



JOYCE MEYER  
MINISTRIES®

How to be *Radically and*  
*Outrageously*  
**Blessed**



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How to be

*Radically*  
*and*  
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**BLESSED**

**Teaching by Joyce Meyer**

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# HOW TO BE RADICALLY AND OUTRAGEOUSLY BLESSED

## Living The Good Life

Foundation Scripture:

**Ephesians 2:10** – *For we are God’s [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].*

### I. The Good Life

- A. God is essentially good; therefore, how could He provide anything other than a “good life” for us.
- B. Good (Greek) – Benefit
  - 1. We desire what benefits bring happiness, joy, and enjoyment. We enjoy being blessed!
  - 2. **John 10:10** – Jesus came that we might have and enjoy our lives.
  - 3. **John 17:13** – Jesus wants His joy, His delight, His enjoyment fulfilled in our souls.
- C. **Genesis 1:31** – Everything He made was good.

1. I believe He would have destroyed it if He had looked it over and discovered it was not good.
  2. However, it had to be good because He is good!
- D. **Genesis 32:11-12** – Jacob feared evil, but God promised to do him good.
- E. **Genesis 50:20** – What the enemy means for our harm, God intends for good.
- F. **Deuteronomy 6:23-24** – Obey God for our good.
- G. **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** – God requires us to obey Him for our own good.
1. We say to our children, “I am telling you this for your own good.”
- H. **I Samuel 12:14-15** – If you obey the Lord it will be good. If you rebel, the hand of the Lord will be against you.
- I. **Jeremiah 11:1-5** – Obey, so I can bring you into a land that flows with milk and honey.
- J. **Ephesians 2:10** – God has prearranged a good life for us that we might walk in it.

## II. Obey My Voice.

- A. “You’ve come a long way, baby!”
1. A slogan with a commercial ad on TV showing women smoking.
  2. The ad is basically saying: We were once under everyone else’s authority – now we can do as we please.

- B. The world is full of rebellion today.
  - 1. **II Thessalonians 2:7-10** – A picture of society today.
- C. **Deuteronomy 21:18-21** – They stoned rebellious, disobedient children.
  - 1. We should radically rejoice that we live in the dispensation of God’s grace and mercy.
- D. Rebellion is a “root” problem.
  - 1. A deep inside problem
  - 2. An attitude problem
  - 3. When the “root” is there, it affects all relationships – including our relationship with God.

If a man is rebellious against worldly authority, he will also be rebellious against God’s authority.
- E. Rebellion brings the curse.
  - 1. **Deuteronomy 28:15** – If we do not obey God’s voice, then curses overtake us.
  - 2. **Hebrews 13:17** – Rebellion is unprofitable for you.
  - 3. **Romans 13:1-2** – Rebellion brings down judgment on you.

**Rebellion is the way into trouble, and OBEDIENCE is the way out!**

### **III. How To Be Blessed And Have Less Of A Mess**

- A. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - Obeying God is the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and the root of all happiness.
- B. **Blessed** – Happy, prosperous, fortunate, to be envied; spiritually prosperous with life, joy, and satisfaction.

1. Blithesome (ability to cast care)
2. A happiness produced by the experience of God's favor, and especially conditioned by the revelation of His grace.
3. To be blessed means that you may have all of the above regardless of your outward condition.

C. **Ephesians 2:10** says that God has arranged a good life that we might walk in it.

1. Walk – We speak of how long we have been walking with God. We say we are walking in the Word or refer to our walk with God.
2. Walk (defined/Webster's) – Depart and go, a row, to keep in step, to go through, it signifies a course taken by which one leaves a straight track for others to follow.
3. Putting one foot in front of the other, thereby making progress.

D. Continue

1. Continue is a “big” word – it means we keep in the program with diligence, endurance, and perseverance until we get the desired result. We have the attitude that says I am not giving up.

E. Do not behave as a “perfectionist” with “idealistic” ideas about getting your life turned around.

1. You are only setting yourself up for a lot of discouragement and disillusionment.
2. A little “realism” will help prepare you mentally for the spiritual journey you must take to finally arrive at the fullness of God's plan for you.

