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## The Blessings of Obedience

There are many Christians out there looking for guidance and sometimes a 'word' from the Lord. I am here to bear witness that God has already revealed himself in the scriptures. What we need to know is written within the texts of the scriptures. God has shown us the things that he wants us to do and how we are to behave.

When we come to God we must be not only willing to make our requests and supplications known to him, but must also be ready to listen to what he tells us. There are indeed times when God will give a word to his people and some times they may not make much sense to us in our natural minds. But God has a reason for everything he does, even if it is just to see if we will do what he asks us to do, no matter how seemingly senseless it may appear to us. I am reminded of some incidents in the Old Testament as a perfect example of this simple principle.

### Profiles In Obedience

*And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the*

leper. *Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean?* So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if* the prophet had bid thee *do some* great thing, wouldest thou not have done *it?* how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, *As* the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused. And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.  
(2Ki 5:5-19)

This is a rather interesting informative narrative. The King originally thought this most strange request was a ruse in order to create a pretext for a quarrel or perhaps even a war. But God's prophet, who clearly had some eyes and ears inside of the king's Palace became aware of what had happened, the king had rent his cloths (a cultural sign of serious distress or remorse of those days). Elisha then ask the King why he did such an extreme (for those days) thing and bid the king that he should send Naaman to him and that he would heal Naaman of his leprosy. This disease is almost unheard of today but in ancient times it was a serious problem and had many stigma's attached to it. Even in Christ's time it was common and those who had it were shunned. Yet here was a major Syrian leader (leader of the Syrian Army) who had it and clearly wanted in cured. Syria and Israel were constantly at odds and it seemed very much out of character that a Syrian King should go to Israel and ask the king to cure him.

So when God's prophet heard of it, he knew that he was able to see to it that Naaman was cured. He asked Naaman to do a very simple thing, go wash in the Jordan, seven times and he would be cured. Now think about this from a natural mind, he is told to wash, something that he had done many times in his life. Naaman reviled the whole procedure saying, "*Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?*" Clearly he was 'hot' about this request. He wanted some theatrical display by the prophet; some great long prayer and maybe some thunder and lighting to happen followed by perhaps the appearance of some Angels and a Chariot of fire. But

that was not to be.

But Elisha just told him to go to a specific river and wash, not once, but seven times and he would be clean (cured as Leprosy was viewed as an unclean disease). Naaman almost went away angry enough to ignore the prophets simple exhortation, but was persuaded to go ahead and do what the prophet said. It was not much to ask, I mean God (via his prophet) did not ask for a chest of Gold and diamonds, or to climb some high mountain barefoot in the winter time. No it was, just go to the River Jordan and wash seven times and you will be clean. Finally he did what the man of God did and was healed.

This is a very important lesson of obedience. It shows us all what the results of obedience is, even if what we are commanded to do does not make much sense to our natural minds. Some of us get mad at God at some of the things that go on in our lives or some of the things he commands us to do. Let me give you an example.

A person I know had some serious troubles in her marriage many years years ago and finally while they certainly had grounds for divorce, the Lord made it clear to them that they should not file but allow the other party to file for it. Did it make sense to the natural mind? No but a godly person knows that divorce is a most serious matter in the eyes of the Lord. It is no little thing and many MANY Christians have made a shipwreck of their faith and souls with unholy 'divorces' which are not divorces in the eyes of God, but a way to rebel against God, the covenant they made with their spouses and before God. They not only become adulterers, but oath breakers and liars as well. Do you not know that such people do not **under any circumstances** enter into the kingdom of God? It just is **not** going to happen, unless they deeply and sincerely **repent** of the wickedness they have done. This is why the whole issue of divorce in the kingdom is just as, if not more important than the issue of 'gay marriage' for those those outside of the Church. There is a raging epidemic of divorce in the Church. Why? No one wants to obey God. They have made up their own little 'gods' in the shadows of their own lust-filled minds and whatever the lust demon says they should do today, that is what they do. If the lust demons says, "*your spouse is no good, you should leave him while you are still good looking enough to attract another one*", *God will forgive you.*" So satan squirts his poison into the ears of the would be adulterer/divorcee. But the scriptures have a very different take on the divorce. God's way says one thing and the devil says another. It is the way of obedience versus the ways of rebellion.

The same goes in other aspects of our life. If I were advising the President on his presidential run I would tell him. Mr. President, how long will you be afraid of the devil and his imps and ignore the admonitions of God? How long will you take money from Sodom and expect God to bless your works? How long will you attack Christians and force them to pay for those things that are abominations in God's eyes and expect God to bless your campaign? How long will you accept illicit money from known criminals into

your coffers knowing how they will influence your policies for the worse once you accept it? You see, the President (and Congressman and Senators) know what God expects of them, but like Naaman, they did the 'scoff and mock' thing. They did not believe God and they do not believe God. That is why our land is not being healed today, but like Naaman's leprosy it just slowly (or in America's case, not so slowly) progresses disfiguring the once fine features of a once glorious land. God has the healing waters and cleansing balm all ready for us, but America has to 'go and wash seven times'. Yet not only will she not wash, but as if in some kind of unholy defiance, she has decided to wallow in the muck of a pig sty of bribery, murder, corruption, thievery and occultism. She does not really want to be clean, and our leaders do not really want to heal our land. What they want is power, wealth and the party-life that goes with whole DC culture; the dope, sex, drink and wild sex parties that are part and parcel of Washington DC's political culture.

## **Gideon: From Doubt To Faith To Obedience**

*And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*

(Jdg 6:11-14)

Gideon as well was most doubtful of God. While he did not openly scoff, he did question the Lord about their current situation. What was that situation? They were essentially slaves in the land of Midian because of the sins they had committed against God. Now Gideon should have known the answer to that question (Judges 6:1) and I find it interesting that the Angel did not answer it directly, but rather began to encourage Gideon and give him the means whereby he would deliver Israel from the Midianites.

