

FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

Shofar Table View
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Loving Jesus = obeying Jesus

John 15:14 (NKJV)

- ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

John 14:21 (NKJV)

- ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**”

John 14:23 (NLT)

- ²³ Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, **and we will come and make our home with each of them.**”



Obedience is much more than following rules; it's a state of the heart. Behind God's demands is a Love and Grace that makes it possible for us to obey. The blessing of complete obedience is an intimate connection with our loving, protective heavenly Father who desires more than anything to give us a rich and fulfilling life.

Obedience: religion versus relationship

Philippians 3 (NLT)

- ⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.
- ⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Obedience to GOD

Philippians 2 (NLT)

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Obedience is costly

Philippians 2 (NLT)

⁶ Though he was God,^[a]

he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges^[b];

he took the humble position of a slave^[c]
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,^[d]

⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross

Obedience has consequences

Philippians 2

9 Therefore, God elevated him to
the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all
other names,
10 that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,
11 and every tongue declare that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The nature of true obedience

- Obedience to GOD- not to man/institutions/traditions
- Obedience is costly- it does not come cheap
- Obedience has consequences- brings a harvest

How to grow in obedience: Be baptized

- **Mark 16 (NKJV)**¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Colossians 2 (NLT)¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead

Testimonies

- Relationship with money
 - tithing
 - Radio pulpit and the VW Kombi
 - Missionary and air tickets
- Praying for the sick
 - Neighbours

How to grow in obedience: Be filled with the Spirit

- **Galations 5¹⁶** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh
- **Romans 8¹⁴** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

How do we respond to God's voice?

Abraham

Jona

Jeremiah

Missionary

Moses

Cousin

The cost of following Jesus: obedience

Luke 14 (NKJV)

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

The Blessing of Obedience

- **Psalm 81** ¹³ Oh, that my people would listen to me!
Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!
¹⁴ How quickly I would then subdue their enemies!
How soon my hands would be upon their foes!
¹⁶ But I would feed you with the finest wheat.
I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock
- **Matthew 6** ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you

Our heart's condition

Isaiah 66 ² “I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.

- **Full Definition of *CONTRITE***
- : feeling or showing sorrow and [remorse](#) for a sin or shortcoming (Merriam-Webster's Dictionary)

- **Full Definition of *HUMBLE***
- : not proud or [haughty](#) : not [arrogant](#) or assertive

We are all works in progress.....

Proverbs 24 (NLT)

¹⁶ The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.

But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.