3. The realistic view is: “I have been making this mess for years, and it is going to take time to plant new seeds so I get a new harvest. It will take time to get my mind and attitude renewed, but I am going to stick with God’s plan because I am convinced IT IS GOOD!”
- F. **Jeremiah 29:11** – God’s plan is to do us good in our final outcome.
- G. **Habakkuk 2:2-3** says, “the vision speaks of the end fulfillment.”
1. We still have to walk through the beginning and the middle!
- H. We are in a process.
1. **II Corinthians 3:18** – He changes us from glory to glory, as we spend time with Him through His Word.
  2. It may take an individual as much as a few years to get “obedient” enough to spend regular time in the Word of God.
  3. The faster we submit – yield our wills and obey God – the faster we come into the good life.

#### IV. **The Enemies We Encounter Along The Way**

- A. They headed for the Promised Land but became very discouraged because of the trials along the way.
- B. Attacks from the devil
- C. Attacks from people
- D. The flesh!!!
- E. Attacks, such as: lies from the devil, rejection and judgment from people, depression, discouragement, disappointment, impatience, confusion, laziness, procrastination, pride, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, **feelings and emotions**, self-pity, sickness, and lack.

F. Plain old DISOBEDIENCE is perhaps the greatest enemy.

1. It manifests as stubbornness, rebellion, or wanting our own way.

**WE WILL BE RADICALLY AND OUTRAGEOUSLY BLESSED  
WHEN WE LEARN PROMPT AND EXTREME OBEDIENCE!**





# The Key To Power And Anointing

## I. Jesus Was Blessed With Power And Anointing.

A. **Acts 10:38** – See how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power; Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil.

1. If we are not blessed with power and anointing, we certainly cannot bless anyone else with deliverance.

B. Jesus had power over the storms of life.

1. **Matthew 8:24-27** – Jesus rebuked the storm and everything became calm.
2. Why?

C. Jesus had authority over demons.

1. **Mark 1:27** and **Luke 8:26-33** – The demons had to obey Him!
2. Why?

D. Power and anointing were always available wherever Jesus was.

1. **Mark 5:30** and **Luke 5:17; 6:19**
2. Why?

## II. Jesus' Obedience

A. **Philippians 2:5-11** – Obedience is the key to His power.

- B. **Luke 22:40-44** – Remove this cup from Me; yet not My will be done, but Yours.
- C. **John 5:26-30** – God granted Him authority and power; but Jesus also stated, “I am able to do nothing from Myself, as I hear the voice I do not consult My own will.”
- D. Jesus also said, “I say only what I hear My Father say. I do only what I see My Father do.”
- E. He was obedient to wait on His Father’s timing.
1. **John 7:1-6** – His brothers tried to provoke Him to prove Himself; but He was not moved emotionally, nor was He moved by pride.
  2. **Luke 4:1-4** – Satan tried to provoke Him to prove Himself by turning a stone into bread; but Jesus in essence said, “I don’t have a word from My Father to do that.”
  3. **Matthew 26:46-54** – Jesus could have delivered Himself, but He knew it was His Father’s will that He go to the Cross and wait for His deliverance.
- F. Obedience is not obedience unless there is another way we can do it. Jesus could have helped Himself, but He was obedient to His Father’s will.
- G. Jesus was obedient with His mouth.
1. **Isaiah 53:7**
  2. **John 14:30**
  3. Until we submit our tongues to the will of God, we have no hope of having radically and outrageously blessed lives.

- a. **James 3:6** – *And the tongue is a fire. [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man’s nature), being itself ignited by hell . . .*
- b. **Proverbs 18:21** – *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].*

**OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY TO GOD’S POWER  
AND THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**III. The Right To Use The Might**

- A. One night as I lay in bed, I kept hearing POWER, POWER, POWER. I had a sensing that I should get up and study the word “power” in the Bible.
  - 1. I received a revelation from God that was tremendous for me at the time, and one that was very needful to help me progress in God’s call.
- B. **Acts 1:8** speaks of power for those whom the Spirit comes upon.
  - 1. Dunamis power – Ability, efficiency, might. Mighty works, miracles, mighty deeds.
- C. **Luke 10:19** – Behold I give you power (*exousia*) over all the power (*dunamis*) of the enemy.
  - 1. Exousia power – The right to act (the right to use the might). The right of disposal (disposing of the power as you see fit).
- D. **III John: 2** – Beloved, I would above all else that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.
  - 1. This sounds like radical and outrageous blessings to me.

