

OBEDIENCE

(Moerewa CF – 2/2/86)

1. **There are two major forces or powers influencing mankind** in the earth. These two forces are mentioned in *Ac 26:18*. “To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” One force causes blindness, darkness, i.e. satanic power, and it leads to eternal destruction. The other force gives sight, light, and is the power of God bringing forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.
2. These two major powers influencing humanity are an expression of **two major wills**. The will of Satan for humanity, and the will of God for humanity.
3. Jesus said in *Jn 10:10*, that Satan’s will is to kill, steal, rob and destroy, but that God’s will for humanity is to give life, (*zoe* – eternal life), and life abundantly.
4. **God’s will for us** is that we might have life, light, truth, health, peace, salvation, forgiveness, protection, provision, joy, love, eternal life, goodness, and the blessings of every one of His promises.
5. In *Lk 11:2*, Jesus said, **pray for God’s will to be done**, in us, in the earth, as it is in heaven, i.e. desire God’s will, pray for it. God’s will is good, excellent and eternal blessing. In *Jn 12:50*, Jesus said, “I know that God’s will, or His command, brings life everlasting.
6. **Heaven is heaven because God’s will is done there**. There is no sin in heaven. Sin is going against God’s will, *1Jn 3:4*. Righteousness is doing God’s will, *Rom 6:16*.
7. When we are considering the issue of obedience to God we need to see **the great blessing and goodness that results from our doing the will of God**. Life’s greatest privilege is to know and do the will of God. God’s will is wholly good and brings life and blessing.
8. **The goal of Jesus’ life** was obedience to His Father’s will. *Jn 4:34, Jn 5:30, Jn 6:38, Jn 8:29, Jn 12:49,50, Mk 14:36*.
9. **Firstly** set your mind to know that:
 - a. **God’s will is good**. It brings blessing, light, life, truth, abundance, goodness, peace, joy, and health.
 - b. **God’s will will last forever** and have eternal blessing in our lives. It brings eternal reward.
 - c. **God’s will is wisdom**. Wise people obey God. Jesus said that the wise man is the person who listens to what He says and does it. See the parable of the wise man that built his house on the rock, *Mat 7:24,25*.
10. Jesus warns us:

in *Mat 7:21* that words are not enough
 in *Mat 7:22* that **religious works** are not enough.
 We need to be among those who do the will of God, *Jam 1:22, Lk 6:46*.
11. **The second stage of obedience** is the exercise of the human will in choosing to obey. Joshua challenged his generation with the words, “choose you this day whom you will serve!” *Josh 24:15*. He had made his choice already, and said, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” *Josh 24:15*.

In *Jn 7:17* Jesus spoke of **the importance of choosing to do God's will**, and said that if we will choose to do God's will in any situation, then God will reveal His ways to us. Growth in the Christian life is based on making a series of **right choices**. One example of a person who did this was Ruth, *Ruth 1:12*. Ruth chose to follow Naomi and she chose the Lord to be her God. She was blessed. However Lot chose to turn away from the life of faith dependence upon God; chose to associate himself with wicked people, and was all but totally destroyed, *See Gen 13:10,11,12,13, Deut 30:15,16,20*.

12. **Thirdly**, Jesus said that we need to **deny self**, take up the cross daily, and follow Him, *Lk 9:23*. The old nature of the **flesh** present in all of us is opposed to walking in the Spirit and obedience to God, *Rom 8:5-8, Gal 5:16,17. Rom 12:1* tells us to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God. This is the same message. We all experience temptations to sin, *Jam 1:14,15*, but the temptation itself is not sin. See *Heb 4:15*, which says that Jesus was tempted in all points like we are; yet He did not sin. When temptation comes we have to **deny the nature of the flesh**. We have to resist. We have to deny self. When temptation to sin occurs say, "I reject that in Jesus' Name," and pray, set your mind on the Lord and His Word.
Jesus said, "Watch and pray so that you do not enter into temptation," *Mat 26:41*.
Mk 14:34-36 tells us how Jesus fought the temptation to please Himself and to disobey God.
13. **In the days of Noah**, (*Gen 6:1 and following*), the earth was full of wickedness, evil, v5, corruption, violence, v11, and very few people loved and obeyed. In fact the day the flood came there were only eight people saved.
 - v8 Noah found grace and blessing from God. *Heb 11:7* tells us that he believed the Word God had spoken to him and obeyed by preparing the ark.
 - v9 of *Gen 6* says Noah walked with God. This is called walking in the Spirit, *Gal 5:25, Gal 5:16*. It is a walk of believing God's Word.
 - v22 Noah did according to all that God commanded him.
14. *Jer 7:23* "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people: and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, so that it may be well with you."
15. **Obedience unto the end** is called **faithfulness**,
 - Mat 24:45* "Who is that faithful and wise servant....?"
 - :46 "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing."
 - Mat 25:21,23* "Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of the Lord.