

The Foundation of Obedience

Today's Reading: Ephesians 6:1–3 | Audio: Day 1

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

— Ephesians 6:1–3 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

Obedience is not always an easy word to hear. When many of us hear “obey,” we think of control, restriction, or someone trying to take something from us. But in the kingdom of God, obedience is not meant to be a prison. It is meant to be a pathway.

Paul tells children to obey their parents in the Lord because “this is right,” and then he connects obedience to honor. Honor is deeper than doing what you were told. Honor is a posture of the heart. It means I recognize the role God has placed in your life. It means I do not treat authority casually. It means I do not have to agree with everything in order to walk in humility.

This passage speaks directly to children, but the principle reaches every disciple of Jesus, because all of us are called to be children before God—called to learn, to listen, to submit, and to be shaped. A disciple cannot grow without obedience.

Think of it this way. If a coach gives an athlete instructions but the athlete only follows the parts they like, growth will be limited. They may show up to practice. They may wear the uniform. They may even look committed. But if they refuse correction, they will not mature. The same is true spiritually. We can attend church, lift our hands, and say the right words—but if God speaks and we refuse to obey, we resist the very process that forms us.

Sometimes God teaches obedience through people: a parent, a pastor, a mentor, an elder—someone who loves us enough to speak truth even when it challenges us. That does not mean every authority figure is perfect or that people never make mistakes. But it does mean we must examine our hearts. Are we resisting because something is wrong, or because our pride does not want to be corrected?

OBEDIENCE IS NOT ROOTED IN FEAR. IT IS ROOTED IN TRUST.

God's order over my impulse • Humility over rebellion • His leading over my own way

DAY 1 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *In what area of your life is God calling you to a posture of greater obedience?*

2. *Where have you been saying, “I’ll do it my way,” or been slow to listen?*

RESPOND: TODAY’S PRACTICAL STEP

Identify one relationship this week where you can demonstrate honor—a parent, a pastor, a mentor, or someone God has used to guide you. Then choose one specific act of humility:

- ☐ Make the call.
- ☐ Send the message.
- ☐ Receive the correction.
- ☐ Follow through on the instruction.

The person I will honor this week, and how:

DAY 1 • PRAYER

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me into a life of discipleship. Forgive me for the times I have resisted Your order and chosen my own way. Teach me to obey with a willing heart. Help me to honor the people You have placed in my life. Remove pride, defensiveness, and rebellion from me. Shape me into someone who listens, learns, and follows You fully. Let my obedience reflect my love for You. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

Obedience is not weakness. It is the posture of a disciple.

Going Deeper: Deuteronomy 5:16 • 1 Samuel 15:22 • Hebrews 13:17

This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.