

I. Opening Scripture

- A. **Isaiah 1:18-20 NKJV** “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. **If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;** But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword’; For the mouth of the LORD has spoke”

1. Spiritual Law

- a. **If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land.**
 - **Other translations: “Best of the Land”**
 - **Message:** “If you are willing and obedient you will feast like kings.”
- b. If you refuse and rebel – you are devoured with a sword.
 - *Disobedience comes with a price.*
 - *It isn’t that God is sending judgement – disobedience opens the door to the adversary – the devil – the god of this world.*

2. Be willing and obedient.

- a. **Willing** – to consent – to yield – to accept.
 - *Be consenting to things God desires to do in your life.*
 - *Yield to his leadings.*
 - *Accept His plan.*
- b. **Obedient** – to hear – to listen – to obey.
 - *To hear with attention or interest.*
 - *To give regards to.*
 - *Be willing to OBEY.*
 - *Be eager to HEAR.*
 - *Be eager to LISTEN.*
 - *Be INTERESTED in what God has to say.*
 - *Be INTERESTED in doing what God desires for you to do.*
- c. Obedience is the open door for God’s blessings!
 - *Increase*
 - *Promotion*
 - *Advancement*
 - *Peace*
 - *Joy*
 - *Prosperity*

II. The Lifestyle of Obedience

- *We should develop a lifestyle of obedience.*
- *Obedience should be the norm for believers.*

A. Obedient Children

- **1 Peter 1:14 NKJV** “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as in your ignorance.*”

- **AMP** “[Live] as obedient children [of God]; do not be conformed to the evil desires *which governed you* in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation].”
- **James 1:25 NKJV** “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- **AMP** “But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed *and* favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience]”

1. **It is God’s will to bless you!**
2. **Obedience opens the door for His blessing.**
3. **It isn’t about earning His blessing – It is about opening the door of opportunity for Him to bless you!**
4. **Mal 3:10 NKJV** “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
 - a. The Lord isn’t trying to take anything away from them by commanding them to tithe.
 - b. The Lord is wanting them to OPEN THE DOOR of blessing by obeying Him. *Notice the connection with obedience and opening.*
 - c. When they obey Him – He is granted access to pour out blessings upon them.

B. Disobedience is what closed the door to God’s blessing upon humanity.

1. **Adam sinned against God.** *He willingly disobeyed the one command that God had given him in the garden.*
 - a. Adam’s sin closed the door to God’s blessing in the garden.
 - b. Adam was living in the fullness of blessing.
 - Fellowship with God
 - Peace
 - Joy
 - Health
 - Wealth
 - Everything supplied – no lack – no weakness – no poverty.
 - c. When Adam TRANSGRESSED God’s law two things occurred:
 - God could no longer freely bless Adam because he had turned his life over to another source – *Satan became his god – the god of this world.*
 - Adam began to experience the loss of blessing.
 - Fellowship was broken.
 - Turmoil – replaced peace.
 - Sorrow replaced joy.
 - Sickness replaced health.
 - Poverty – replaced wealth.
 - Death replaced life.

C. Obedience re-opens the door to God's blessing.

1. Every covenant that God created with mankind required obedience.

- a. Noah – had to build an ark.
- b. Abraham – had to be willing to sacrifice Isaac.
- c. The Children of Israel had to walk in obedience to invoke the Old Covenant Blessings.
- d. Whenever God could find people who would OBEY his commands – He could begin to pour out the blessings upon their life once again – and deal with the curse attached from the fall because of disobedience.

