

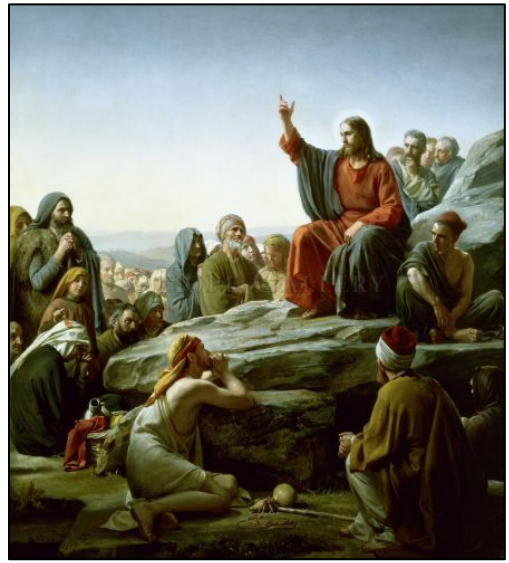


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY THREE: SEEKING GOD LIFESTYLE: FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

Obeying God moment by moment pleases God and helps ensure His constant support and strength for the advancement of His kingdom.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. **Seeking God Wholeheartedly**
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



Seeking God Lifestyle

1. Humility with Help of Fasting
2. Fervent and Frequent Prayer
3. Massive Intake of Scripture
4. Deep and Ongoing Repentance
- 5. Faithful Obedience**
6. Strong Community
7. Relentless Perseverance



A common hindrance to seeking God and experiencing revival is a lack of understanding of the role of obedience.

Practicing a life of faithful obedience makes all the difference to attract His presence and see advancement of the Kingdom of God.



Seeking God Entails Obedience to Him

2 Chronicles 31:20,21 - Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was **good and right and faithful** before the LORD his God. ²¹ And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and **in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God**, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

Isaiah 51:1 - “Listen to me, you who **pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord**: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.”



Importance of Obedience

Psalm 119:1,2 - Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the **law** of the LORD! ² Blessed are those who keep his **testimonies**, who **seek him with their whole heart**,

Psalm 119:136 - My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.



Importance of Obedience

1 Chronicles 15:12, 13 - and said to them, “You are the heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it. ¹³ Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not **seek him according to the rule.**”



To Seek God is to Obey God

In no situation is a man or woman wholeheartedly seeking God if they are not faithfully obeying Him.

Blessings with Obedience



Psalm 1:1-6 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;² but **his delight is in the law of the LORD**, and on his law he meditates day and night.³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Olive Trees, 1898
Henri Matisse

Blessings with Obedience



Psalm 1:1-6 (cont'd) - ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for **the LORD knows the way of the righteous**, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Olive Trees, 1898
Henri Matisse



Faithful Obedience

1. Importance of Obedience
2. Obedience Defines Our Relationship With God
3. Scriptural Commands
4. Doubtful Things
5. Hearing God's Voice As a Requirement for Believers
6. Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant
7. Impact of God's Voice
8. Steps to Hearing His Voice



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Obedience Vocabulary

- Commandments
- Judgments
- Law
- Oracles of God
- Ordinances
- Precepts
- Rules
- Statutes
- Testimonies
- Way or Way of the Righteous
- Word

Beware “Softened” Non-Biblical Substitute Words

- Guidance
- Ideal Behavior
- Expectations
- Principles (only 1 usage)
- Instructions (plural vs. singular)



Importance of Obedience

Psalm 119:9-16 - How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your **word**.

¹⁰ With my **whole heart I seek you**; let me not wander from your **commandments**!

¹¹ I have stored up your **word** in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your **statutes**!

¹³ With my lips I declare all the **rules** of your mouth.

¹⁴ In the way of your **testimonies** I delight as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your **precepts** and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in your **statutes**; I will not forget your **word**.



Obedience Has Overlapping Terminology

Being a Slave of Christ

Christian Perfection

Devotion

Entire Sanctification

Faithfulness

Full Surrender

Full Submission

Holiness

Lordship

Piety

Pleasing God

Practical Holiness

Purity

Righteousness

Sanctification

Self-Consecration

The Victorious Life

The Overcoming Life

The Crucified Life

The Exchanged Life

The Christ Life

Walking in the Light



Salvation Only Comes Through Repentance and Faith

- **Hesitations** - Some shy away from teaching obedience in the Christian life out of fear of wrongly communicating that salvation comes through obedience.
- **Means of Salvation** - Let it be known loud and clear that forgiveness of sins comes only by the grace of God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Obedience Required** - And that true faith in Christ results in faithful obedience to Him.



Spoken by a U.S. pastor September, 2021:

*“God didn’t intend for us to live by rules and regulations,
but he intended for us to live by His Spirit.”*

Praying Cannot Substitute for Obedience



“Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work.”

A. W. Tozer
American Pastor and Author

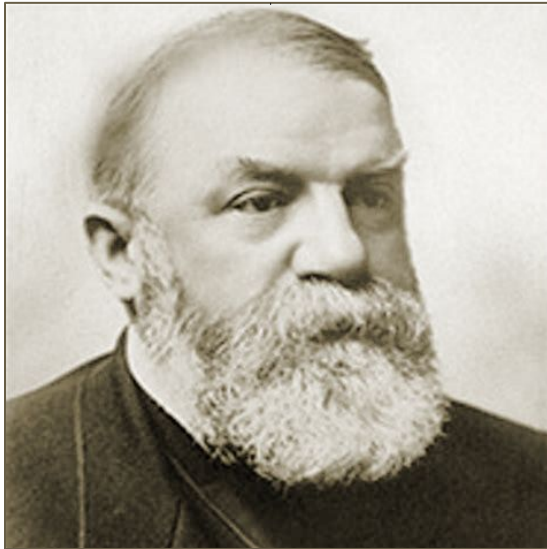
Full Surrender is Needed



“If we will only surrender ourselves utterly to the Lord, and will trust Him perfectly, we shall find our souls ‘mounting up with wings as eagles’ to the ‘heavenly places’ in Christ Jesus, where earthly annoyances or sorrows have no power to disturb us.”

Hannah Whitall Smith (1832 - 1911)
Author of *A Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*

Calling to Obedience May Make Men Angry



“Men don’t like to have Christ preached faithfully; but it is just what they don’t like to have that we must give them. I learned that long ago. The very truths that men object to, and that make them angry, are the truths that bring them to the cross of Christ.”

Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-1899)
American Evangelist

All That Matters is Obedience to God's Word



“We’re not called to live by human reason. All that matters is obedience to God's Word and his leading in our lives. if God says go, we’ll go. If he says stay, we’ll stay. When we are in his will, we are in the safest place in the world.”

Brother Yun - Leader in the Chinese Underground Church
Author of *The Heavenly Man*



Obedience Makes for a Great Nation

Deuteronomy 4:1-8 - “And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² **You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it,** that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. ³ Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. ⁴ But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. ⁵ See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.



Obedience Makes for a Great Nation

Deuteronomy 4:1-8 (cont'd) - ⁶“Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?”



Blessings Tied to Obedience

Deuteronomy 28:1,2, 15 - “And if you faithfully **obey the voice of the LORD** your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

¹⁵ “But if you will **not obey the voice of the LORD** your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.



Blessings Come With Obedience

Deuteronomy 30:9,10 - The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. 'For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, ¹⁰ **when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**



Prophecies of Holy Spirit Power for Obedience

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Prophecies of Holy Spirit Power for Obedience



Ezekiel 36:25-27 - “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and **cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**”

Vision of Ezekiel, 1518
Raphael



Christian Freedom Never Allows for Disobedience

Jeremiah 2:30-32 - “In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravaging lion. ³¹ And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Why then do my people say, ‘**We are free, we will come no more to you**’? ³² Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.”



Jesus is Lord *of all*, or He's not Lord *at all*.



Obedience in Pauline Theology

Romans 1:5 - through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about **the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations

Romans 15:18, 19 - For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to **bring the Gentiles to obedience** — by word and deed,¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

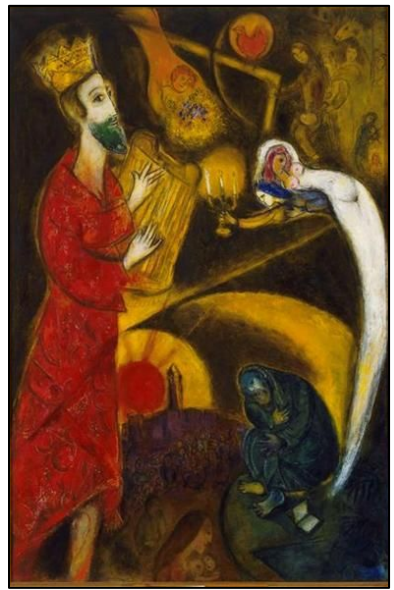


Obedience in Pauline Theology

Romans 16:19 - For **your obedience is known to all**, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about **the obedience of faith**

Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine



David's repentance of breaking a nearly 500 year-old covenant brings blessing from God including the lifting of a three-year famine.

King David, 1951
Marc Chagall



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 - “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 24:16 - “Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

2 Samuel 21:1-14 - Now there was a **famine in the days of David for three years**, year after year. And **David sought the face of the LORD**. And the LORD said, “There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.”² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.³ And David said to the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? And how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the heritage of the LORD?”



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

2 Samuel 21:1-14 - ⁴The Gibeonites said to him, “It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel.” And he said, “What do you say that I shall do for you?” ⁵They said to the king, “The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel, ⁶let seven of his sons be given to us, so that we may hang them before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD.” And the king said, “I will give them.”



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

2 Samuel 21:1-14 - ⁷ But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the LORD that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. ⁸ The king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; ⁹ and he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and **they hanged them on the mountain before the LORD, and the seven of them perished together.** They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest.



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

2 Samuel 21:1-14 - ¹⁰ Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell upon them from the heavens. And she did not allow the birds of the air to come upon them by day, or the beasts of the field by night. ¹¹ When David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, ¹² David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa.



Obedience Lifts a Three-Year Famine

2 Samuel 21:1-14 - ¹³ And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged. ¹⁴ And they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Kish his father. **And they did all that the king commanded. And after that God responded to the plea for the land.**

True Success is Obedience to God's Word



“Obedience is the mother of success in the kingdom of God.”

E.V. Hill (1933-2003)

Senior pastor at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church



Faithful Obedience

1. Importance of Obedience
2. **Obedience Defines Our Relationship With God**
3. Scriptural Commands
4. Doubtful Things
5. Hearing God's Voice As a Requirement for Believers
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Obedience Defines Our Relationship with God

Our relationship with God has less to do with our feelings, and everything to do with the consistency of our obedience. It's a modern grave misunderstanding that our relationship with God primarily centers on feelings. Obedience is the heart of the following:

- Knowing God
- Friendship with God
- Abiding in God
- Loving God



Knowing God is Obeying God

1 John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ **Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar**, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



Friendship with God is Obeying God

John 15:12-17 - “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ **You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.** ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



Abiding in God is Obeying God

John 15:9-17 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** ¹⁰ **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide in his love.** ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

1 John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments **abides in God**, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



Loving God is Obeying God

Deuteronomy 11:1, 2 - “You shall therefore **love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.** ² And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it), consider the discipline of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm”

John 14:21 - “**Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.** And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”



His Commandments are Not Burdensome

1 John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

Educating in Morals



“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)
26th President of the United States



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Top Two Commandments for Obedience

Matthew 22:36-40: “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Ten Commandments



Exodus 20:1-17 - And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**The Ten Commandments
Written on Tablets of Stone**



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17 (cont'd) (commandments 1-3):

- ³“You shall have no other gods before me.
- ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17 (commandments 4-5):

- ⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- ¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17 (cont'd - commandments 6-10)

- ¹³ “You shall not murder.
- ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.
- ¹⁵ “You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”



Over 1,000 Scriptural Commands in the New Testament

- [1000+ Commands in the New Testament](#)
- **Christians are to Obey** - Any statement by Christians suggesting or implying that faithful obedience is not important should be confronted for their lawlessness. Nothing is more godly than striving to be faithfully obedient to God in every way - big and small.



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Obeying God in Big and Small Matters



“God spoke to me and told me He would bring revival to America, but only if we obey Him in the small things as well as the big things, because the small things *are* big things.”

Derek Prince (1915 - 2003)
International Bible Teacher and Author



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

Romans 14:1-23 - As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

Romans 14:1-23 (cont'd) - ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

Romans 14:1-23 (cont'd) - ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

Romans 14:1-23 (cont'd) - ¹³Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴**I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.** ¹⁵For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

Romans 14:1-23 (cont'd) - ²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. ²² The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.



Matters of Conscience in Romans 14

- **Forbidden:** Eating meat at festivals where meat is sacrificed to idols
- **Allowed:** Eating that same meat if resold in the marketplace
- **Forbidden:** Eating meat at a home bought in the marketplace when it's known it was sourced in festival, for conscience sake

Lessons Learned

1. Christians may not go against their consciences.
2. Christians may not encourage other Christians to go against their consciences.



Matters of Conscience

A good explanation of the importance of putting away doubtful things in order to receive blessing from God can be found here:

- [Chp 20 “Baptism With the Holy Spirit” from *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* by R. A. Torrey.](#)
- See especially section 2 on pages 23 and 24. The Holy Spirit fell on her once she repented of a doubtful thing.



Matters of Hindrance

Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye **causes you to sin**, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand **causes you to sin**, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside every weight**, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



Matters of Hindrance

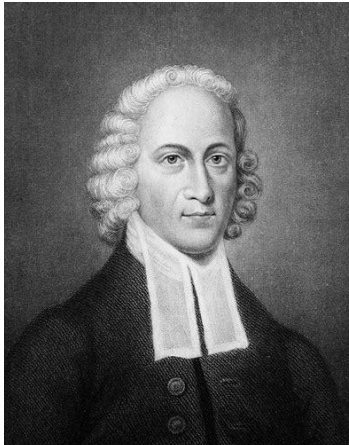
What hinders your obedience to the Lord?



Faithful Obedience

1. Importance of Obedience
2. Obedience Defines Our Relationship With God
3. Scriptural Commands
4. Doubtful Things
- 5. Hearing God's Voice As a Requirement for Believers**
6. Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant
7. Impact of God's Voice
8. Steps to Hearing His Voice

Hearing God's Voice



“To converse with God is the most delightful entertainment in the world.”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian



Determining a True Word of God

- **Many Discouraged** - Many have been led astray, discouraged and deceived because they have not weighed and tested words from God.
- **Don't Despise** - It's sometimes led them to stop valuing and even despising prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).
- **Primer** - *The Beginner's Guide to the Gift of Prophecy* by Jack Deere
- **Website:** cuamerica.org/valuing_testing_and_weighing_prophecy



Question from an Evangelical Website

Q: In biblical times, did God speak to people in a voice they could hear? If so, why doesn't He do it today? I'd have a much stronger faith if I only heard His voice speaking to me once in a while.

A: Yes, on occasion God did speak audibly to some of His servants in the Bible — but only rarely. More often, God gave them an inner conviction of His truth, or made His will clear to them through circumstances. Most often, He made His will clear through the written messages He had given in the past — in other words, through the Bible. Why doesn't God speak to us today in a voice we can hear? One reason is because we wouldn't have any way of knowing whether or not it was God who was speaking to us, or if it was a fraud (or even a demon).



Question from an Evangelical Website

A (cont'd): This, incidentally, is one reason why we shouldn't listen to someone who claims to be a messenger from God, but rejects the Bible or contradicts its message. Jesus warned, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come... and will deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5). But the other reason God doesn't speak to us in a voice we can hear is because He doesn't need to! God has already told us everything we need to know — and we find it in the pages of the Bible. Most of all, we know He loves us because He came to earth in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Don't be filled with doubt any longer. Instead, turn to Jesus Christ and give your life to Him. Then come to know Him more and more by reading His Word and joining in fellowship with other believers.



God Speaks in All Dispensations

Adam and Eve	Joseph	The People of Israel	Nathan
Cain	Cupbearer of Egypt	Deborah	Solomon
Noah and his Sons	Baker of Egypt	Gideon	Man of God Eaten by Lion
Job and his Friends	Pharaoh	Samson	Old Prophet in Bethel
Abraham and Sarah	Moses and Aaron	The Young Levite	Jeroboam
Hagar	Miriam	Eli	Ahijah
Lot and his Family	70 Elders of Moses	Samuel	Asa
Abimelech	Eldad and Medad	Saul	Azariah
Isaac	Balaam	Group of Prophets	
Jacob	Joshua	King David	



3. Seeking God Lifestyle: 5. Faithful Obedience

God Speaks in All Dispensations

Hanni	Prophet to Ahab	Oded	Amasai Chief of the
Jehu	Sons of the Prophets	Joash	30
Elijah	Jehoshaphat	Hezekiah	Asaph
Ahab	Micaiah	Lord's Servants the	Heman
Jezebel	Ahaziah	Prophets	Jeduthun
Obadiah	Sons of the Prophets	Manasseh	Zedekiah
The 100 Prophets	Naaman	Manesseh's People	Isaiah
Rehoboam	Gehazi	Josiah	Jeremiah
Shemaiah	Hazael	Huldah	Ezekiel
Elisha	Amaziah's Man of God	Man of God	Daniel
			Hosea and Joel



God Speaks in All Dispensations

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Zerubbabel

Malachi

Zechariah

John the Baptist

Mary and Joseph

Jesus

Caiaphas

Apostles, Mary &

Women

Paul and Barnabas

Ananias

Phillip

Peter and Cornelius

Judas and Silas

Prophets in Antioch

Assembled Jerusalem

Leaders

Agabus

Philip's daughters

John in Revelation



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

- **Throughout History** - Starting in Genesis (Adam and Eve) through the Book of Revelation (John) God spoke possibly over 1,000 times. Hearing God's voice is a continual requirement through all dispensations.
- **Jesus' Promise** - Jesus promises in John 16 that the Spirit will speak to Christians.
- **More Revelation in New Covenant** - Peter in Acts 2:16-18 confirms that believers in the New Covenant will receive more, not less revelation than those under the Old Covenant.
- **Christians Can Miss the Voice of God** - In many New Testament books, especially the Books of Hebrews and Revelation, Christians are chastised for not listening to and obeying the voice of God.



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

Genesis 3:8-10 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the **LORD God called to the man and said to him**, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

Genesis 18:16-33 - The LORD speaks to Abraham (Genesis 18:17, 18) - “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

Notice not only that the LORD speaks to Abraham, but the reason He gives for speaking to Him.

Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful



1 Samuel 3:1-14 - Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful



1 Samuel 3:1-14 (cont'd) - ⁴ Then **the LORD called Samuel**, and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶ And **the LORD called again**, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

1 Samuel 3:1-14 (cont'd) - ⁷ **Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.** ⁸ **And the LORD called Samuel again the third time.** And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

1 Samuel 3:1-14 (cont'd) - ¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” ¹¹ Then **the LORD said to Samuel**, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

Ezekiel 8:1, 2 - In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, **while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign Lord came on me there.** ² **I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man.** From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal.

Ezekiel 14:1-3 - Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. ² **And the word of the LORD came to me:** ³ "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?"



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

Ezekiel 20:1-3 - In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and sat before me. ² **And the word of the LORD came to me:** ³“Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, Is it to inquire of me that you come? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you.

Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful



Jeremiah 7:22-26 - But this command I gave them: **'Obey my voice,** and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'²⁴ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the **stubbornness of their evil hearts,** and went backward and not forward.²⁵ From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day.²⁶ Yet **they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck.** They did worse than their fathers.

The Prophet Jeremiah, 1900
James Tissot



Hearing God's Voice Always a Requirement of the Faithful

Amos 8:11,12 - “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD.** ¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.