2. A prosperous soul is required for a prosperous life.

E. **Galatians 4:1-2** – . . . *as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate; but he is under guardians and administrators or trustees until the date fixed by his father.*

F. We bought our son a car when he was fifteen and a half; but he did not get to drive it until he was (1) of age, (2) learned how to drive, and (3) had passed his written and driving test.

NOTE: **A lot of people who are not obedient want power and anointing. Many want power, but they are not passing their tests.**

G. **I Corinthians 13:11** – When I was a child I talked, thought, and reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I laid aside childish things.

## **OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY TO GOD’S POWER AND THE ANOINTING!**

### **IV. Children LEARN Obedience.**

A. Children (or immature believers) want their own way, and they don’t act very nice if they don’t get it.

B. **I Corinthians 3:3** – Paul told the gifted, baptized in the Holy Spirit Corinthian church that they were carnal.

1. **Carnal** (defined/Vine’s/Greek) *sarx* – Flesh, sensual, controlled by animal appetites, governed by human nature instead of the Spirit of God. Fleshly or human carries with it the idea of weakness.

2. **II Corinthians 10:4** – The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, thus indicating that carnal weapons would have no power to defeat the enemy.

3. The carnal Christian has a very difficult time doing spiritual warfare. Their rebuke has no power in it, because their lifestyle has no obedience in it.

4. **Ephesians 6:1-11** shows that we cannot put on the armor of God without an obedient lifestyle backing it up.
5. **James 4:7** – Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee.

C. All Christians start out “carnal,” but we must grow up!

1. **Grow** (Greek) – To increase – The increase of that which lives naturally or spiritually. The effect of the work of God.
  - a. Nothing grows without God – it is interesting to realize that only God can make something grow or give the increase. (He does so when we meet His requirements for growth).
  - b. I will not grow physically if I do not eat and rest. I will not grow spiritually if I do not eat His Word and rest in Him. It is a process of learning and submitting.
2. Spiritual growth means we leave our childish ways and begin obeying authority.
3. Spiritual growth means we begin taking responsibility for our actions. Realizing that we reap what we sow.  
**Children do not want any responsibility – they only want the fun and blessings.**

See **Matthew 20:20-22**: The Mother of Zebedee’s sons wanted them to have power and authority.

4. **Ephesians 4:12-15** – Let us grow up in every way into Him Who is the Head.

D. Grow up into the Head.

1. **Ephesians 1:19-22** – God wants us to know our power and walk in a full anointing; but we must also know that He is the Head (the universal and supreme Head).

In other words, **He is the Head of all things and in every aspect of our lives.**

2. Growing up literally means that one by one we let go controlling areas of our lives and we submit them to Him.

**OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY  
TO GOD'S POWER AND THE ANOINTING!**





# Personal Obedience And God's Presence

## I. The Vital Importance Of God's Presence

- A. **Exodus 33:14-15** – Moses had no interest in going if God's presence was not going with him.
  - 1. He was obviously accustomed to knowing that God's presence was with him.
- B. **Exodus 3:1-12** – God's original promise to Moses included telling him that His presence would be a sign to Moses that God had indeed sent him to Pharaoh (**Verse 12**).
- C. **Psalms 27:4-6** – David knew the importance of having God's presence in his life.
- D. **Psalms 16:11** – Fullness of joy is found in His presence.
- E. **Isaiah 43:2** – His presence is our comfort in trials.
- F. **John 14:23** (KJV) – *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
  - 1. We see plainly that walking in obedience releases the manifestation of His presence in our lives.

## II. Sin And Disobedience Are A Hindrance To His Presence Being Manifested In Our Lives.

- A. **Genesis 3:8** – Adam and Eve sinned, and they fled from the presence of the Lord.

- B. **Psalm 51:11** – David realized that without forgiveness of his sin, he could not dwell in God’s presence.
- C. **Jonah 1:10** – Jonah was being disobedient, and he fled from the presence of the Lord.
  1. Jonah “paid the fare” and went “down” into the ship, to get away from being in the presence of the Lord.
  2. He went “down” into the ship, “down” into the sea, “down” into the fish’s belly. Everything about sin and disobedience brings us “down.”
  3. Jonah finally prayed from the belly of the fish – but we can obey before we get in deep trouble.
  4. **Jonah 2:4** – . . . *I have been cast out of Your presence and Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.*

### III. Obedience And Suffering

- A. **I Peter 4:1-2** – We must have a mind willing to suffer, and then we will not disobey.
- B. **Suffer** (Vine’s/Greek) – In **I Peter: Chapter 4** it refers to the sufferings of Christ. Identification with Christ in His crucifixion is the spiritual ideal to be realized by believers. Wrong suffering is demonic suffering from which Christ has delivered us. Right suffering is the type spoken of in **I Peter: Chapter 4**.
  1. It is evident that Christ’s sufferings were the result of “obedience that was **not easy**.”
  2. He preferred to do it another way but was willing to pay the price to obey His Father.
- C. Are you willing to pay the price?
- D. **Romans 8:17** – If we are to share His glory, we must share His sufferings.

