

Obedience



Introduction

Perhaps one of the most talked about principles in the Bible is *obedience*. It is through our obedience to God's Word and His plan of salvation that gives us the opportunity to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. While the principle of obedience is critical to our relationship with God, most Christians will acknowledge that being obedient can be difficult, at times. Our human tendencies for sin put us in the middle of a war. We desire to do good, but evil is always present. This lesson focuses primarily on the importance and benefits of living a life that is obedient to the Word of God.

The Benefits of Obedience

- Jesus Comforts and Gives Instructions to His Disciples

- John 14: 15, 21-24

- Jesus makes a promise that His Father will love those who obey and that the Father and Son “will come to him and make our home with him”. What does it mean to have God, the Father and Jesus, the Son make their home with you?

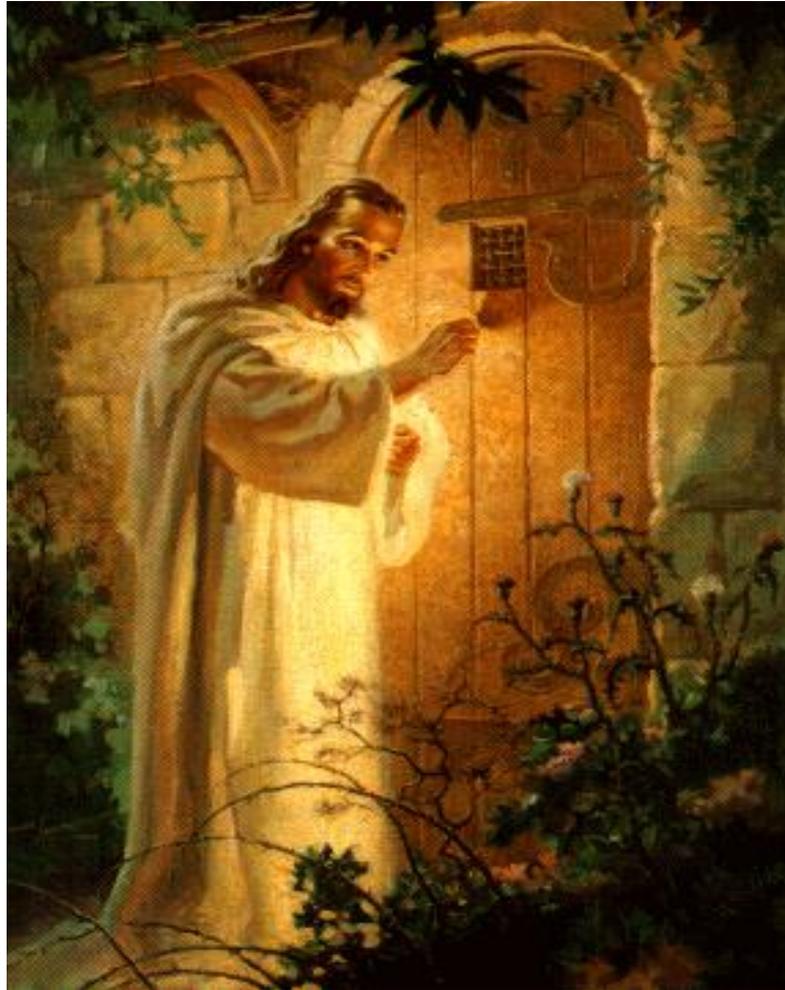
Question for Thought: What does that promise mean for you and your life?

- John 14: 31

- Christ gives the example of doing “exactly what His Father has commanded”.

Question for Thought: Is it possible to do “exactly” what the Father has commanded us to do?

*Jesus wants to make His home
with you...*



Rewards in Obedience

- John 15: 7, 10
 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.**
 - If you obey my commands, **you will remain in my love.**
- Questions for Thought: (1) **What do you think happens if you don't remain in Him and His words?** Should you expect to ask “whatever you wish and it will be given to you?” (2) **What do you think happens if you do not obey His commands?** Should you expect that you will “remain in His love”?

The passages in John 14 and 15 demonstrate that if we want the Lord to make His home with us that we must **obey** Him.