Jesus' Sheep Know His Voice

John 10:1-28 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep **hear his voice**, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, **and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice**. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



Jesus' Sheep Know His Voice

John 10:1-28 (cont'd) - ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,



Jesus' Sheep Know His Voice

John 10:1-28 (cont'd) - ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and **they will listen to my voice**. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”



Jesus' Sheep Know His Voice

John 10:1-28 (cont'd) - ²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶ **but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.** ²⁷ My sheep hear **my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.



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The Helper Will Speak

John 16:7-15 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is **to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.** ⁸ And when he comes, he **will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:** ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.



The Helper Will Speak

John 16:7-15 (cont'd) “I still have many things **to say** to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,** for he will not **speak** on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will **speak**, and he will **declare** to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and **declare** it to you.



A Book Instead of the Spirit?

John 16:12-15 - “I still have many things **to say** to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ **When the BOOK comes, it will guide you into all the truth**, for it will not **speak** on its own authority, but whatever is written, it will **speak**, and it will **declare** to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ **The BOOK will glorify me, for it will take what is mine and declare it to you.** ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that the **BOOK** will take what is mine and **declare** it to you.

The Scriptures themselves testify to the need of the Holy Spirit.

Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 2:14-18 - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

St. Peter, 1611
Peter Paul Rubens

Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 2:14-18 (cont'd) - ¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

St. Peter, 1611
Peter Paul Rubens



Increased Revelation from God for All Persons

Sons and Daughters:	shall prophesy
Young Men:	shall see visions
Old Men:	shall dream dreams
Servants:	shall prophesy

The *Book of Acts* is a book of examples, not exceptions.



No Need for Revelation Because We Have Jesus?

- **Have You Heard This?** “We have Jesus so we no longer need the amount of communication from God as happened in the Old Covenant” (Hebrews 1:1-4).
- **More Not Less** - This is false. The Scriptures declare that there is more communication from God under the New Covenant than the Old Covenant!!
- **Scripture Not Experience** - As Christians, it’s important to form Bible doctrine from the Scriptures more than our own experience. It should always align with experience, but one’s lack of experience should not overrule plain Scriptural teaching.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 8:26-31 - **Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”** This is a desert place.²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ And the **Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”**³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 9:4-7 - And falling to the ground, he **heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”** ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** ⁶ **But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”** ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

The Conversion of St. Paul, 1601
Caravaggio



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 9:10-16 - Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. **The Lord said to him in a vision**, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ **But the Lord said to him**, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 10:1-8 - At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ **About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.”** ⁴ **And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.** ⁵ **And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.** ⁶ **He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.”** ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 10:9-16 - The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, **he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.**



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 10:19-20 - And while Peter was pondering the vision, **the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”**

Acts 11:7-9 - And **I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸** But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ **But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’**



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 11:27-30 - Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸

And one of them named Agabus stood up and **foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world** (this took place in the days of Claudius).

²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 12:7-9 - And behold, **an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly."** And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And **the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals."** And he did so. And he **said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."** ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 13:1 - Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”** ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:8-10 - Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And **Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,** ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 15:28 - For it has **seemed good to the Holy Spirit** and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:

St James the Elder, 1613
Peter Paul Rubens



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 16:6-10 - And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia.⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.**⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.⁹ **And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."**¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 18:8-11 - Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And **the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision**, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 19:1-7 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.** ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 20:22-23 - Paul speaking to the elders of the church of Ephesus that he is to go to Jerusalem despite the likelihood of imprisonment: ²² “And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, **constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,** ²³ **except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.”**



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 21:10-14 - On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.⁹ He had **four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.**¹⁰ While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, **"Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'**"¹² When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."



Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant

Acts 23:11 - The following night **the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”**

Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 27:21-26 - Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ **For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,**

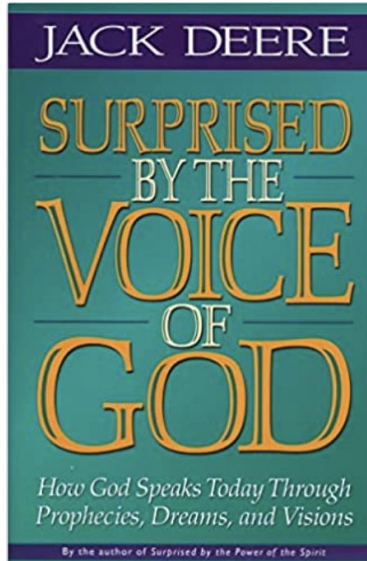
Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant



Acts 27:21-26 (cont'd) - ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island."