E. Suffering for righteousness sake

1. **Acts 5:41** – They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.

We may be called upon to suffer the loss of our reputation.

2. **Hebrews 11:25** – Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Choosing sin will relieve immediate pressure from the flesh, but we pay the price later.

**We can pay the price now, and be blessed later – or we can take immediate relief and pay the price later.**

3. **Matthew 5:11** (KJV) – *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

We may be called upon to suffer by being judged, criticized unfairly, or misunderstood.

4. **Matthew 10:39** (KJV) – *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

We are called upon to lose control – to give up controlling our own destiny and flow with God’s will for us.

F. Paul’s sufferings

1. Everyone would love to have the revelation that the Apostle Paul had – not everyone would like to pay the price that he paid.

2. **Acts 9:16** – *For I will make clear to him how much he will be afflicted and must endure and suffer for My name’s sake.*

3. **II Corinthians 11:24-29** – Paul paid the price for the revelation he received. He ministered with compassion out of his experience.

4. **Some minister only out of textbooks but with no experience. They also minister with no anointing.**

#### IV. **Ambition Without Understanding**

- A. **Matthew 20:20-21** – The Mother had ambition for her two sons.
- B. **Matthew 20:22** – Jesus told the woman she had no idea what she was asking for. He then asked if they could drink the cup that He would have to drink.
- C. **Luke 9:57-58** – Jesus told those who desired to follow Him that He had no place to even lay His head.
  1. In other words, it will not be an easy road.
- D. **Luke 9:59-62** – Jesus called others to follow Him. They all wanted to follow Him; but after hearing that it would not be easy – they preferred to do it later.
  1. It is easy to “PROCRASTINATE” when we are facing discomfort, inconvenience, or suffering.

#### V. **The Rewards Of Obedience**

- A. **Mark 10:29-30** – Everyone who gives up anything to follow Jesus will receive a reward in this lifetime.
- B. **John 12:24** (KJV) – *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*
- C. **I Corinthians 2:9** – Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, all the good things God has made ready, prepared, and stored up for those who love Him with reverence and obedience.
- D. **Obey God – He is leading you into radical, outrageous blessings.**





# Radical Seeds Of Obedience

## I. Radical Seed Produces Radical Harvest.

A. **Ephesians 3:20** – God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, far over and above all that we can dare hope, ask, or think.

1. The nature of the flesh is to do nothing or as little as it can get by with; and yet at the same time the flesh desires radical, overflowing blessings.
2. **Radical** (defined/Webster's) – Drastic or extreme.
3. **Outrageous** (defined/Webster's) - Beyond all reason, unrestrained, shocking.

B. Scriptures that show God's desire to bless His people in radical, outrageous ways:

1. **Joel 2:24** (KJV) – *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.*
2. **Psalms 23:5** – *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over.*
3. **Malachi 3:10** (KJV) – *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.*
4. **Luke 6:38** (KJV) – *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

NOTE: The “life principle” seen here is that we receive according to what we give – WE REAP WHAT WE SOW!

C. **I Corinthians 2:9** – . . . *What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].*

1. Radical obedience produces radical blessings.

## II. People Who Were Radically Blessed

A. **Noah (Hebrews 11:7)** – He obeyed God radically and built the ark as commanded. He had no visible signs of what God told him was true.

1. **Genesis 6:9; 7:5, 23** - We see two times that Noah did ALL that God commanded – not part of it but ALL of it. The radical blessing was that ONLY Noah and those with him remained alive.

- a. Obedience without “visible signs” is radical obedience.
- b. Obedience without “feelings” to support us is radical obedience. See **Luke 5:1-5**.

