

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Obedience

"Obedience is an act of faith; disobedience is the result of unbelief." – Edwin Louis Cole

"Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character." – Robert E. Lee

"Strength was the virtue of paganism; obedience is the virtue of Christianity." – David Hare

"Teachability and trust always leads to total obedience." – Ed Townsend

Obedience is frequently mentioned in Scripture. In fact, in the NKJV, the word *obey* occurs 108 times, *obeyed* 43 times, *obedience* 14 times, *disobedience* 11 times, and *disobeyed* 1 time.

One of the most used examples has to be that of the days of Saul, the King of Israel. Samuel had told Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:3). He had plenty of men for the task, some 10,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah, but if God was truly with them, those numbers would not really have mattered. Having allowed the Kenites to depart, Saul took the men to do the task. "But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed" (1 Sam. 15:9).

Saul had compounded his transgression by lying to Samuel. "...Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD" (1 Sam. 15:13). In his cowardice, when the truth was known he sought to blame the people. "And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord...I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal" (1 Sam. 15:20-21).

Man can seek to hide his disobedience. He can even seek to blame others, but God is not fooled. "So Samuel said: 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeyed the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..." (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

As we contemplate these things, it should impress us that there is no substitute for obedience. Either we do what God commands, or we don't.

It amazes one when you consider that one of the favored hymns of our time is "Trust and Obey," and yet man struggles with that very thing! Think of the words, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey."