

SeekingHim

Experiencing the Joy
of Personal Revival

A 12-Week Study for Individual and Group Use

"You who seek God, let your hearts revive."

PSALM 69:32b

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Lesson



Obedience:

The Acid Test of Love

God loves His children. He knows that we cannot fully experience and enjoy His love unless we are obedient to Him. Obeying God is not meant to be a sterile, cold requirement; rather, it is a willing, glad-hearted response to One who loves us extravagantly and has our best interests at heart. God does not stand by at a distance, demanding our obedience. Rather, He blesses us by allowing us to be a part of accomplishing His purposes. He calls us to surrender, invites us to follow, empowers us to serve, and then blesses our obedience.



MEMORY VERSE

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” **(John 14:15)**

Going Deeper in the Word

Deuteronomy 30:11–20

Psalms 119:57–64

Philippians 2:5–11

1 John 2:3–6; 5:1–5



Day 5: Making It Personal

THE OQ (OBEDIENCE QUOTIENT) TEST

What is the single greatest hindrance to revival? Could it be the lack of obedience? Each act of disobedience is a step away from God. Likewise, each act of obedience is a step back toward Him. Remember God's plea in Malachi 3:7: "'Return to Me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord of hosts."

If we were completely honest, many of us would admit that we already know one or more specific steps of obedience we need to take in order to return to the Lord. Perhaps there is something God has told us to do that we've not yet done; something we continue to do that we know is not pleasing to Him; or some limit we have placed on what we're willing to do for Him.

Pause for a moment to pray. Ask God to show you any matters where you are not walking in complete obedience. Ask Him to bring you to a place of willingness and surrender, as you consider the following "obedience quotient" questions.

1. Is there anything I know God wants me to do that I've not yet done?
For example,
 - forgiving someone and being reconciled to him or her?
 - calling or writing to encourage a Christian brother or sister?
 - honoring my parents?
 - devoting more time to my spouse or children?
 - getting out of debt?
 - getting rid of some material thing that has captured my heart?
 - giving something to a person in need?
 - sharing Christ with a particular person?
 - showing special honor to the Lord's Day?
 - developing a daily habit of Bible reading and prayer?
 - showing hospitality to someone?
 - surrendering to vocational Christian service?
 - taking a new job?
 - quitting a job?
 - taking care of my body, eating right, and/or exercising?
 - giving at least 10 percent of my income to the Lord's work?

"In order to experience revival, most of us do not need to hear more truths; we simply need to obey that which we already know."

Del Fehsenfeld Jr.

Day 5

This list and those that follow are not intended to be exhaustive. If the thing God has told you to do is not on the list, write it here.

I know God wants me to...

2. Am I continuing to do something that I know God wants me to stop?

For example,

- a recreational activity or hobby that is consuming too much time?
- overspending, failing to pay what I owe?
- arguing?
- cursing, bad language?
- flirting?
- gambling?
- gossiping, slandering, having a critical spirit?
- holding a grudge?
- losing my temper?
- lying, cheating, stealing from my employer or someone else?
- acts of violence?
- viewing pornography?
- overeating, smoking, drinking, taking drugs, or other addictions?
- adultery (emotional or physical)?
- too much or the wrong kind of television and movie viewing?

If the thing God wants you to stop doing is not on this list, write it below.

I know God wants me to stop...

“Obedience to God’s Will is the secret of spiritual knowledge and insight. It is not willingness to know, but willingness to DO (obey) God’s Will that brings certainty.”

—Eric Liddell

3. Have I placed any limits on what I am willing to do for God? Am I reluctant to:
- sacrifice my time in order to serve others?
 - give sacrificially of my possessions and resources to further His kingdom?
 - set aside time on a daily basis for Bible study and prayer?
 - associate with the downcast in order to reach them with God's love?
 - reduce my work hours and, if necessary, my income in order to meet the spiritual needs of my family?
 - move to a new or unfamiliar place in order to be in God's will?
 - break off friendships and relationships that draw me away from Christ?
 - stand alone for righteousness, even at the risk of being misunderstood or ridiculed?
 - make a commitment to be an active part of a local church?
 - [Husbands] love my wife more than I love myself, and provide spiritual leadership for my family?
 - [Wives] respect and submit to my husband?

Record below any additional limitation that you may have placed on pleasing God.

I confess that I have been unwilling to...

4. If you knew that Jesus was going to return three days from now, would you be excited to meet Him because you have been living an obedient life?
- No. I would be ashamed to meet Christ in my present condition.
 - Yes. I have been living in such a way that I could welcome Christ with gladness.

“God is God.
Because He is
God, He is worthy
of my trust and
obedience. I will
find rest nowhere
but in His holy
will, a will that
is unspeakably
beyond my largest
notions of what
He is up to.”

—Elisabeth Elliot

If you answered no, what would you need to do in order to be prepared for His return?

In order to be ready to meet Christ, I would need to...

Determine to begin obeying God immediately—in the “little” and the big things. Remember that, in reality, you may not even have three days—Christ could come at any time! In the meantime, complete, whole-hearted obedience will provide a strong foundation for your life, regardless of what storms may come, and it will prepare the way for the glory of God to be revealed in and through your life.