

OBEDIENCE

Obedience – a law of God. It carries a reward from Him or a curse. It reveals our heart – through our will. Obedience or disobedience is a decision – **which will be judged.**

Deuteronomy 1:19-46; Genesis 26:1-5; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 11:27 and 28 (whole chapter)

Motivations

“Relational” or “non-relational”

There are more than 1,000 references to “will” in the Bible. The will is a big deal.

Love

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Love and justice of YAHWEH “for thy God,” “to love them,” “circumcise the foreskin of your hearts,” “fear the LORD,” “He is your praise,” “He is your God”

The “Relationship Circle” or “The Blessing Circle”

First Covenant Examples – Notice the reciprocity which the LORD delights in.

Genesis 22:17 “Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed”

Deuteronomy 11:27 “The blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God”

Genesis 12:1-3 “And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you”

Also in Jesus and the New Covenant (Just a few verses – there are many more.)

John 8:29 “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone.”

John 10:27-30 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...” “I and the Father are one.”

John 14:15-23 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

John 15:4-17 “Abide in Me, and I in you.”

John 17:11-17, 21-24 “Keep them in Your name...” “that they may all be one.”

Verse 23 “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity.”

What a picture of our God’s and His Messiah’s heart this is!.

Pride

We can become self-absorbed and self-righteous (if we let ourselves). Focusing on the mechanics of “purity” or “holiness” without a circumcised heart (brokenness), and we can deceive ourselves.

Examples

First Covenant – Leviticus 10:1-2 (Nadab and Abihu); I Samuel 2, 4 (Hophni and Phinehas); I Samuel 15 (Saul); II Kings 5:27 (Gehazi)

Prophets – Isaiah 1; Jeremiah 7:23-28; 8:8-11; 9:1-ff; 11:3-5; Malachi 4:1-6; Hosea 13:1

New Testament – John 5:37-47; Acts 5:3 (Ananias and Sapphira)

These all had their own “interpretations” of right and wrong.

Romans 8:7 “The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God”

BY THE SPIRIT

Through humility and submission (circumcision of the heart), we can obey.

Zechariah 4:6 “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

John 5:17 “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working”

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing”

Ephesians 4:2-6, 17-32 (Chapter 5 through the end of the Epistle)

Philippians 2:13 “It is God who is at work in you.”

I Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”

I Peter 1:2, 7-9, 13-16, 22; I Peter 2:7, 13 and 18; I Peter 3:1-7; I Peter 5:5-9

James 4:8

I John 1; I John 2:3-6 “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

I John 2:27-3:3 “The anointing which you received from Him abides in you.” “And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

I John 5:2-4 “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.”