B. **Daniel (Daniel 6:1-4)** – Daniel was promoted above all the others. Why?

1. **Daniel 1:8** – He made a radical decision not to defile himself, even if it meant personal harm.
2. **Daniel: Chapter 4** – Daniel was called upon to interpret a dream for the king. The interpretation was not pleasant for the king to hear, because it was telling him that he was going to fall due to pride. Daniel did not compromise.

**He made a radical decision not to compromise!**

3. **Daniel 5:11-12** – Daniel had an excellent spirit, and it caused him to be well known.
4. **Daniel: Chapter 6** – Daniel choose to be thrown into a lions’ den rather than compromise his commitment to God.

(See **Verses 5-10, 16, 28** or read the entire chapter.)

C. **Abraham (Genesis 15:1-5)** – God promises a man who is beyond childbearing years – who has not even one descendant – that he will be the father of many nations.

1. **Genesis 17:1-16** – God tells Abraham that He will come into covenant with him. We see that Abraham obeyed God in all His instructions, even though it required radical obedience to do so.
2. **Genesis 12:1-3** – God required Abraham to walk away from all he was comfortable and familiar with, and go to a strange place without any natural knowledge of where he was to go.
3. We see plainly that radical obedience always preceded radical blessing.

D. **The Twelve Disciples!** Why those twelve men?

1. The disciples left all and followed Jesus.
2. **Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9**

E. **Elisha** – Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s spirit! WHY?

1. **I Kings 19:19-21** – He left all and followed Elijah. He served him for years and loved him, even when Elijah did not seem to want him around.

**I Kings 19:20-21** and **II Kings 2:1-6**

F. **Joshua** – Joshua was promoted into Moses’ position, but he served Moses as his minister for years first. When Moses was out with the people ministering to them, Joshua often stayed in the tent and interceded. He was faithful; he never coveted Moses’ position, and he maintained a good attitude.

1. The contrast of those who made excuses.

**Matthew 8:19-21** – We should note that we never heard of those people again.

### III. Love Provokes This Kind Of Radical Obedience.

A. **John 21:15-18** – Peter, do you love Me?

1. Realize that you will no longer be in charge of your own destiny.

B. **John 14:15** – If you really love Me, you will obey Me!

1. We might say: to the degree we obey, that is to the degree we love Him.

2. The book of **I John** says that love is not talk or theory but action.

C. **II Corinthians 5:14** – For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us.

D. **I John 4:19** (KJV) - *We love him, because he first loved us.*

1. New believers or wounded believers need to receive megadoses of His love. Your response will be overflowing love for Him that will provoke obedience that is from the heart.

E. The motive of love must be underlying our obedience.

1. Obedience that is offered with the motive of “buying blessings” is not what Jesus is looking for.
  2. Brother Lawrence who wrote *Practicing The Presence Of God* said, “I have resolved to make the love of God the end of all my actions. I am pleased when I can take a straw from the ground simply for the love of God.” He also said, “When I die, I shall have done all that is in me to love God.”
- F. **Psalm 51:17** - He desires the sacrifices of a broken and a contrite heart.
1. Stubbornness needs to be broken out of us.
  2. Our self-will needs to be broken.
  3. Independence needs to be broken.
  4. Our plans must be surrendered.
  5. We must finally come to the place where we can say with Jesus, “Lo Father, here I am, come to do your will.” And, “Father take this cup from Me; nevertheless, Your will be done and not mine.”
- G. **John 5:30** – Jesus said He did nothing independently of His own accord; but as He received the Father’s orders, He acted. He did not consult His own will!
- H. Our problem is that we ask ourselves far too often if we like what God is asking us to do, if we will enjoy it, and if we want to do it.
- I. **John 21:1-6** – When we make our own decisions without consulting Him, we are never going to be satisfied with the results.

**RADICAL, OUTRAGEOUS BLESSINGS ARE PRECEDED  
BY RADICAL, OUTRAGEOUS ACTS OF OBEDIENCE!**







# Hearing And Obeying The Voice Of God

## I. The Voice

- A. **Genesis 3:8** – Adam and Eve heard the voice of God while walking in the Garden.
- B. **Revelation 1:10-11** – John heard a voice saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega.”
- C. **Acts 9:1-6** – Saul hears the voice of Jesus and immediately sets himself to obey.
  - 1. Saul had done terrible things, but he did them in ignorance. His statement, “what would You have me do?” shows his heart attitude toward God.
- D. **John 5:30** – Jesus heard the voice and said that He always obeyed it.
  - 1. He had decided beforehand to obey no matter what it cost.
  - 2. **I Peter 4:1-2** – Have a mind ready to obey – even if it means personal suffering and sacrifice.
- E. Obeying the Voice of God releases blessings.
  - 1. **Genesis 22:17-18** – Abraham obeyed and was very blessed.
  - 2. **Genesis 26:4-5** – Another example of Abraham’s blessings resulting from his personal obedience.
- F. The blessing of God’s divine protection is released through obedience.
  - 1. **Exodus 23:22** – Obey His voice, and He becomes an enemy to your enemies.

