

02/22/26 Message

Part of What Does God Want

February 21, 2026

Message: God Wants Obedience

Series: What Does God Want

Background

Ask yourself, what does God want from me?

- This year
- Today
- Right Now

When we ask ourselves that, we're seeking the heart and will of God. And when we ask with intention we're asking with the intention we will change to be and do what God wants. And when we ask with that intention, God will answer your question. He will reveal things to you that you'd never know, maybe things you've never even thought of before. What does God want from you this year, today, right now?

—Pastor Chad

This series stems from a verse found in the OT:

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV)

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Our Actions Matter

Our intentions don't really matter, our actions matter! When we change our actions, it changes what we're doing so it changes who and what we're becoming. Kind of like that passage in a book we claim to live by that says you'll be known by your fruit (cf. Matthew 7:20).

Your identity is tied to your actions. You are known by your fruit, and you are known by your actions. You're known by the things you do, and the things you should do that you don't. Matthew 7:18 tells us a good tree can't bear bad fruit, and a bad tree can't bear good fruit! You are known by your fruit!

—Pastor Chad

- Samuel
 - Last of Hebrew Judges
 - Prophet
 - Transitioned Israel into a Kingdom (monarchy)
 - A man of prayer and a man of faith

1 Samuel 15:1 (NLT)

One day Samuel said to Saul, "It was the Lord who told me to anoint you as king of His people, Israel"

I started this message saying God wants your obedience! Here we see Samuel making the declaration, God told me to do it, and I'm doing it! I'm obeying God!

—Pastor Chad

Here's what God told Samuel to tell Saul:

1 Samuel 15:2-3 (NLT)

2 "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt.

3 Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys."

-You read this and there's no doubt what God wanted.

-King Saul was told by God to completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation.

1 Samuel 15:9 (NLT)

Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality.

-King Saul only did part of what God told them to do, He told them in v3 to completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation - men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys.

-But they didn't, here's the problem

1 Samuel 15:13 (NLT)

When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. "May the Lord bless you," he said. "I have carried out the Lord's command!"

Samuel started questioning King Saul asking him the question, if you carried out the Lord's command, then why do I hear all the sheep and goats and cows out in the pasture! They weren't here before, but now they're here. Where did they come from? Saul was caught. He replied, well... "I brought the best of the sheep, goats, and cattle so we could sacrifice them to the Lord your God, we destroyed everything else!" King Saul wasn't offering a sacrifice; he was offering an explanation. One of those "I've been caught" moments. I'd say it was a made-up response, made up on the spot! Saul was caught! He was caught first in his disobedience and then he was caught in a lie!

—Pastor Chad

Samuel said this -

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NLT)

22 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen!

Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

After all that, Saul fessed up!

1 Samuel 15:24-26 (NLT)

24 Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded.

25 But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I

may worship the Lord.”

26 But Samuel replied, “I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the Lord’s command, he has rejected you as king of Israel.”

Ever met one of those folks that think the magic words, “I’m sorry” covers everything and then you’re good to go? I mean, it sounds good, right. But saying the words doesn’t make it so. Our intentions are one thing but our actions say something completely different. One thing about God we forget, God forgives our sins, but sin always has consequences!

—Pastor Chad

- God said in **1 Samuel 15:11**, “I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command.” And just in case saying it once wasn’t enough, v35 “...the Lord was sorry He had ever made Saul king of Israel.”
 - God forgave Saul, but the consequence of his sin means he would no longer be King of Israel.
 - Disobedience still hurts God, even if we’re sorry, even if we repent and change our disobedience still hurts God

One thing we learn straight from God -

John 14:15 (NLT)

If you love Me, obey My commandments.

John 14:15 (Message)

If you love me, show it by doing what I’ve told you! If you love me, you’ll obey me!

What is Obedience

- Obedience is the PROOF of love

Really, it could be said that obedience is the proof that we believe, it’s the proof that we trust, it’s the proof that we have faith, it’s the proof that we are in it to win it! It’s proof we are in it for life.

—Pastor Chad

- Obedience is all or NOTHING

One thing we see with Saul, he did some of what God told him to do, but he didn't do all what God told him to do. It's all or nothing with God. Partial obedience is disobedience! Truth be told, partial obedience is a rebellious spirit saying I'll give you a little, but not all! Selective obedience is disobedience! He wants it all!

—Pastor Chad

- Obedience isn't EASY

If obedience was easy, then we'd always obey! But it's not and we don't! With God, when we disobey, we're telling God: My way is better! God steps in and whispers, read Proverbs 3:5-6 where it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." If that verse didn't stop there it would say, lean not on your own understanding because your own understanding sucks! Your understanding is jaded by whatever is in front of you or what experiences you go through. Your understanding is easy to influence, easy to manipulate, and hard to control. Then, God steps in and whispers: Trust in Me with all your heart and not on your own understanding, because My way is better than your way, My knowledge is greater than your knowledge, and even when you've been unfaithful to Me, I've been faithful to you!

—Pastor Chad

- Abraham obeyed when he didn't understand why God was asking him to sacrifice his son on the altar!
- Noah obeyed when he didn't understand why God asked him to build a boat and it had never rained!
- Peter obeyed when he didn't understand why Jesus was asking him to leave everything and follow Him!

Let's Get Real

- The real question today is not if you believe in God or not, the real question today is are you obeying God

Luke 6:46 (NLT)

So why do you keep calling... when you don't do what I say?

Luke 6:46-49 (NLT)

46 "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?

47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

Obedience isn't easy, it's all or nothing, and it's the evidence of love! Do you love Jesus? Love isn't easy, it's intentional, it's all or nothing, and it is proven by your obedience to Him! God wants your obedience!

—Pastor Chad