

Victory in Obedience

Today, we turn to the victory found not in perfection, but in loving obedience that flows from grace. Jesus shows us that obedience is not a burden but a blessing—a life shaped by His love, producing joy and peace for those who live with eternity in mind.

I. Obedience Begins With Love (John 15:9-10)

- A. John 15:9-10: *As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my **love**. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love...*
- B. Obedience begins in relationship, not fear. Love transforms “I have to” into “I want to.”
 - 1. “This is love for God: that we keep His commands, and His commands are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3)
 - 2. **Key Thought:** We don’t obey to be loved—we obey because we are loved.
- C. Grace and Obedience Are Companions
 - 1. Ephesians 2:8-9: *For you are saved by **grace** through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift - not from works, so that no one can boast.*
 - 2. Ephesians 2:10: *for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**...*
 - a) Grace saves us and then shapes us into people who live differently.
 - b) Grace doesn’t cancel obedience—it empowers it.

II. Obedience Produces Joy (John 15:11; Hebrews 12:2)

- A. John 15:11: *I have told you these things so that **my joy** may be in you and your joy may be complete.*
 - 1. Joy is found not in freedom from God’s rule, but in walking within it.
 - 2. Sin promises liberty but ends in chains; obedience restores true freedom.
- B. Hebrews 12:2: Jesus endured the cross “for the **joy** set before Him.”
- C. *Example:* Erika Kirk’s forgiveness of her husband’s killer showed obedience born of faith, not emotion—love conquering hate.

III. Obedience Requires Action (James 1:22-25)

- A. James 1:22: *Be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only.*
- B. James 1:23: *Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a **mirror**.*
- C. James 1:25: *But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and **perseveres** in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works - this person will be blessed in what he does.*
 - 1. The “law of freedom” liberates, not enslaves.
 - 2. James 2:26: *for just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is **dead**.*
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 15:10: *But by the grace of God **I am what I am**, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.*

IV. As We Close

- A. Titus 2:12: *instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age.*
- B. When we live with eternity in mind, obedience becomes joy, and love becomes our strength.