

So Will I...

The Obedience of Love

A new year is upon us and the opportunities to experience and grow nearer to God have never been greater or more necessary. Following God requires faith. In faith, we follow God through “obedience”...but, what does that mean, how can I practically follow Him today, and how what difference will it make? Join us as we explore the obedience of love, faith, stewardship, holiness, and our minds.

Obedience

World Perspective: The act of carrying out a command, following a rule, or yielding to the will of another who holds power (e.g. government, employer, or parent).

The world defines the concept of obedience as “compliance and constraint” while

Christian Perspective: The Greek word (“hupakoe”) literally means “to hear under” or “to listen with the intent to respond”. It is a heart level alignment with the character and will of God.

The world is focused on compliance and constraint while God is focused on love and alignment. Obedience should not be viewed as a way to earn God's favor, but rather as a heartfelt response to the grace already received through Jesus. It is an expression of love, trust, and alignment with the His design for us.

So Will I (100 Billion X)

If the stars were made to worship, so will I.

If creation sings Your praises, so will I.

All nature and science follow the sound of Your voice, so will I.

If it all reveals Your nature, so will I.

If creation obeys You, so will I.

If the mountains bow in reverence, so will I.

If the oceans roar Your greatness, so will I.

If everything exists to lift You high, so will I.

If the wind goes where You send it, so will I.

If the rocks cry out in the silence, so will I.

If You left the grave behind You, so will I.

If You gladly chose surrender, so will I.

If you gave Your life to love them, so will I.

All Creation Roars His Glory

The Stars and the Heavens

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalm 19:1

Nature Sings Your Praise

12 “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12

The Rocks Crying Out

40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:10

The Universal Call to Worship

3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. 6 And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Everything With Breath

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6

This is the biblical foundation for the idea that creation "speaks" praise without words. If the vastness of creation reveals His glory, our lives should too.

The Obedience of Love

15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15

Joseph's Silent Obedience

1. Marrying Mary despite the social stigma it would generate.
2. Naming the Child "Jesus" – legally bringing Him into the line of King David.
3. The Flight to Egypt – leaving everything behind to protect Jesus.
4. Returning to Nazareth – Immediately to raise Jesus in the promised land.

When you obey out of love, you shift from seeing God as a distant "rule-maker" to a loving Father. This creates an intimacy where your desires begin to align with His, making your heart more sensitive to His presence.

God often measures our love for Him by how we treat the people around us. In the New Testament, the "New Commandment" given by Jesus was to love others as He loved us—with sacrifice, patience, and humility.

The Call: Love Others Selflessly

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

How it looks in real life--Choosing to forgive someone who doesn't deserve it, helping a neighbor in need even when it's inconvenient, or "bearing one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

By choosing to love people—especially those who are difficult to love—you are obeying the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" and joining all creation in expressing praise to God.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Obedience can be a tough concept. We can't use it to earn favor, rather as an expression of praise and gratitude for what He has done. How do you wrestle with the concept of obedience?

Tuesday – All of creation expresses praise, without words, to God through obedience. How should your life of obedience do the same?

Wednesday – Joseph obeyed God even when it was difficult. This demonstrates greater faith and reliance upon God. When has He asked you to follow and obey with a "tough" request?

Thursday – The greatest obedience is seen in the greatest commands – to love God and others. How is love an act of obedience to God? Who does He command us to love?

Friday – God is faithful and good all the time. He demonstrated our love by sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. All He asks in return is love. Why is that sufficient for Him?