

OBEY AND EXPERIENCE GOD

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:1-6 (NIV)

❖ The Priority of Obedience:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments... ²⁴If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

John 14:15,24 (NKJV)

1. Obedience is your OUTWARD EXPRESSION of your love for God.

2. The reward for your obedience is that God will make Himself KNOWN to you.

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

John 14:21 (NIV)

3. If you have an OBEEDIENCE PROBLEM, you have a LOVE PROBLEM

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:26 (NKJV)

4. If you LOVE GOD, you will OBEY GOD.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:15-16 (NIV)

❖ A Man Named Abraham:

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one

man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Hebrews 11:8-12 (NIV)

1. God is always at work to fulfill His purpose.

2. God pursues a love relationship with you that is real and personal.

God told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you."

Genesis 12:1 (MSG)

3. God invites you to join Him in His work.

"I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous; you'll be a blessing."

Genesis 12:2 (MSG)

4. God speaks to reveal His purpose through His Word, prayer, the church, and your circumstances.

"I'll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I'll curse. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:3 (MSG)

5. God's invitation always leads to a crisis of belief.

Then a famine came to the land. Abram went down to Egypt to live; it was a hard famine. ¹¹As he drew near to Egypt, he said to his wife, Sarai, "Look. We both know that you're a beautiful woman. ¹²When the Egyptians see you they're going to say, 'Aha! That's his wife!' and kill me. But they'll let you live. ¹³Do me a favor: tell them you're my sister. Because of you, they'll welcome me and let me live."

Genesis 12:10-13 (MSG)

6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in His work.

So Abram left Egypt and went back to the Negev, he and his wife and everything he owned, and Lot still with him. ²By now Abram was very rich, loaded with cattle and silver and gold. He moved on from the Negev, camping along the way, to Bethel, the place he had first set up his tent between Bethel and Ai ⁴and built his first altar. Abram prayed there to God.

Genesis 13:1-4 (MSG)

7. You come to experience God personally as you obey Him, and He works through you.

Then God's Message came: "... a son from your body will be your heir." ⁵Then He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" ⁶And he believed! Believed God! And God declared him "Set-Right-with-God."

Genesis 15:4-6 (MSG)

❖ Seeing God Work Through Your Life:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

1. Obedience to God is your MOMENT of TRUTH.
2. Obey what you already know to be GOD'S WILL.
3. Obedience will always COST you SOMETHING.
4. Obedience today will always lead to FUTURE BLESSINGS.