

Frequently Asked Questions: *The Grace of Obedience*

What is the core definition of obedience in God's kingdom, according to Dr. Cicchino?

Obedience in God's kingdom is not about pressure, fear, or checking boxes. Dr. Cicchino defines it as "trust in action" and "love responding to God's voice." It flows with the Spirit, comes from a heart aligned with heaven, and carries the joy of trust—not compulsion or religious duty.

How does Dr. Cicchino explain the relationship between faith and obedience?

Obedience is inseparable from faith. Romans 1:5 calls it "the obedience that comes from faith." Pastor Kevin explains: "Faith hears. Faith believes. Faith moves. And obedience is simply what it looks like when we move with God." Examples include Abraham leaving for an unknown land and Moses returning to Egypt—both obeyed because they believed.

Why does Dr. Cicchino state that obedience is "fruit, not root"?

Obedience is the fruit of righteousness, not the root. It doesn't initiate or earn right standing with God. Instead, it is the natural overflow of a heart convinced of God's goodness. Genuine obedience springs from trust and love for God, not from trying to gain His approval.

How did Jesus exemplify obedience, and what does it mean for believers?

Jesus did not obey to earn His Father's approval—He already had it. Every action, word, and miracle flowed from His assurance of being one with the Father. Pastor Kevin explains: "Jesus yielded to the cross—not because He was overpowered, but because He agreed with His Father's will. That's not submission to fate—it's surrender to faith." Believers are invited to live with this same assurance, knowing they are fully accepted.

What are some examples of obedience in daily life that Dr. Cicchino highlights?

Obedience often looks small but carries great kingdom impact. Pastor Kevin gives examples such as forgiving someone who hurt you, giving when it stretches you, and holding your tongue when tempted to lash out. These simple acts release the fragrance of trust and carry eternal weight.

What is the significance of obedience in a believer's life, beyond avoiding punishment?

Obedience is about much more than avoiding judgment. Dr. Cicchino explains that it: keeps us sensitive to the Spirit, opens our lives to God's provision, protection, and purpose, and allows heaven to show up on earth through us. He says: "It's not about avoiding punishment—it's about accessing promise. Obedience is how faith gets feet and love becomes visible."

How does Dr. Cicchino differentiate true obedience from legalism?

True obedience is relationship, not legalism. It's not about earning God's favor but about following His voice out of trust and love. Pastor Kevin explains: "When you trust the One who speaks, you follow His voice. That's not legalism. That's relationship." Obedience aligns us with Christ's finished work and partners us with heaven.

What is the ultimate outcome or feeling associated with the "grace of obedience"?

When obedience flows freely, it brings joy—not burden. Dr. Cicchino teaches: "The grace of obedience is not something we manufacture. It's something we yield to." The outcome is a joyful alignment with God's will, rooted in relationship and acceptance.