

The Best is Yet to come (2)

"A Journey to Abundant Life"

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10b (ESV)

The Power of Obedience

"Obedience to God is the key to unlocking His blessings, demonstrating our love, and walking in faith." It is the pathway to our best life, and abundant life on earth.

Introduction: The story of Abraham's journey of obedience is a powerful example of faith and trust in God. All of us need reminding, just like Abraham, we are called to a life of obedience to God which in turn will unlock His blessings upon us. Today, I want us to explore the power of obedience and how it can transform our lives.

I. Obedience brings blessing (Deut. 28:1-2)

A. God's promises are often tied to our obedience. *God just doesn't bless us randomly; He blesses us when we align our lives with His will.*

1. In this passage, Moses speaks to the Israelites, reminding them of the covenant relationship they have with God.
- a. Notice the key phrase, "*if you fully obey.*" This indicates that God's blessings are conditional upon our willingness to submit to His commands.
- b. The word "fully" suggests wholeheartedness, not partial or selective obedience. *God desires a heart that seeks to follow Him completely.*
- c. The blessings mentioned in Deuteronomy 28 are abundant and specific:
 - Personal provision: (vv. 3-5).
 - Protection: (7, 9-10).
 - Prosperity: (12-13)

B. Our obedience is the path to favor -

1. God's blessings are not about earning His favor, but about positioning ourselves to receive what He has already prepared for us.
2. Think of obedience like an umbrella. When we obey, we stay under the umbrella of God's protection and provision.

C. God's blessings are holistic -

1. God's blessings aren't just material; they're holistic, meaning, they touch every area of our lives—spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical.
 - a. Peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7),
 - b. A joy that strengthens us (Nehemiah 8:10), and...
 - c. A sense of God's presence that sustains us (Psalm 16:11).

Is there an area in your life where you're not following God's instructions?

It might be the key to unlocking the blessing you've been praying for.

God's commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3).

II. Obedience is an act of love (John 14:23)

A. Obedience is about our relationship with Christ, not a rule book to follow.

1. In this passage, Jesus connects obedience directly to love.
2. Obedience to Christ's commands aren't a duty—it's a delight born out of love for the Savior.

B. Obedience is relational, not transactional

1. God doesn't want obedience that's mechanical or begrudging.
2. He's not after "checkbox Christianity"
3. Instead, God desires obedience that springs from a heart of love and gratitude.

C. Obedience deepens intimacy with Christ

1. Obedience isn't just about doing what's right; it's about creating a space where God can dwell with us.
2. The more we obey, the more we experience the reality of His love, guidance, and peace. (Lk. 10:38-42).

D. The hard part of obedience is obedience and trust Go hand in hand

1. Our level of obedience demonstrates our trust in God's wisdom and love.
2. When we choose to obey, even when we don't fully understand, we're saying, "*Lord, I believe You know what's best for me.*" (Matthew 26:39).
3. Love transforms obedience from a burden into a privilege. (1 John 5:3)

Obedience isn't about rules; it's about responding to the God who loved us first.

When we obey out of love, we align our hearts with His, deepen our relationship with Him, and discover the joy of walking in step with our Savior.

III. Obedience requires faith (Genesis 12:1-3)

A. Faith-fueled obedience - Obedience and faith are deeply intertwined.

1. Often, God asks us to take steps of obedience before we can see the full picture.
2. It's in these moments that our faith is tested and refined.

B. Why faith is essential for Obedience

1. God's instructions are often unclear
2. God doesn't always explain *why* He asks us to obey; instead, He invites us to trust Him.

b. Obedience can be counterintuitive -

1. Sometimes God's commands go against human logic. (Matthew 14:22-33).
2. Faith allows us to obey even when it feels risky, inconvenient, or contrary to our instincts. (Isaiah 55:8-9) obedience often requires surrendering our understanding to His.

c. Faith sustains obedience through challenges -

1. **Obedience is not always rewarded immediately.** Sometimes, it leads to hardship before blessing.
2. **Abraham obeyed God's call**, but it took years before he saw the fulfillment of God's promise in Isaac. *In Gen. 12, God made a series of promises to Abraham:* These promises gave Abraham confidence to step out in faith. Similarly, when we face decisions that require obedience, we can cling to God's promises in His Word: (Phil. 4:19; Prov. 3:5-6; Deut. 31:6).