Historical Examples of Hearing God's Voice



[Chapters 5 and 6: “Presbyterian Prophets” and “Conspiracy” in *Surprised by the Voice of God: How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions* by Jack Deere](#) (also includes examples from Charles Spurgeon)

Surprised by the Voice of God
Jack Deere



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What God's Voice Accomplishes



A human voice is powerful, how much more the voice of God!



What God's Voice Accomplishes

Isaiah 50:4-7 - The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to **sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens**; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord GOD has **opened my ear, and I was not rebellious**; I turned not backward. ⁶ **I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard**; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷ But the **Lord GOD helps me**; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore **I have set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.



God's Voice Helps Christians Know His Will and to Obey

- **Direction** - (Isaiah 30:21; Acts 8:29)
- **Messages for Others** - (2 Chronicles 36:15, 16; 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25)
- **Warnings** (Job 33:14-18; Matthew 2:12)



God's Voice Does More Than Just Reveal God's Will

- **Creation and Bringing to Life** - (Genesis 1:1-3; Ezekiel 37:4, 5)
- **Healing** - (Exodus 15:25, 26; Psalm 107:20; Matthew 4:4)
- **Comfort** - (Zechariah 1:13; Acts 23:11)
- **Determination** - (Isaiah 50:4-7; Ezekiel 3:8, 9)
- **Faith** - (Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:5)
- **Intimacy through Secrets** - (Genesis 18:17, 18; John 15:14, 15)
- **Strengthening** - (2 Chronicles 15:8; 1 Cor 14:1, 2)



Blessings Come When We Hear and Obey God

Genesis 22:18 - “and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because you have obeyed my voice.**”

Jeremiah 10:21 - For the shepherds are stupid and do not **inquire of the LORD**; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

Luke 11:27-28 - As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!”²⁸ But he said, “**Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**”



Psalm 29 - Voice of Yahweh is Powerful

קול יהוה

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

³ The **voice of the LORD** is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

⁴ The **voice of the LORD** is powerful; the **voice of the LORD** is full of majesty.



Psalm 29 - Voice of Yahweh is Powerful (cont'd)

קול יהוה

⁵ The **voice of the LORD** breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The **voice of the LORD** flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ The **voice of the LORD** shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.



Psalm 29 - Voice of Yahweh is Powerful (cont'd)

קול יהוה

⁹ The **voice of the LORD** makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!



Faithful Obedience

1. Importance of Obedience
2. Scriptural Commands
3. Doubtful Things
4. Hearing God's Voice As a Requirement for Believers
5. Hearing God's Voice in the New Covenant
6. Impact of God's Voice
7. **Steps to Hearing His Voice**



Steps to Hearing God's Voice

1. **Praise** - Come before him in worship, praise and thanksgiving. (2 Kings 3:15; 2 Chronicles 25:1-3)
2. **Attention** - Hearken yourself - pay attention.
3. **Humility** - Be ready to obey any direction He gives. He may not speak if He does not feel you will be obedient.(Proverbs 22:17)
4. **Time** - It takes time.
5. **Quietness** - There needs to be no distractions - especially the phone

Still Having Trouble?

- May need to take extended time - several days to fast and repent.
- May need to go to a certain place and time as per the Lord's instructions.

Do Not Harden Your Heart



- Calloused hearts
- Hardened hearts
- Stubborn hearts
- Dull hearts
- Stiff-necked
- Obstinate
- Resisting the Holy Spirit

We are to be *sensitive, tender* and *responsive* to the Lord!



Do Not Harden Your Heart

Isaiah 6:8-10 - And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”⁹ And he said, “Go, and say to this people: **“Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.”**¹⁰ **Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”**

Acts 7:51 - “You **stiff-necked** people, **uncircumcised in heart and ears**, you always **resist the Holy Spirit**. As your fathers did, so do you.”



