

Optimal Obedience



Optimal Obedience

²⁶NOW AN ANGEL OF THE LORD SAID TO PHILIP,
“GO SOUTH TO THE ROAD—THE DESERT ROAD—
THAT GOES DOWN FROM JERUSALEM TO GAZA.”

ACTS 8:26

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²⁷SO HE STARTED OUT, AND ON HIS WAY HE MET
AN ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH, AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL
IN CHARGE OF ALL THE TREASURY OF THE
KANDAKE,

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QUEEN OF THE ETHIOPIANS. THIS MAN HAD
GONE TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP,

ACTS 8:27

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²⁸AND ON HIS WAY HOME WAS SITTING IN HIS
CHARIOT READING THE BOOK OF ISAIAH THE
PROPHET.

ACTS 8:28

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²⁹THE SPIRIT TOLD PHILIP, “GO TO THAT CHARIOT
AND STAY NEAR IT.”

ACTS 8:29

³⁰ THEN PHILIP RAN UP TO THE CHARIOT AND
HEARD THE MAN READING ISAIAH THE PROPHET.
“DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE
READING?” PHILIP ASKED.

ACTS 8:30

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³¹“HOW CAN I,” HE SAID, “UNLESS SOMEONE EXPLAINS IT TO ME?” SO HE INVITED PHILIP TO COME UP AND SIT WITH HIM.

ACTS 8:31

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³²THIS IS THE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE THE
EUNUCH WAS READING:

“HE WAS LED LIKE A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER,

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AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

ACTS 8:32

³³IN HIS HUMILIATION HE WAS DEPRIVED OF
JUSTICE.

WHO CAN SPEAK OF HIS DESCENDANTS?
FOR HIS LIFE WAS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH.”

ACTS 8:33

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³⁴THE EUNUCH ASKED PHILIP, “TELL ME, PLEASE,
WHO IS THE PROPHET TALKING ABOUT, HIMSELF
OR SOMEONE ELSE?”

ACTS 8:34

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³⁵ THEN PHILIP BEGAN WITH THAT VERY PASSAGE
OF SCRIPTURE AND TOLD HIM THE GOOD NEWS
ABOUT JESUS.

ACTS 8:35

³⁶AS THEY TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD, THEY
CAME TO SOME WATER AND THE EUNUCH SAID,
“LOOK, HERE IS WATER. WHAT CAN STAND IN THE
WAY OF MY BEING BAPTIZED?”

ACTS 8:36

³⁸AND HE GAVE ORDERS TO STOP THE CHARIOT.
THEN BOTH PHILIP AND THE EUNUCH WENT
DOWN INTO THE WATER AND PHILIP BAPTIZED
HIM.

ACTS 8:38

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OPTIMAL OBEDIENCE IS AN UNCOMPROMISING
HEART, WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR GOD

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1. OPTIMAL OBEDIENCE IS OBEDIENCE BECAUSE
GOD SAID SO

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⁸“FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,”
DECLARES THE LORD.

ISAIAH 55:8

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FEAR SAYS, "I'LL GO WHEN I KNOW."
FAITH SAYS, "I'LL GO AND YOU'LL SHOW."

