



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

God's Delight on our Obedience

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Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart's desire (Ps 37:4).

What is obedience to God?

Obedience means submitting or compliance to authority. As children of God, it is our obligation to obey Him. If we follow Him, he will be delighted; in return, he will greatly reward us.

1. We must accomplish what God says when He says it.

1.1 Obeying is never easy; we have our own desires and plans. But, we have a God to follow. He won't give us all the steps at once. We have to follow one step at a time.

1.2 Jeremiah was an example of stubbornness. As a prophet of God, he was told to speak for the Lord, but he refused because he was still a minor. However, God assured him not to worry, for words will be put into his mouth at the appropriate time.

1.3 In contrast, Abraham was an example of obedience. He was asked to leave his residence to go to an unknown place. He followed God's instruction at once and received the promised covenant. He, later, became the father of many nations (Gen. 13:11-12).

2. We should know that God has a good plan for our lives.

2.1 We might miss out His blessings when we do not obey.

2.2 We must listen to the leading of Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit opposes, we are directed not to continue. If we are following God's direction, He will lead the way. Do not complain or ask questions. "You shall hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, and keep his commandments" (Dt. 27:10).

3. Let us not change God's will for us.

3.1 Let us obey even if we do not know what will happen. Though we fall, He will be there with us. Hence, it is important to rise up.

3.2 Everytime we take a step of obedience, He will provide the way, the next direction, and even the provisions.

3.3 Faith without obedience is dead. "For one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it is a sin" (Jas 4:17).

4. God places a premium on our obedience.

4.1 We should not stop seeking God first. "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lk 9:23).

4.2 "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me" (Jn 10:27).

5. God's protection comes when we submit.

5.1 He wants a relationship with us. "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (Jn 15:14).

5.2 Let us submit ourselves to God. If we disobey, there will be trouble and seduction by the devil. We must resist the devil with God's help. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

5.3 If we hear God's voice, let us harden not our hearts. If we obey Him, we glorify Him. "My son, if your heart is wise, my heart also will rejoice" (Prov 23:15).

Reflection:

1. Make a list of things God has ever asked you to do or not to do.

2. Is there a particular area in your life which you struggle to be obedient to God's Word?

3. Ask God to give you the grace to obey.

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