Do Not Harden Your Heart

Acts 28:27 - For this **people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.**'



Do Not Harden Your Heart

John 12:36-43 - When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” ³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ “**He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.**”



Do Not Harden Your Heart

John 12:36-43 (cont'd) - ⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.



Do Not Harden Your Heart

Matthew 13:8-17 - Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ **He who has ears, let him hear.** ¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: **““You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”**”



Do Not Harden Your Heart

Matthew 13:8-17 (cont'd) - ¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.



Christians Are Not to Harden Their Hearts

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, **“Today, if you hear his voice,⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.**



Christians Are Not to Harden Their Hearts

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13 (cont'd) - ¹⁵ As it is said, “**Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.**” ¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.



Christians Are Not to Harden Their Hearts

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13 (cont'd) - ¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵ And again in this passage he said, “They shall not enter my rest.”



Christians Are Not to Harden Their Hearts

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13 (cont'd) - ⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “**Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.**” ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.



Christians Are Not to Harden Their Hearts

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13 (cont'd) - ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.** ¹² **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.



All Churches and Christians Need to Hear What the Spirit Says

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

- **Hear the Spirit!** - All seven Revelation churches are admonished to hear with the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:7 (Ephesus), Revelation 2:11, (Smyrna), Revelation 2:17 (Pergamum), Revelation 2:29 (Thyatira), Revelation 3:6 (Sardis), Revelation 3:13 (Philadelphia), Revelation 3:22 (Laodicea)
- **All Churches and People** - Both the good churches and the bad churches are told the same thing, viz. to be sensitive to the voice of God. God knows that it's human nature to ignore or resist His voice, even as Christians.



Why Do We Fail in Hearing God?

1. **Unbelief** - Take care not to have a disobedient, unbelieving heart.
2. **Don't Value His Voice** - Don't take the time to hear from God - haven't developed it, lazy.
3. **Fear of Man** - Fear of man and don't take action when He tells us to do something (God speaks about many matters, not always giving direction, but when He does give direction, failing to obey is a resisting of the Holy Spirit). E.G. he's calling us to call others to repent and we are afraid to do it.



Faithful Obedience

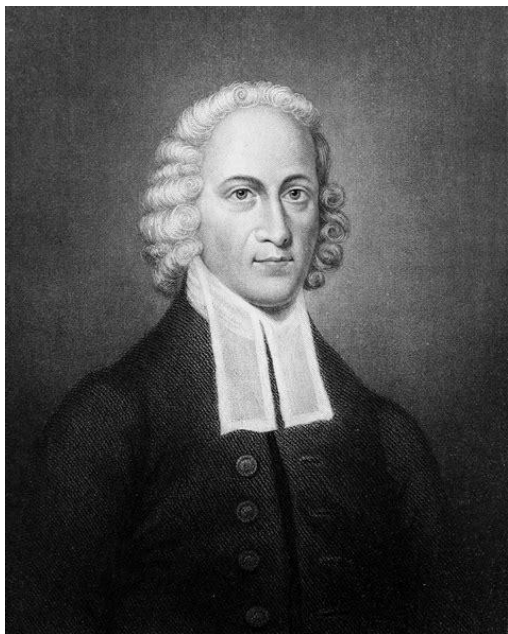
- 1. Importance of Obedience**
- 2. Obedience Defines Our Relationship With God**
- 3. Scriptural Commands**
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Commitments of the 1904-1905 Welsh Revival



1. Confess All Sin
2. Remove All That is Doubtful
3. Give Yourself Entirely to the Holy Spirit and Obey Him
4. Make Public Confession of Christ

Evan Roberts (1878-1951)
Welsh Revivalist



“The state of the times extremely requires a fullness of the divine Spirit in ministers, and we ought to give ourselves no rest till we have obtained it. And in order to [do] this, I should think ministers, above all persons, ought to be much in secret prayer and fasting, and also much in praying and fasting one with another. It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if **ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.**”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Psalm 33:12



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