with a closed Bible because that's God's primary means of leading us. Within its pages are the answers to whatever situations we're facing. When Joshua needed guidance, the Lord told him, "Be careful to do according to all the law ... meditate on it day and night" (Josh. 1:7-8). Today we have the entire written Word of God, and the Lord promises to bless those who do what it says. 等候主 每天默想

■ **Walk when the way is not clear.** We'll miss the Lord's will for our lives if we refuse to take steps of obedience until we know what's going to happen. None of us can foresee what He will do. Our responsibility is simply to obey Him today, knowing that He holds tomorrow. By faith, Abraham obeyed God's call even though he didn't know where he was going (Heb. 11:8). And that's exactly how 每天有信心与主同行

we should walk with the Lord. He doesn't reveal the entire path because with each step into the unknown, He's strengthening our faith.

■ **Decide to experience possible conflict.** Anyone who obeys the Lord will encounter conflict. First of all, there will be inner discord when what God is calling us to do seems humanly unreasonable. Furthermore, obedience might also result in relational disharmony if others don't understand or agree with what the Lord is telling us to do. 顺服神而行 可能遇上衝突 与不和

■ **Leave the consequences to God.** When He challenges us to obey, our minds could fill with doubts: Suppose He can't fix this situation. What if He doesn't provide enough? When these thoughts come to mind, we must remember that the Lord is always sufficient and adequate for every issue in our lives. Our job is simply to obey Him and then watch Him work out His will in our lives in surprising ways. 将后果交託主

■ **Accept divine chastisement in response to disobedience.** Every child of God experiences His discipline. The question is: how will we respond? If we resist His chastisement and blame Him for all our troubles, we're demonstrating that we have not learned obedience. However, if we have an obedient spirit, we'll recognize our heavenly Father's discipline as a loving act of protection and respond with gratitude. 若不顺服主会管教 我要改正! 合主心意

RESPONSE

- In what types of situations have you found it to be most difficult to obey God?
- Can you think of a time when the Lord's instructions were made very clear to you? Did you respond in faithful obedience to Him?
- How has God taught you to trust that His plans are best for your life?

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