

## **So Will I...**

### **The Obedience of Faith**

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.

While the world is focused on compliance and constraint, 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.

Last week, we saw how all of creation expresses praise through obedience. The first, and greatest, act of obedience is LOVE. This week, we will see how obedience is then practiced through faith.

### **Trusting the Unseen**

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. Hebrews 11:8-9

10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. Hebrews 11:10

### **Trusting the Improbable**

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. Hebrews 11:7

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, 14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in. Genesis 7:11-16

## **Trusting the Impossible**

6 “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” 7 And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. Matthew 8:6-8

13 And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment. Matthew 8:13

## **Trusting the Promise**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, John 11:25

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 10:28

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. John 14:2-3

The promises of God are unimaginable, improbable, and even impossible. This is where faith steps in. It is by faith that Abraham left his home, Noah built a boat, and the centurion begged for healing. It is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, in the name of Jesus.

## **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** – Faith is the critical intersection of life, death, hope, and what you believe about who God is. Why is faith so important to God when even the demons “believe”?

**Tuesday** – Faith appears and disappears at the strangest of times. When have you found faith to be most necessary and easiest to forget?

**Wednesday** – Abraham left everything and followed in faith without knowing even where he was going? Where is God calling you to move your mind, spirit, or situation? Why aren't you moving?

**Thursday** – Noah built an ark and the Centurion begged Jesus for healing. These acts of faith show what God is capable of. How does your testimony about God show faith or the lack thereof?

**Friday** – The biggest promise requiring the most faith...is that God will save you. God promises to apply invisible grace to invisible sin to achieve eternal presence with the Lord in a new Heaven/Earth that doesn't exist yet. Why did you choose to follow Him in this impossible promise?