

BENEFITS OF BEING OBEDIENT

Luke 5:1-11; Romans 1:5

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Remember when you were a child and you were to do something? Remember how sometimes you refused, you argued, you "forgot," you found an excuse to not do as you were told, then sometimes you actually did what you were told to do? We have not changed very much as adults for we treat God the same way we treated our parents. When God gives us things to do, hesitate, argue, find excuses, act as if we didn't know we were supposed to do this or that, etc. We forget that God has our best interest in mind and whatever we are told to do by God is for our best. God wants everyone to live together in love, joy, peace, worship, praise and service to Him. He wants us to obey Him as His Children, for that is what we are, God's Children. God calls us to obey Him in faith and to carry the message of salvation to everyone. There are countless benefits of being obedient.

I. THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FORCED OBEDIENCE AND WILLING OBEDIENCE

1. Forced obedience is not being given a choice and shows:
 - a fear of rebellion
 - a lack of control
 - weakness of purpose
 - selfishness and self-centeredness
 - low esteem
 - no sense of godliness
2. Free obedience can choose to obey or not obey and therefore shows:
 - love and trust
 - interest and care
 - a sense of godliness
 - a sense of "oneness"
 - strength of purpose and will
 - knowledge of self and confidence in self.

II. GOD'S WORD HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT OBEDIENCE

1. Obedience shows several things:
 - Obedience shows that a person is wise: *Matthew 7:24*
 - Obedience shows true love: *John 14:21*
 - Obedience shows that God is worthy of one's obedience: *Acts 5:29*
 - Obedience shows that Jesus Christ is indeed God in the flesh: *John 7:17*
2. Obedience assures several things:
 - Obedience assures one of a successful life: *Joshua 1:8*
 - Obedience assures entrance into the kingdom of heaven: *Matthew 7:21; Luke 8:21*
 - Obedience assures the mercy of God: *Exodus 20:6*
 - Obedience assures that that person is a member of God's Family: *Matthew 12:50; Mark 3:35*
 - Obedience assures one of being blessed: *Luke 11:28; Deuteronomy 11:27*
 - Obedience assures that one knows the truth: *John 7:17*
 - Obedience assures the abiding presence of God, the Father and of Jesus Christ: *John 14:23*
 - Obedience assures deliverance from one's enemies: *Exodus 23:22*
 - Obedience assures one that God will be his/her God and that all things will work out for his/her good: *Jeremiah 7:23*
 - Obedience assures one of being loved by God and the Lord Jesus: *John 15:10*

- Obedience assures one of a good and longer life: *Deuteronomy 4:40*
- Obedience assures one of being a friend with the Lord Jesus: *John 15:14-15*

3. Obedience is better than the best sacrifice one can offer: (better than anything else)
 - *1 Samuel 15:22*
 - *Hebrews 10:5-7*

CONCLUSION:

1. Even though we are now grown, adults, on our own, have our own families, etc., we still act like children at times, especially when it comes to being told what to do and not do.
2. Being a Christian removes one's "freedom to choose," for a Christian is a member of God's Family and what God says is not to be questioned, but to be obeyed.
3. Being obedient to God's Word brings the Christian far more benefits than not obeying.
4. Christians, we are to obey our Lord's directives for He has our best interest at heart as He always has had.
5. How would you rate yourself Christian, always obedient, obedient usually, obedient sometimes, rarely obedient?
6. Christian, how would God rate your obedience?