2. **Psalm 91** – Angels are released to protect us in all our ways of obedience and service.

## II. Are You Seeking What God Has To Say – Or What You Want To Hear?

- A. **Psalm 95:7-8** – Hear His voice today and do not harden your hearts.
  1. **Hebrews 3:7-8, 15**
- B. Some hear but will not submit, unless they approve of what they heard. THEY HARDEN THEIR HEARTS!
  1. **Isaiah 1:23** – Rebels either delay, or they turn a deaf ear.
- C. **Isaiah 1:19-20** – *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*
- D. Hear means to listen and be listening, to obey, to hear through (sometimes we tune people out if we do not like what they are saying), to hear fully, and to listen attentively.
- E. Stiff-necked
  1. **Jeremiah 17:20-25** – They could have been kings and princes, but they stiffened their necks and refused to “DILIGENTLY LISTEN AND OBEY.”
- F. Stiff-necked people do not enjoy the presence of God.
  1. **Exodus 33:1-3** – God refused to go among them because they were stiff-necked.
  2. **Deuteronomy 1:24-45** gives a classic example of how miserable people are – due to refusing to DO what God says WHEN He says to do it.
    - a. They finally decided to obey, but it was too late.

- b. They wept, but it was too late.
- c. Joshua was an exception because he WHOLLY followed the Lord.

### III. The Practical Side Of Hearing God's Voice.

#### A. Hearing God through His Word.

1. **Romans 10:17** – Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.
2. When you need to hear a specific word from God, go to His word. He often “quickens” a Scripture to us that comforts us in times of trial or instructs us in times of needing direction.
3. I received **Zechariah 9:12** reading the Word on an airplane after some very disappointing news, and it fanned my flame and supercharged my faith.

#### B. Audible Voice of God

1. This does happen, but it is rare.
2. When Christians say, “God said,” it may sound as if they are experiencing a running conversation with God; but actually, His voice comes in a variety of ways.

#### C. Prophecy

1. You may receive a prophecy from someone else, or a prophecy given in a public meeting may be “just for you.”
2. Write them down – you can use them later to war against the devil when he is trying to steal your vision. (See **I Timothy 1:18**.)

3. Prophecy should bear witness with your spirit and/or confirm something that is already in your heart.
4. DO NOT run your life by what other people prophecy to you.
5. **II Peter 1:10-19** – We have a more sure word of prophecy, and it is the Word of God.

D. Still, small voice

1. **I Kings: Chapter 19** – Elijah was in a wrong place, needing to hear from God.
2. **I Kings 19:12** – Elijah had to let all the other noises die out, and he finally heard the still, small voice.

Perhaps the wind, earthquake, and fire represented all the turmoil in Elijah. He was running, afraid, upset, and discouraged.

3. The still, small voice cannot be heard in the midst of self-will, mind-sets, turmoil, and emotional upset.
4. Outer and inner silence are often required to hear from God.
5. **Psalms 46:10** (KJV) – *Be still, and know that I am God . . .*
6. **I Samuel 9:27** – Stand still and hear the word of the Lord.
7. The still, small voice usually comes as a “knowing” – you simply “know” what you should or should not do. You “know” what would be right.

Just like you “know” that Jesus died on the Cross for you, even though you did not see Him do it but you “know” He did.

8. It CAN also come in words or conversation – but not always.

E. My spirit bears me witness.

1. **Romans 8:16; 9:1**

2. This is another way of saying, “I know.”

F. Hearing God through your conscience.

1. Your conscience is the best preacher you will ever hear. It is constantly preaching messages to you.

2. **Acts 24:16** – Paul stated that he always listened to his conscience, and took action to line up his conduct with what it was telling him to do.

G. Peace

1. **Colossians 3:15** – Let peace be the umpire in your life.

2. **Hebrews 12:14** – Follow after peace.