If we want our prayers to be effective, we must be **obedient**.

Exercising Self-Control

- “If you love me, you will obey what I command”
 - John 14: 15
 - Question for Thought: Can you love God and **not obey** what He commands?

How much control do we have over ourselves and our actions?

Do you really control what you do?

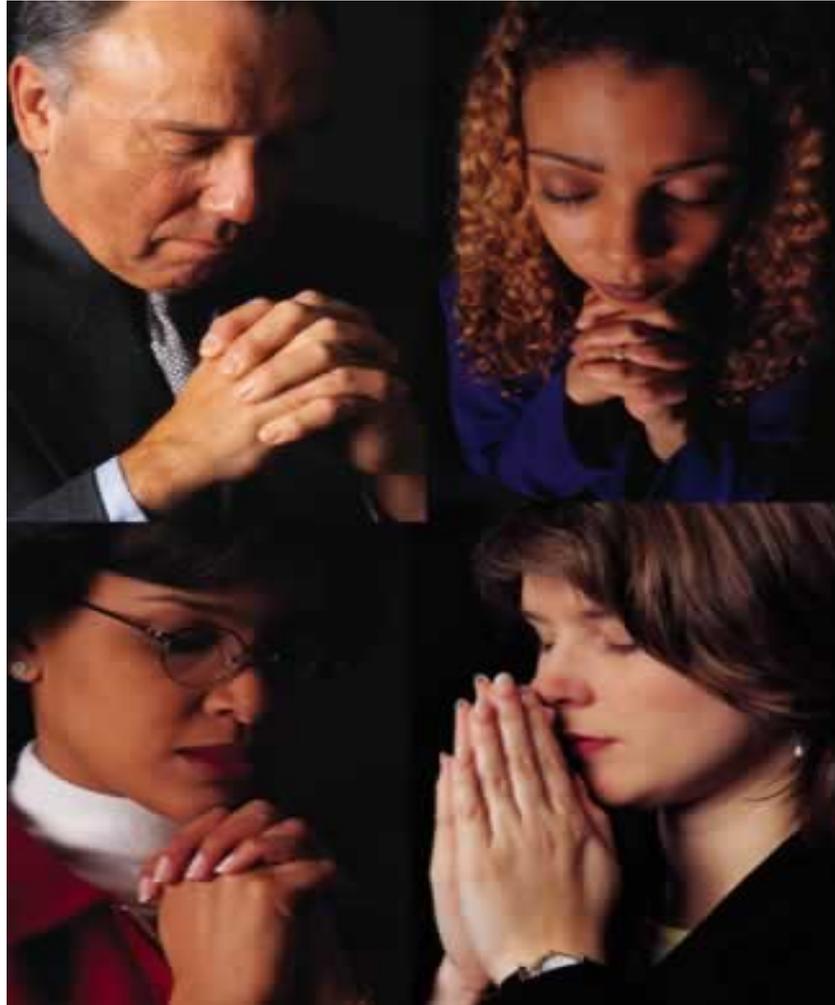
Can you control a strong urge or desire to sin?

Imperfect...but, Walking in Light

- I John 1: 5-10, I John 2: 1-2
 - When we try our best to live for God and walk in Light, if we make a mistake and confess it, then we have God's forgiveness. If we walk in darkness (living a life of sin), we have no fellowship with Him.
- I John 2: 3-6
 - Verse 6: "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

Question for Thought:...and how did Jesus walk (how did He live His life)?

...I'm imperfect, but I'm trying to live for God.



Are you a child of God?

- Using the definition given to us in scripture...
 - I John 3: 1-10

...no one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God

Life Lesson: The true child of God has a conscience about the sin in his or her life. If you are His child, you seek to live a life in which you avoid sin. He knows we are imperfect, but His Word clearly states that His children cannot live a life of *continuous sin* because His seed remains in them. You might make a mistake and sin, but your conscience won't allow you to *continue in sin*. In other words, when you find yourself "off-track" your love for God will cause you to clean up your life. God does His part and forgives and cleanses us when we acknowledge, confess and clean up the sin in our lives. *What a wonderful God we serve!*