

Obedience

by Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray emphasizes the vital role of obedience in the Christian faith as a pathway to experiencing God's blessings and favor.

Scripture: Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 15:4-5, John 15:10, Hebrews 5:8-9, Hebrews 11:8

Topics: "Faith", "Obedience"

Description

Andrew Murray emphasizes the critical role of obedience in the Christian life, illustrating that it is through obedience that believers can regain God's favor and blessings. He highlights biblical examples, such as Abraham and Jesus, to show that obedience is rooted in faith and is essential for a genuine relationship with God. Murray explains that true obedience stems from hearing God's voice and being in fellowship with Him, making it a joyful expression of faith. He encourages believers to seek God's will actively and to let the Holy Spirit guide them in their obedience. Ultimately, Murray calls for a life marked by cheerful and precise obedience as a reflection of one's relationship with Christ.

Transcript

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people"
Exodus 19:5.

"The Lord shall greatly bless thee, if thou only carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God"
Deuteronomy 15:4,5.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed" Hebrews 11:8.

"Learned he obedience by the things which He suffered: and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him" Hebrews 5:8,9.

Obedience is one of the most important words in the Bible and in the life of the Christian. It was in the way of disobedience that man lost the favour and the life of God. It is only in the way of obedience that that favour and that life can again be enjoyed.¹ God cannot possibly take pleasure in, or bestow His blessing on, those who are not obedient. "If ye will obey My voice indeed, ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me"; "The Lord shall greatly bless thee, if thou only carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." These alone are the eternal principles according to which man can enjoy God's favour and blessing.

We see this in the Lord Jesus. He says, "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love" (John 15:10). He was in the love of the Father, but could not remain there except by obedience. And He says that this is equally for us the one way to continue in His love. We must keep His commandments. He came to open for us the way back to God. This way was the way of obedience. Only he who, through faith in Jesus, walks in this way will come to God.²

How gloriously this connection between the obedience of Jesus and our own is expressed in Hebrews 5, verses 8 and 9, "He learned obedience, and became unto all them that obey Him the author of eternal salvation." This is the bond of unity between Jesus and His people, the point of conformity and inward agreement. He was obedient to the Father--they, on the other hand, are obedient to Him. He and they are both obedient. His obedience not only atones for, but drives out their disobedience. He and they bear one mark--obedience to God.³

This obedience is a characteristic of the life of faith. It is called the obedience of faith.⁴ There is nothing in earthly things that so spurs men to work as faith. The belief that there is advantage or joy to be found is the secret of all work. "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed." My works will be according to what I believe. The faith that Jesus made me free from the power of sin for obedience, and sets me in a suitable condition for it, has a mighty power to make me obedient. Obedience is strengthened by faith: Faith in the overflowing blessing which the Father gives to obedience, in the promises of the love and indwelling of God, and in the promise of the fullness of the Spirit which comes by this channel.⁵

The power of this faith, again, as of obedience, lies especially in fellowship with the living God Himself. There is but one Hebrew word for "obeying voice" and "hearing voice." To hear correctly prepares one to obey. It is when I learn the will of God--not in the words of a man or a book--but from God Himself, and when I hear the voice of God, that I will surely believe what is promised and do what is commanded. The Holy Spirit is the voice of God. When we hear the living voice speak, obedience becomes easy.⁶ Let us wait in silence on God, and set our soul open before Him, so that He may speak by His Spirit. When, in our Bible reading and praying, we learn to wait more upon God so that we can say, "My God has spoken this to me, has given me this promise, has commanded this," then we will also obey. "To listen to the voice" earnestly, diligently, is the sure way to obedience.

With a servant, a warrior, a child, a subject, obedience is indispensable--the first sign of integrity. And will God, the living, glorious God, find no obedience with us? ⁷ No, let cheerful, punctual, precise obedience from the beginning be the mark of the genuineness of our fellowship with the Son whose obedience is our life.

Father, You make us Your children in Christ, make us in Him obedient children, as He was obedient. Let the Holy Spirit make the obedience of Jesus so glorious and powerful in us, that obedience will be the highest joy of our life. Teach us in everything only to seek to know what You desire and then to do it. Amen.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/andrew-murray/obedience/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net