3. **II Peter 3:14** – Be eager to be found by Him at peace [in serene confidence, free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].

4. Sometimes we do not have peace because we do not want to do a certain thing, but it is a different type of disturbance. It is in the flesh or soul rather than in the spirit.

a. Example: Dave wants to watch a ball game, and I want to watch a movie. I can definitely lose my peace.

b. Someone decides to do something, and it is not something we would choose to do; and so we say to someone else, “I don’t know if I have peace about their decision” be doubly careful in these areas.

- H. Wisdom – I think possibly the chief way that God leads us is by wisdom.
1. **I Corinthians 6:12** – Paul said he could do all things, but that he lived by wisdom.
  2. Wisdom is doing NOW what you will be satisfied with LATER.
    - a. Wisdom - Clear, insight into the true nature of things. To discern modes (ways) of actions with a view to their results.
    - b. Proverbs teaches us that wisdom is the first, most important, and principal thing. It is better than jewels; it will make you rich, give you a long life, exalt, and promote you. Wisdom must be sought after diligently, desired above all else, and listened to; she cries out at the intersections of the streets, “Listen to me.”
    - c. The born-again believer has wisdom. Jesus is made unto us wisdom from God.
  3. **Philippians 1:10a** – *So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences] . . .*
  4. Example: I really enjoyed “real coffee with caffeine.” I finally realized for the sake of my health that I needed to give it up. I have rarely had it in the last three years. Someone sent some new coffee to the house that is supposed to be the best anywhere (with caffeine). I got up on a Saturday morning, and Dave made our regular decaffeinated coffee. And I started drinking it, and decided I wanted a cup of that new, regular coffee. I made it and began pouring it in my cup, when I thought, “it really is not wisdom for me to drink this.”

One of two things will happen. It will either hype me up, and then I will feel bad later; or it will have no effect on me – in which case I will then think that since I got away with it, I can do it again, and then again, and then again – and soon I will be hooked on regular coffee again; and I will eventually have to go through the process of getting off of it again.

5. **Romans 13:14** – Make no provision for the flesh (put a stop to thinking about its insistent demands).

#### **IV. Are You Tired Of Going Around And Around The Same Mountain?**

- A. Start listening to God, and you will get out of the wilderness and begin to live in the Promised Land.
- B. If you think you need to hear from God, be honest with yourself – and ask yourself, “Have I really been listening?”
  1. Are you following peace, wisdom, your conscience, and the still, small voice?
  2. Are you perhaps ignoring some of those and wondering why you have no direction?
- C. Multitudes are crying out for direction in their lives. It seems to be our number one prayer request.
  1. **Proverbs 3:6** – Acknowledge God in all your ways, and He will direct your steps.
- D. **God promises to direct our steps – let’s come up higher in obedience.**







# Wholly Following God

## I. God Is Not Looking For Sacrifices.

- A. **I Samuel 15:22** – To obey is better than sacrifice.
- B. **I Samuel 15:1-23** – Saul was deceived by his own fleshly carnal desires.
- C. Those who love God but are carnal (strong in the flesh, following animal appetites) give sacrifices instead of obedience.
  - 1. They give what costs them nothing or very little and keep enough to keep their own flesh satisfied and comfortable.
- D. **II Samuel 24:18-25** – David refused to give God that which cost him nothing.
- E. Serving God is very costly – but it pays tremendous dividends.
  - 1. You always make investments before you receive dividends. You give up something to get something.
- F. Our will is what we must give up!

## II. The Outrageous Blessing Of The Promised Land

- A. **Deuteronomy 1:19-36** – God told them to go up and possess the land, and they rebelled and refused to go up.
- B. We all travel through the wilderness of our own soulish living, trying to make it to the Promised Land. We also come to those difficult impasses in life where God says, “Let go of this” or “submit this”; and WE MUST DECIDE.
  - 1. The Israelites made poor decisions. They walked in the flesh; they were childish.

- C. Joshua and Caleb wholly followed God!
1. What a great compliment!!!
- D. **Numbers 13:17-14:24** – We see the disobedience of all the people except Joshua and Caleb – and we also see who got blessed.
1. Moses interceded for the people to keep God from destroying them in His anger.
  2. We should thank God for the intercessors He assigns to us to help pray us through the wilderness years while we are learning to obey promptly and radically.
- E. Even Moses was not allowed to go in due to disobedience.
1. **Exodus 17:6** – Moses obeyed God.
  2. Remember this point: Moses was not responsible to change the people’s attitude; he was only responsible to obey God.
  3. **Numbers 20:3-12** – Moses got so frustrated with the people that he failed to “simply obey” what God had told him to do. Moses did not realize that what he was being asked to do was actually prophetic. It was representative of the Cross, and Jesus dying once. When He struck the rock twice, it indicated that Jesus dying on the Cross was not sufficient.  
  