2. What about Grace and the New Covenant

- a. While we are not under a performance system to earn our salvation or blessings from God, OBEDIENCE is still very much part of our relationship with God.
- b. Grace offers forgiveness and restoration, but it doesn't give us a license for willful disobedience – or a lifestyle of disobedience.
- c. Bible obedience in hearkening to a higher authority.
 - *To hearken to God's authority is to hearken to the highest authority.*
 - *To hearken to God's authority is to obey His voice, to receive His wisdom, to be blessed by His guidance.*
- d. Scriptures to consider:
 - **Gal 3:1 NKJV** "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?"
 - **Gal 5:7 NKJV** "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?"
 - **2 Peter 1:22 NKJV** "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"
 - **John 14:15 NKJV** "If you love Me, keep My commandments"
 - **Rom 6:16 NKJV** "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness"
- e. Although our salvation is accomplished by faith alone and grace, a lifestyle of obedience keeps our life in the flow of God's blessing.
- f. God never told us to do anything that will take away from our life.
- g. Whatever He commands us to do is for our good!
- h. Whenever we choose to disobey His leadings – we have removed ourselves from the blessing flow and opened the door for the enemy's flow.

EXAMPLES OF THE ENEMY'S FLOW:

- ***When you go to places where ungodly activity is in play.***
- ***Things watched – things heard – things practiced.***
- **2 Peter 7-8 NKJV** “and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)”
- **American Standard** “(for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds)”

D. A Lifestyle of Obedience is being one who is quick to obey.

1. I desire to hear God's opinion about things.
2. I desire to do what is pleasing to the Lord.
3. I practice hearing and obeying.

E. Practical Application of obedience. *Obedience is submission.*

- **James 4:7 NKJV** “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
- **AMP** “So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you.”
- ***Submission Defined:***
 - *To put in subjection*
 - *To submit one's control*
 - *To yield to one's admonition or advice*
 - *To obey and be subject*

PASTOR'S NOTE:

- *Notice – in order for your resistance of the devil to work – you must first be submitted to God - Obeying Him – yielding to Him – following Him.*
- *If you are not obeying God, you are leaving the door open for the devil to work his plan in your life - His plan is to steal, kill and destroy - disobedience leaves the door open for things to be stolen, destroyed or killed.*

SELF ASSESSMENT:

- ***Did I leave the door open?***
 - ***Am I leaving the door open?***
 - ***Is the door open?***
 - ***Through disobedience or the lack of obedience?***
1. **Obey His written word. – be submitted to His word.**
 - a. **Yield to it, follow it, do what it says.**
 - b. If it is precisely explained in the Word then do not make excuses, simply obey what the Word says.
 - c. A lifestyle of obedience will begin by obeying what the Word says.

- d. It is needless to try to receive a prophetic word from the Lord when you are not obeying the written word that He has already provided.
- e. Obedience to the Word is the first step toward real growth.

2. Obey His leadings.

- **John 10:27 KJV** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”
- **John 16:13 NKJV** “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”
- a. Obey His voice in the little things.
- b. If you desire to eat the good of the land – the best – follow His voice through obedience.
- c. Examples:
 - To do spiritual things – prayer- word
 - To participate in fellowship and ministry
 - Serving
 - Giving
 - Ministry to others:
 - *If God lays someone on your heart – be willing to reach out.*
 - *Inviting people to church.*
 - *Praying for others.*
 - *Witnessing to others.*
 - Whatever He tells you to do – just do it.

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Too often people are afraid to step out because they are unsure if it is God’s who is leading them or if they are in themselves. Remember, everything we do requires faith. Faith is stepping out on God’s word and His directives.*

- Is it possible that God is leading you to do this?
- Would the devil ever lead you to do this?
- Is there any real repercussion if it wasn’t God?
- Hearing the voice of God clearly comes through practice.
- Ask Him to lead you.
- Speak to Him regarding your desire to obey Him.
- Simply follow Him in the simplest leadings and He will meet you there to take you forward into greater things.
- Little obedience leads to great obedience.
- The more we obey – the more the door is open for His guidance and blessing.

- 3. Closing Note:** *Whenever we obey or become submitted – the outcome will be transformation. The test of obedience and submission is simple: Is there any transformation in your life? This is an ongoing process!*