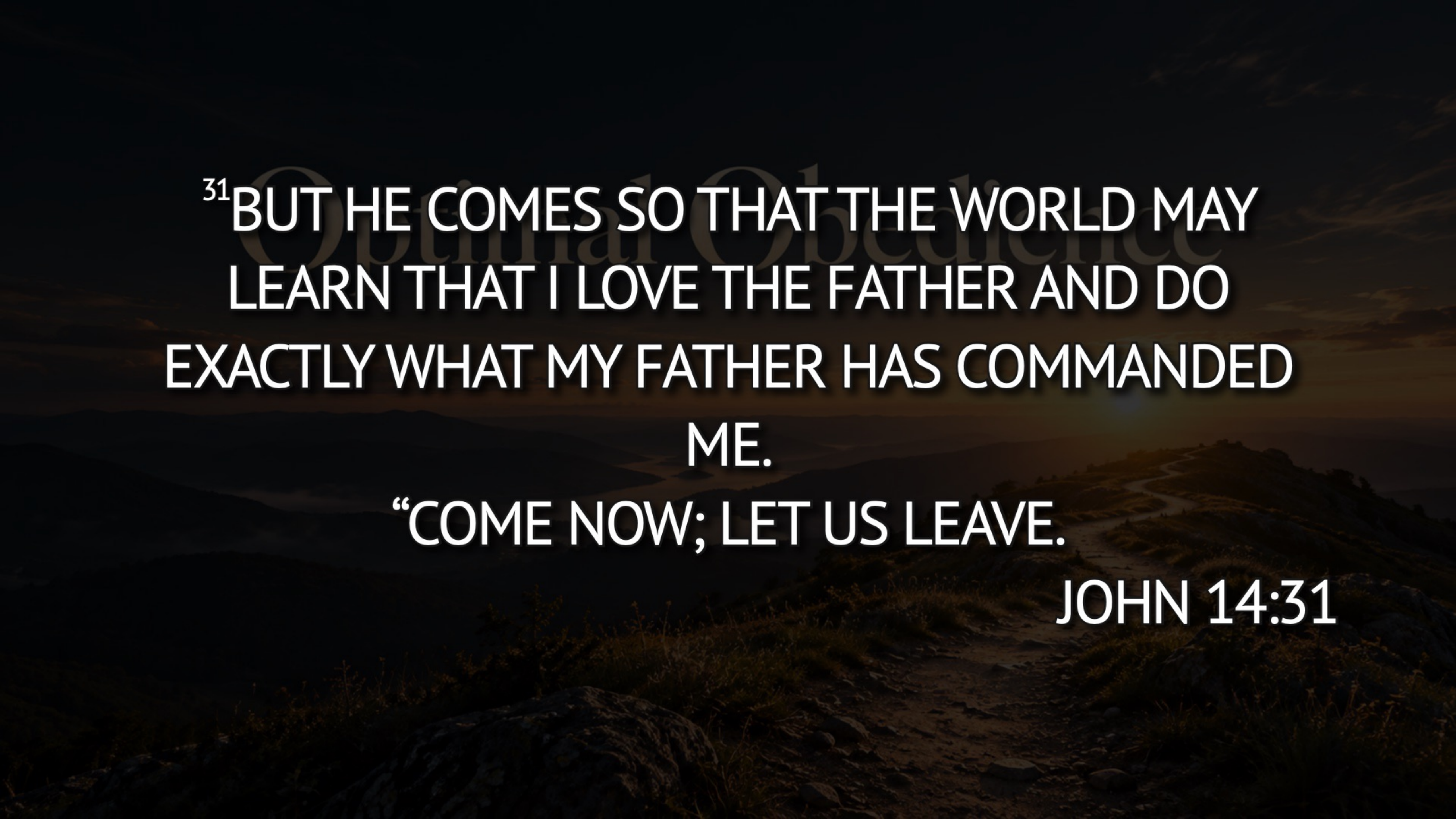
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2. OPTIMAL OBEDIENCE POSITIONS US FOR THE NEXT STEP

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THE MORE YOU DO WHAT YOU KNOW, THE MORE
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

OBEDIENCE CATALYZES REVELATION.



³¹BUT HE COMES SO THAT THE WORLD MAY
LEARN THAT I LOVE THE FATHER AND DO
EXACTLY WHAT MY FATHER HAS COMMANDED
ME.

“COME NOW; LET US LEAVE.

JOHN 14:31

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3. OPTIMAL OBEDIENCE REQUIRES EFFORT

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FAITH + EFFORT = OPTIMAL OBEDIENCE

²³ THEN HE SAID TO THEM ALL: “WHOEVER WANTS
TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES
AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW
ME.

LUKE 9:23

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DENY MEANS TO DISOWN, RENOUNCING SELF AS
CONTROLLING AUTHORITY.

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⁶SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS
AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM,
COLOSSIANS 2:6