

I WILL IF I WANT TO

Matthew 21:28-30

Introduction: As a child, did you always do what you were told? Did you ever start out doing what you were told to do but somewhere along the way you just never finished what you started out doing? Did you ever just tell your parents "NO! I'm not going to do it!?" What about telling them that you would but you never intended to do what they said, you just said you would to get them to leave you alone?

As adults we react to obeying God as children do their parents. Most of us are so self-centered and want to do "our own thing" that we never stop to consider the consequences of not doing what God wants. Sometimes we actually start out obeying, doing what we know God wants, but along the way things happen that cause us to just never get around to completing what we started doing for God.

I. WHAT EXACTLY IS OBEDIENCE?

1. Is "obedience" SAYING what you ought to say in response to a command, but never getting around to actually doing it?
2. Is "obedience" DOING what you are told to do, even if you didn't want to at first?
3. How many of God's commandments have you actually kept?
4. How many of God's commandments have you never gotten around to keeping?
5. How do you think God would rate your life of obedience on a scale of 0 to 10 with 10 being obeying God all the time?
6. What is the basic cause for a person to not do what God says to do?

II. OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS DOING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW TO DO

1. Ask any Christian, "Do you want to be used by God?" and without exception the answer will always be, "Oh yes."
 - Sadly most Christians have not obeyed the things God has already told them to do.
 - Why would God give a disobedient person something important to do or even bless him/her?
2. Evaluate yourself, what commands have YOU obeyed? The basic ten commandments? All of them? Love, forgive, don't covet, etc.
3. Obedience to God is not like choosing food at a buffet bar, picking this and that, avoiding this avoiding that, just the things you really want.
 - Christians are to obey EVERY, ALL of God's commandments.
 - Only when one has obeyed all the commandments he/she knows God has already given, will God then be able to use that person.

III. WHAT ABOUT A SECOND CHANCE?

1. **Jonah 1:1-17** describes a man's experience with God.
 - God wanted Jonah to carry a message to Nineveh to repent.
 - Jonah refused because he didn't like the people of Nineveh.
 - After three days of terror in the belly of a "whale" Jonah changed his mind.
 - Even then Jonah fussed and complained about what God was about to do to Nineveh.
2. God did not give up on Jonah nor does God give up on us.
 - Abraham disobeyed God, Moses disobeyed God, David disobeyed God, Peter disobeyed God, Paul disobeyed God and countless other Saints have disobeyed God, but in the end they obeyed God and God used them.
3. God does give second chances - BUT.....

IV. TO DISOBEY GOD IS COSTLY

1. God does not take our disobedience lightly.
 - Jonah almost lost his life, Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness and never got to go into the promised land, David lost a baby son, Paul's early ministry was hindered by his past reputation of persecuting the Church
2. Sometimes, however, God does not forgive and give another chance, as with Nadab and Abihu as described in **Leviticus 10** when they were involved in an unauthorized offering which they knew better than to do.
 - Or Moses stealing God's glory when getting water out of a rock, described in **Numbers 20:10**.
3. God loves us and wants the very best for us and that is exactly why He gives us commandments. Not to limit or restrict us, but to free us to have unlimited fellowship with Him.
4. Our obeying God completely means joy and fellowship with God.

V. MOST WANT GOD TO GIVE PROOF BEFORE OBEYING

1. Moses asked God at the burning bush for a sign that God was going to be with him. **Exodus 3:12**
 - God told Moses to OBEY first, deliver Israel, arrive at the appointed mountain and THEN would come affirmation, the sign Moses wanted.
2. If we love God, as we say we do, then we will obey ALL His commandments and will be in fellowship with Him as He desires.
3. As we obey, step by step, God will reveal Himself to us and we will know what is His will.
 - Obeying God is like learning to ride a bike, roller skate, or swim, a little at a time but in due time, success.

CONCLUSION:

1. Obedience is simply doing what one is told to do.
2. There is nothing for us to wait on before obeying for the Bible is full of things God has already told us all to be doing. If we get busy and obey what we already know God has told us to do, we will be rewarded and God will give us new things to do for Him.
3. Thankfully, God gives second chances after we disobey (most of the time).
4. Disobedience is costly to us and those around us.
5. Proof, affirmation, that this is what God wants, comes AFTER we have obeyed.
6. Everything God tells us to do is intended to bring us and others closer to Him.
7. So, do you want to do what God tells you to do or not? Are you going to?