



*Benefits of Obedience—Part one Power
Power Peace Prosperity*

Isaiah 1:18-19

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Objective Sentence: Everyone can enjoy the benefits of obedience by walking with Christ and fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: When I first became a Christian I had a misconception; I thought that I would not have to deal with problems of lust, anger, drunkenness, unforgiveness, lying or rebellion ever again. I thought the moment you say yes to Jesus that all your problems went away and you enjoyed a blissful walk with Jesus through life. After becoming a Christian I had as many problems as before I became a follower of the Lord, maybe even more, but there was a difference; I had a power working in me that was greater than my proclivities towards sin and the power that was working against me.

Oswald Chambers: The golden rule for understanding in spiritual matters is not intellect, but obedience. Discernment in the spiritual world is never gained by intellect; in the common sense world it is. If a person wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is on's guide; but if a person wants insight into what Jesus Christ teaches, on can only get it by obedience. If things are dark to us spiritually, it is because is something we will not do. Intellectual darkness comes because of ignorance; spiritual darkness comes because of something I do not intend to obey.

#1. Power (Acts 1:4-8 NKJV Jesus being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ...⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and

you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to) the end of the earth)

- A. *John Ruskin; 1819-1900: What we think of, what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we do.***
- 1. **Empowered to Obey** (*2 Chron. 16:9 Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah ... the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth that He may show himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*)**
- a. *Ezra Taft Benson:*** The great test of life is obedience to God
 - b. *1 Cor. 10:13*** There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to mankind; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear, but will with the temptation also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it. .
 - c. *Pastor Dan:*** When we obey, even in the smallest matters, we are empowered to obey more. When we disobey, even the smallest matters, we are empowered to disobey more.
 - d. *Josh. 1:8-9*** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go
 - e. *Pastor Dan:*** My In-Turpin-tation of *Josh. 1:8* reads: If you get into the Word you will get out of the Word that which you need to live by the Word. (*Pro. 3:20-23* give attention to my words, incline your ...)
 - f. *Pastor Dan:*** The power to keep every command is provided by the One who gave us every command to keep.
 - g. *Louis Cassels; 1922-1974:*** Obey ... take up your cross ... deny yourself ... it all sounds very hard. It is hard. Anyone who tells you differently is peddling spiritual soothing syrup, not real Christianity. And yet, in a strangely paradoxical way, it is also easy. With every cross that we lift in obedience to Christ comes the strength to carry it. It is always a package deal. (Living for Jesus is like working out with weights; the more frequently you work out and the more you lift—the stronger you will become.
- 2. **Equipped to Obey** (*1 Pet. 2:1-3 NLT So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk of God's Word so that you will grow into a full salvation experience. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness)***
- a.. *Ps. 19:7-11*** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring

forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

- b. *James Faust*: Holiness is the strength of the soul. It comes by faith and through obedience to God's laws and ordinances. God then purifies the heart by faith, and the heart becomes purged from that which is profane and unworthy
- c. **Ro. 8:11-16** if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us
- d. *Oswald Chambers*: The term obey would be better expressed by the word use. For instance, a scientist uses the laws of nature; that is, he more than obeys them, he causes them to fulfill their destiny in his work. That is exactly what happens in the saint's life. He uses the commands of the Lord, and they fulfill God's destiny in his life.
- e. *Paul Tournier; 1898-1986*: The really important thing in life is not the avoidance of mistakes, but the obedience of faith. By obedience, the man is led step by step to correct his errors, whereas nothing will ever happen to him if he doesn't get going.
- f. **John 8:31-32** *Oswald Chambers; 1874-1917*: The tiniest fragment of obedience, and heaven opens up and the profoundest truths of God are yours straight away. God will never reveal more truth about himself till you obey what you know already.
- g. *Terry Fullam*: The fruit of the Spirit grows only in the garden of obedience. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*: Unless one obeys, he or she cannot believe. *Tommy Barnett*: Obedience to the Lord is the essential ingredient for the making of miracles
- h. **2 Chron. 16:9**