*And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.*

(Jdg 6:6)

Brothers, Poverty and sin go hand in hand. Sure, a people may be able to trick themselves into some kind of temporary fleeting prosperity but it won't last. Israel, here had to pay deeply for their sins and they became very poor slaves in the hands of their

enemies.

But Gideon was given many signs before he embarked on his divinely ordained task. Gideon obeyed the Lord, and completed his task. But God wanted to make certain that Gideon and the people knew that it was not Gideon (who was of the poorest Tribe and was the least of his own fathers house) who saved Israel, but God who was behind their salvation. He as going to have to test Gideon and test him he did. After he completed his first task of overthrowing the alter of Baal, his life was sought.

*And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.*

*(Jdg 6:29-31)*

But Gideon was still a doubter and needed a sign for the next major task.

*And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.*

*(Jdg 6:36-38)*

Still having doubts about his job and his calling, he asked God yet again for a sign.

*And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.*

*(Jdg 6:39-40)*

So Gideon got his miracles and proceeded with his job. But once again, God was not going to let Israel revel in their own strength but in the hand of the Lord.

*And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against*

*me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.*

(Jdg 7:2-7)

I need not recount the rest, as the story is well known. The key here is that Gideon heard the Lord's call and obeyed the voice of the Lord and gained victory over their enemies. Elsewhere in the Scriptures we see how it is done. (See Zechariah 4:6)

### **Abraham, The Father of Faith**

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.*

(Gen 12:1-4)

Now this verse is so telling of what a man of God is really all about. When God gave him a command, one that made no sense to the natural mind, he obeyed. How many of you would do as Abraham did, get up and move to a place that God will not reveal to you. How many of you would really believe such a promise and have the faith to OBEY it? Be honest, not many. Most would do the Gideon thing and ask for some signs before you went and even then, most would have serious doubts about the move. 'Honey, are you sure God told us to move? Or 'You can go wherever the (expletive deleted) you want, me and the kids ain't goin' anywhere!'

Brothers, let's look at these things practically. Abraham did as God commanded but so did his wife. She also went along with others attached to his household.

This was faith in action. This is was not mental 'belief' or a verbal confession but practical action based on a command of God that spurred a man of God into action. If you really want God's blessings and to be of use to him these are the two most important traits he requires.

One must be willing to yield ones self to the divine will and be willing to be USED OF GOD and not try and USE God for ones own purposes. This is what gets so many people off track. They want to use God for their purposes and rather than be of use to God, for the divine will. The center if their universe still revolves around self, not God. This error is a key fundamental error made in many Christians lives, especially in the west where self is God and God is an abstract concept to be invoked at ones personal and whimsical convenience.

Each of these men did as they were commanded and fulfilled God's promise in their lives. Naaman was cured of Leprosy, Gideon delivered Israel and Abraham became the father of a great nation and key component of the Messianic bloodline.

So my brothers in Christ, it behooves us to listen to what God is telling us and do the things he commands of us. We must be obedient for that is the only way to inherit the promises of God and that **most assuredly** include the promises of Salvation.

*For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, **but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.** For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*  
(Heb 6:10-15)

I know many of you wonder why I talk so much about obedience on my site but it is simply a key component of Salvation. As Christ said to those who did not or would not obey;

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*  
(Luk 6:46)

Do you know what the title "Lord" means? It Lord has enormous connotations. If Christ is your **Lord**, you will do what you are told. If he is not your **Lord**, you will not do what

you are told. Brothers, it is really that simple and that is what the whole parable that follows the above referenced verse is all about. Him that doeth, and him that doeth not. On judgment day, this is going to be the criteria for those that get into the Kingdom and those that are condemned eternally into perdition.

*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*  
(Rev 22:14)

This will be particularly true when the Mark of the Beast arrives. I say this to all of you now, prepare to see millions of Christians take it and lose their souls. Prepare to see Church leaders and evangelists take it, and lose their souls, prepare to see major political leaders and rich men of the earth take it, and lose their souls. The Lord has made it plain what the mark means and what follows those who take it.

*And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. **Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.** And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*  
(Rev 14:9-13)

I talk about this event quite a bit because of what it means to those who take it and because I think this mark will be introduced in our lifetime. In fact, I think the current economic crisis will be a key event that will bring an impetus to a new global economic system. No, not right away, but not in the distant future either.

I think you are going to see many Christians fear for their economic security and just say, 'God will just have to forgive me for taking the mark, I have to feed my kids; or 'How am I going to pay for my house, car taxes, God will just have to forgive me... and take the mark. Well, hear the word of the Lord. **He is not going to forgive you.** You take that mark and you are a spiritual goner. I will give you a little hint as well - I think the mark will be more than just an identification mark. The new technological advancements in neurotechnology (s well as [nano-technology](#)) and mind control techniques, I believe are being made so that man, his moods and behavior can be read

and altered via remote control implants. No we are not quite there yet, but I think we will be in 10 years. Simply put, I think the mark is a far more significant thing than just a tattoo or economic numbering system, but time will tell. Such a technological feat may have been beyond John the revelators ability to communicate back in the first century AD but he wanted all to know that once you take that mark, you lose your soul (and perhaps your free will).

For we who live in these end times, we must not fear or be foolish with acts of rebellion or unbelief. God is true to his word and if we are willing to step out in faith and obey God's commandments, he will be there for us. But we must be willing to obey the Lord, **even to the laying down of our own lives.**

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?  
(Mat 16:24-26)*

By,

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