How could Moses have known that? He could not know why, but he did know what to do, and that is what God held him accountable for.
  4. **Psalms 106:32-33** – These Scriptures always put a fresh reverential fear in me.

5. This obviously seems very unfair to the natural mind, but the point remains that only obedience will lead us into the Promised Land!

(This is not to say that we never experience any of God's blessings if we are not perfectly obedient; but there is a principle clearly shown here.)

### III. What Happens When We Move From Disobedience To Partial Obedience?

- A. We are offering sacrifices, and God does not want them. He wants your will as a sacrifice.
- B. **Romans 12:1** – He requires that we offer our entire lives and everything we are to Him as LIVING SACRIFICES.
  1. He is a jealous God, and He will not be satisfied with a piece of you.
    - a. We cannot say, “I will give you ten percent of my income, but I just cannot give you control of my mouth.”
    - b. “I will read the Bible every day, but do not ask me to quit my job and go to the mission field.”
- C. God asked me to quit my full-time job and stay home to prepare for the call on my life.
  1. I disobeyed for a while.
  2. Then I got a part-time job.
  3. Then I got fired.
- D. **Haggai 1:2-12** – They had been disobedient for eighteen years; they were beginning to realize that the disobedience was the root of their problem. God warned them to obey wholly, not partly or vaguely.

- E. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – Obedience is the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances.
- F. **Acts 5:1-12** – Ananias and Sapphira
  1. They dedicated something to God, then decided to do only part of it.
  2. They offered a sacrifice instead of obedience.
  3. God wanted the church to walk in power, and He was making a point that all disobedience had to be kept out if His radical and outrageous blessings were to be poured upon them.

#### IV. Sanctify Yourself

- A. The Holy Spirit is the agent of sanctification that brings us into holy living.
  1. The Seed of holiness is placed in us at the new birth, and the Holy Spirit has the job of nurturing us into the fullness of what God intends us to be.
  2. **Romans 15:16** – Anything we offer God cannot be accepted by Him if the Holy Spirit has not first consecrated us and made us Holy by virtue of our faith in Christ.
  3. This is why “works of the flesh” or “religious works” can never make the individual holy. We must be born again. It starts from the inside and works its way out.
  4. **I Corinthians 6:11** – . . . *But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [**pronounced** righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.*

Example: A man and woman can go through a ceremony and be **pronounced** man and wife, but we all know there is no real marriage until they have had the experience of truly giving themselves to each other. This occurs sexually, and their lives are blended into one over the years.

- B. “Sanctify Yourself” literally means cooperate with the Spirit of God – FOLLOW HIM NOT YOURSELF!
- C. Sanctify (defined/Vine’s/Greek) – Separation to God and the course of life so befitting those separated. Separation from evil things and ways. It is only made available to a person through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the will of God for the believer. It must be learned from God, as He teaches it by His Word. It must be pursued by the believer, earnestly and without deviation. Holiness cannot be transferred or imputed; it is an individual possession, built up little by little, as the result of OBEDIENCE to the Word of God and following the examples of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit [or with the help of the Holy Spirit].
1. **I Corinthians 1:30** – Jesus is made unto us sanctification. So those who are “in Christ” are legally separated unto God by virtue of their being “in Him.”
  2. **I Peter 1:2** – We were sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ.
  3. **I Peter 1:22** – *Since by your obedience to the Truth through the [Holy] Spirit you have purified your hearts for the sincere affection of the brethren . . .*
  4. **I Thessalonians 4:1-5** – Paul instructs the church about the requirements of consecration (separation to God).

**I Thessalonians 4:7** – . . . *God has not called us to impurity but to consecration [to dedicate ourselves to the most thorough purity].*

**NOT SOME LITTLE SACRIFICIAL OFFERING  
BUT OBEDIENCE!!**

5. **I Corinthians 2:9** – God has radical and outrageous blessings in mind for you; and He will stay after you until you are thoroughly purified – not partially, but thoroughly!



