

O-B-E-Y: A Four-Letter Word!

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NLT) *While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered. In this way, God qualified Him as a perfect High Priest, and He became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him. And God designated Him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

I. The Obedience of Christ

Hebrews 5:8 (NASB 2020) *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.*

At first glance, it might seem as though this verse is suggesting that Jesus learned to obey through suffering that resulted from disobedience, as if He needed correction. But that's not the case.

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV) *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Sin is nothing more than disobedience to God. Therefore, Jesus could not have been the perfect sacrifice for sin if He had sinned.

"Although He was a Son"

This emphasizes Jesus' divine identity. As God's Son, He had authority and status, but He still submitted Himself fully to God's will.

John 6:38 (NASB 2020) *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

"He learned obedience."

This doesn't mean Jesus was previously disobedient. Rather, it means that Jesus **experienced obedience in action** — **He lived it out**, especially when it was difficult. He submitted Himself to God's plan, especially in painful circumstances (like the crucifixion). His obedience was **proven and perfected** through real-life suffering.

Matthew 26:39 (NASB 2020) *And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me: yet not as I will, but as You will."*

"From the things which He suffered"

Jesus' suffering (betrayal, injustice, physical pain, emotional agony) was part of His human experience. It was through this suffering that His obedience was **fully expressed and completed**.

Hebrews 2:18 (AMP) *For because He Himself [in His humanity] has suffered in being tempted (tested and tried), He is able [immediately] to run to the cry of (assist, relieve) those who are being tempted and tested and tried [and who therefore are being exposed to suffering].*

Simply put, Jesus learned the cost of obedience! He learned the consequences of obeying God on the earth!

II. What does this mean for you and me?

Matthew 16:24 (NASB 2020) *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."*

This is talking about obedience!

Mark 3:34 (NLT) *Then He looked at those around Him and said, "Look, these are My mother and brothers. Anyone who does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."*

Mark 3:35 (MSG) *Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

1 Samuel 15:22 *... "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."*

We must understand, Jesus knows the suffering we will endure when we obey the Word!

Some objections to obeying: I could lose my job if I.... I can't tell my friends about Christ. I might lose them...I can't miss soccer...practice for church. Coach won't play me! I can't give 10%... I can't teach that class... I can't go to them about their sin...I can't....I can't...I can't

Romans 6:16 (NLT) *Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.*

III. The blessing of Obedience

Hebrews 5:7 (ESV) In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and **He was heard because of His reverence.**

Haggai 1:12 (NASB95) Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, **obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet,** as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people **showed reverence for the LORD.**

Obedience is a sign of Reverence. Another way of understanding Reverence is Fear of the Lord.

Mark 10:29-30 (NLT) "Yes," Jesus replied, **"and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.**

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Me to the test!

Luke 11:28 (AMP) **But He said, Blessed (happy and to be envied) rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey and practice it!**

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.