

THE OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN

At the moment you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, a life of obedience to God became a real possibility. The Holy Spirit set you free from the bondage of sin and death (Romans 8:2). He enables you to live a Christlike life.

“It is not just that we should strive to live like Jesus, but that Jesus by his Spirit should come and live in us. To have him as our example is not enough; we need him as our Savior. It is thus through his atoning death, that the penalty of our sins may be forgiven; whereas it is through his indwelling Spirit that the power of our sins may be broken.”

JOHN R. W. STOTT¹

As you learn more about the obedient Christian in action, remember that the Holy Spirit will help you obey.

THE BASIS FOR OBEDIENCE

When you consider obedience to God, it is necessary to remember who he is and what he desires for you.

1. What do the following statements tell you about God?
 - a. *1 John 4:8* _____
 - b. *Revelation 4:11* _____

¹ From *Basic Christianity* (London: InterVarsity, 1958), 105.

- c. How do these facts influence your obedience to God?

2. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13.

- a. What did God require from Israel?

- b. Why did God desire that they keep these commandments?

- c. How does this apply to a Christian today?

3. What does 1 John 5:3 teach about God's commandments?

4. After reflecting on John 14:15 and 14:21, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying him.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

How do you know what God desires for your life? The Bible is God's revelation of truth, and obedience to God's Word is obedience to God himself.

5. Psalm 119 deals with the importance of God's Word. What are several ways the Bible can help you live for Christ?

Verse 11 _____

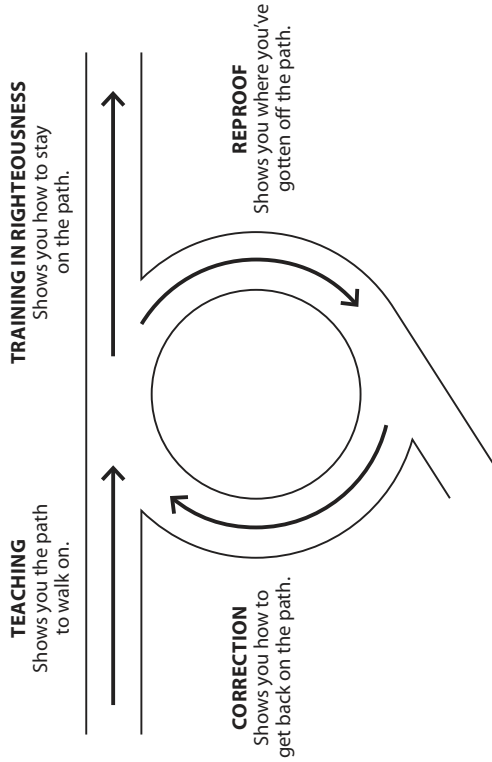
Verse 105 _____

Verse 130 _____

6. In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul said that the Scriptures are profitable for:

- a. _____ (What to believe and do)
- b. _____ (Recognizing sin)
- c. _____ (How to change)
- d. _____ (How to live)

This can be illustrated in the following manner:



7. Jesus presents a vivid picture of two types of people in Matthew 7:24-27: the wise man and the foolish man. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

WISE MAN	FOOLISH MAN
On what foundation was the house built?	_____
To what forces were both houses exposed?	_____
What was the result?	_____
Did this person hear God's Word?	_____
How did these two men differ?	_____

8. Perhaps God's Word has recently made you aware of an area of your life that needs to be brought into closer obedience to God. If so, in what area?

**KEYS TO
CONSISTENT
OBEDIENCE**

God's Provision

God does not expect you to live an obedient life in your own strength. He has provided you with everything necessary to make obedience a reality.

9. Who lives in every believer?

1 *Corinthians 3:16* _____

2 *Corinthians 6:16* _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

10. Why are Christians able to overcome their enemy in the world? *1 John 4:4*

11. In addition to his personal presence, what else has God given to help you live for him? Match the letter with the appropriate reference.

- ___ *2 Timothy 1:7* a. All things that pertain to life and godliness
___ *2 Peter 1:3* b. The Scriptures
___ *Romans 15:4* c. Power, love, and self-control

Your Attitudes

While God has equipped you for obedience, a key to successful use of these resources is your attitude.

12. What attitudes can you display in obeying God?
Deuteronomy 26:16 _____
Psalms 40:8 _____
Luke 8:15 _____

THE PRACTICE OF OBEDIENT LIVING

The obedient Christian still faces daily struggles with temptation. How can we practice obedience and gain victory over sin? Biblical principles and examples provide the answer.

13. Discover the source and causes of temptation in the following verses:
a. Who is the tempter? *Matthew 4:1-3*

b. Who is never the source of temptation? *James 1:13*

c. What causes you to be drawn into temptation? *James 1:14*

14. In Joshua 7:20-21, examine Achan's statement about his disobedience.

a. What factors contributed to his disobedience?

b. At what point could he have prevented his sin?

c. What can you learn from his error?

15. Using the following verses as a guide, write a brief definition of sin. *Isaiah 53:6; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4*

20. What two steps indicated in James 4:7 will help you walk in victory?

TO SUBMIT TO GOD you must yield your will to God's will.
TO RESIST THE DEVIL you must use God's provision for victory.

21. These questions about sin and temptation probably remind you of the daily conflict you experience.

a. Review question 8. What is the root problem in the area you recorded?

b. How does the temptation to disobey God in this area begin to show itself?

c. What steps can you take to avoid these beginnings?

“Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

GALATIANS 5:16

Remember These Points

- Your obedience to God is based on the fact that he is your Creator. You obey him because of who he is.
- God reveals his standards through the Scriptures.
- To the extent that you appropriate God's provision for victory, you can experience a life of obedience.
- You are not immune, however, from temptation and sin. Sin does not negate God's love for you, but it does break your fellowship with him. Confession restores that fellowship.