Closing and Invitation: James Hudson Taylor was born on May 21, 1832 was saved in June of 1849, began medical studies in Hull as assistant to Dr. Robert Hardey and sailed for China as an agent of the Chinese Evangelization society on September 19, 1853. He writes, “It was consequently a very serious matter to my mind, not whether God was faithful, but whether I had strong enough faith to warrant my embarking on the enterprise [being a missionary to China] set before me. When I get to China I shall have no claim on anyone for anything. My only claim will be on God. How important it is for me to learn

before leaving England to move man through God by prayer alone. Mr. Hull my kind employer wished me to remind him whenever my salary came due. This I determined not to do directly, but to ask that God would bring the fact to his recollection, and thus encourage me by answering prayer. It was time for the payment of this quarter's salary, I was in much prayer about it. The time arrived but Dr. Hardey made no allusion to the matter. I continued praying. Days passed on and he did not remember, until at length on settling up my weekly accounts one Saturday night, I found myself possessed of only one remaining coin a half crown piece (1 dollar). I continued to pray and up to that time I had known no lack.

Sunday was a very happy day. As usual my heart was full and brimming over with blessing. After attending church in the morning ... I went that afternoon and evening to do Gospel work in the various lodging houses as was my custom ... in the lowest part of town. After concluding my last service about ten that night, a poor man asked me to go and pray with his dying wife. On the way I asked him, this Irishman, why he had not called for the priest ... he said the priest refused to come without a payment of eighteen pence Immediately it occurred to my mind that all the money I had in the world was that solitary half crown.

There was at once a stoppage in the flow of joy in my heart. Bur instead of reproving myself I began to reprove the poor man telling him that it was very irresponsible to have allowed matters to get into such a state ... he should have applied to the relieve officer. He did apply and was told to come at eleven tomorrow but he was afraid his wife might not last through the night.

If only I had two shillings and a sixpence instead of this half crown, how gladly would I give these poor people a shilling. My supper was waiting for me at home and there was sufficient in the house for breakfast but after that I would have nothing for dinner.

I followed my conductor with some degree of nervousness because I was roughly handled on my last visit to this area. Up a miserable flight of stairs into a wretched room he led me ... where four or five children stood, their sunken cheeks and temples telling unmistakably the story of slow starvation, and laying on a wretched pallet was a poor exhausted mother, with a tiny infant thirty-six hours old moaning rather than crying at her side. Again I thought, If I had two shilling and sixpence instead of half a crown, how gladly should they have one and sixpence of it.

I began to tell them that they must not be cast down; that though their circumstances were very distressing there was kind and loving Father in heaven. But something within me cried, "You hypocrite! Telling these unconverted people about a kind and loving Father in heaven, and you are not prepared to trust Him without half a crown." I nearly choked. To talk was impossible under these circumstances.

Prayer was a delightful occupation in those days. Time thus spent never seemed wearisome and I knew no lack of words. "You asked me to come and pray with your wife I said to the man; so let us pray." And I knelt down. But no sooner had I opened my lips with, "O Father ... than my conscience said within, "Dare you mock God! Dare you kneel down and call Him Father with that half-crown in your pocket." I rose from my knees in great distress of mind. The poor father turned to me and said, "You see what a terrible state we are in sir. If you can help us, for God's sake do it." I put my hand into my pocket and slowly drawing out the half crown gave it to the man, telling that it seem a small for me to relieve them, seeing that I was comparatively well off, but that in parting

with that coin I was giving him my all; but that what I had been trying to tell them was indeed true, God really was a Father and might be trusted. And how my joy came back in full flood tide to my heart! I could say anything and feel it then, and the hindrance to blessing was gone. Not only was the poor woman's life saved, but my life as I fully realized I had been saved too. I went home that night ... ate my basin of gruel before retiring, I would not have exchanged it for a prince's feast. Reminding the Lord as I knelt at my bedside of His own Word, "He that gives to the poor lends to the Lord." The next morning before I finished my porridge the postman's knock was heard at the door. On opening the envelope I found a sheet of blank paper was folded a pair of kid gloves from which, as I opened them in astonishment, half a sovereign fell to the ground. Praise the Lord," I exclaimed, "four hundred percent for a twelve hour investment." If we are faithful to God in the little things, we shall gain experience and strength that will be helpful to us in the more serious trials of life.