

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 8

KNOWING GOD'S WILL AND OBEYING IT

Sometimes we sing the hymn, "Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey!" This is very true. We cannot know real peace and happiness until we trust God completely. We must also obey Him. In Romans 8:31,32, we can see God's great love for us. We see that He is for us or on our side. We see that He gave us His Son. Because He gave us His Son, He can also give us everything we may need. As these truths become more real to us, we will want to trust and obey Him in a greater way.

1. WHY WE OBEY GOD

A. Because of love.

God loved us so much that we should love Him in return. So the first reason for obeying God is because we love Him, 1 John 4:19. The better we know God, the more we will love Him and trust Him. We want to trust and please those whom we really love.

What makes us love God? We love Him because He loved us so much that He bought us out of sin. He did this with the precious blood of His Son.

Now that we have been bought out of sin, do we still belong to ourselves? 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

To whom do we belong?

Those who have tried running their own lives, but could not, are glad to have Someone else run their lives.

Why should we obey God?

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- Because we will receive a reward for obeying.

B. Because we will receive a reward for obeying.

- Peace and joy.

Obedience gives us peace and joy. When we accept Christ as Saviour, we receive peace with God, Romans 5:1. We can also have the peace of God. God shows us in Isaiah 48:18 that He wants to give us peace.

When does God give us the peace of God?

Where does Christian happiness come from according to John 13:17?

- **Blessing.**

What does God promise to those who obey Him? Matthew 6:31-33

- **Guidance.**

In Romans 12:1,2, what are we to give God?

After we give Him our bodies, what will we be able to know?

Do you remember why we should obey God? Think about it. We should obey God because he first loved us and because we will receive rewards for it.

Write down four rewards we receive for obeying God.

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When we obey God we have peace and joy. He gives us blessing or the things we need for living. We will also know the will of God and He will guide us.

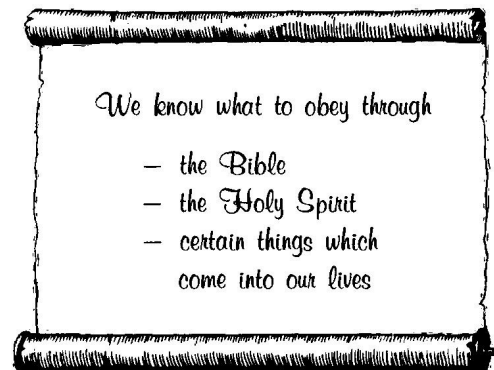
2. HOW WE CAN KNOW WHAT TO OBEY

Often in our Christian life we ask, "How can we know what God wants us to do?" God tells us what He wants us to know in three different ways.

A. Through the Bible.

God tells us what to do through His Word, the Bible. As we study the Bible we soon find verses which tell us things that we must do.

What is the first thing God wants us to do? Matthew 22:36-38



There is another command much like this one. What is this command? Romans 12:1

If we keep certain sins in our life, we are not giving Him our whole life. If we do not obey what His Word tells us to do, we do not love the Lord with all our hearts.

Why has God given us His Word? 2 Timothy 3:15

First we must love God with all our hearts. We also give our bodies to God. God gives us His Word that we know about salvation.

How can we know what we are to obey?

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- Through the Holy Spirit.
- Through certain things which come into our life.

B. Through the Holy Spirit.

In what other way can we know the will of God? John 16:13

The Holy Spirit lives in us. He is able to speak to us from inside of us. He never tells us to do something the Word of God tells us not to do. Also if we do not obey Him, He stops guiding us. King Saul had his happen to him, 1 Samuel 28:15-18.

How can we know what we are to obey?

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- Through certain things which come into our life.

C. Through certain things which come into our life.

God shows us what He wants us to do by letting certain things come into our life.

If we really love the Lord and want to do what He asks us, of what can we be sure? Romans 8:28

You may think the Holy Spirit wants you to go to another settlement to talk to a person about Christ. But you do not have a way to get there. If God wants you to go, He will make a way.

You may think God wants you to be a minister or a preacher or a missionary. If he does want you to be a minister, He will make it possible for you to go to Bible School

Sometimes you will not know what way God wants you to go. There may be several ways before you. Each way may be good. You may try to go in a certain way. Something will stop you if God does not want you to go that way. Sometimes God will let you wait a long time before He will show you what He wants you to do. But He will show you at the right time

How can we know what we are to obey?

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3. TO OBEY MAY BE HARD

Obedience may cost us something. Sometimes God will ask us to do something which we cannot understand. Abraham learned this.

What did God ask him to do? Genesis 12:1-3

Even though we may not understand, if we really trust God, what should we do? Luke 9:23

We certainly are to obey God even if we do not understand. In Luke 9:23 He tells us to give up ourselves, take up the cross and follow Him.

Sometimes people will not like us when we obey God. They do not understand why we do some things or do not do some things. They may get angry and say something to hurt us. They may even hurt us. There are many stories of those who obeyed God and suffered for Him.

What happened to the three Hebrew men in Daniel 3:16-24?

Were they sorry?

What happened to Peter and John because they obeyed God? Acts 4:1-3

What happened to Paul and Silas at Philippi because they obeyed God? Acts 16:19-25

Were they sorry for what had happened to them?

All these men suffered because they obeyed God, but they were not sorry for what happened to

them.

We will find many stories of people today who are suffering for Christ because they obey Him. Yet these people have joy.

We must remember the words of 1 John 5:3. What are they?

Sometimes when we obey God, people hate us. Therefore we may have to suffer, but God helps us.

Is it always easy to obey God?

Why?

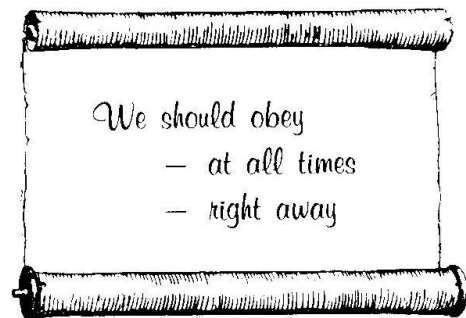
If God asks us to do something, and we do not understand, what should we do?

If it is hard to obey God, what should we do?

4. WHEN WE SHOULD OBEY

We must obey at all times. We must obey right away. It is easy for us to wait for a while before we obey. Even though we know what God wants us to do, maybe we still wait. This is not good. It has been said, "The King's work must be done right away."

What was David's wish about doing the commandments of the Lord? Psalm 119:59,60



Many blessings have been lost because someone waited too long. Jonah is a picture of this. People have even gone to hell because someone waited too long.

We must not think we need to obey God only once in a while. We should obey Him all day long. We can only obey as we allow God to work through us, Philippians 2:12,13. This is the joy of the Christian life.

When should we obey God?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: Matthew 6:33

DO YOU REMEMBER

1. Why should we obey God?

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2. Write down four rewards we receive for obeying God.

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3. How can we know what we are to obey?

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4. Is it always easy to obey God?

Why?

5. If God asks us to do something, and we do not understand, what should we do?

6. If it is hard to obey God, what should we do?

7. When should we obey God?

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WORDS TO REMEMBER

1. Blessing - 1) something that gives happiness. 2) plenty of the things we need. 3) praise.
2. commandments - laws; what we are told to do.

3. guidance - leading; the help to understand something.
4. obedience - doing what we are told to do, and not doing what we are told not to do.
5. precious - of great value; worth a lot.

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