

OBEY OR INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE

How Will You Respond To God?

Deuteronomy 6:1-5

As you move towards victory with each battle in the abundant Christian life, you can be sure that the devil is going to try to *defeat* you...or *destroy* you...or at least, try and *deceive* you. The devil is going to attempt to bring you down in your Christian life...to get you to *compromise* your *righteousness*...your *morals*...your *integrity*...etc.

Incomplete obedience will rob you of your *possessions* in Christ... your *joy*...your *peace*...your *intimacy*.

Obedience is when you...

- Do *what* God has told you to do.
- In the *way* He has instructed you to do it.
- *When* He has told you to do it.

Obedience results from *abiding with Christ*...and *abiding in the Word*.

...**John 15**

...**I John 3:24**

The bumper sticker...*God said it...I believe it...That settles it*. That's only 2/3's Biblically correct. *If God said it...That settles it...whether I believe it or not*.

Incomplete obedience is working *for* God...instead of being in a position where God works *through* you. It's doing something *other than* what God has said...or at best...you did *what* He says to do...only you do it *your own way* instead of His way.

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, and when the Lord your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.”

~Deuteronomy 7:1-2

“In the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes. But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the Lord

your God has commanded you, so that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God.”

~Deuteronomy 20:16-18

Unfortunately, Israel didn't completely **obey**...**incomplete obedience**.

“It came about when the sons of Israel became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.”

~Joshua 17:13

Here they **did not** drive out the **Canaanites**...later they **could not** (**Judges 2:2-3**).

“It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.”

~Judges 1:28

What leads one towards **incomplete obedience**...

- *Prayerlessness.*
- *Moving without seeking God.*

“When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they acted craftily and set out as envoys, and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys, and wineskins worn-out and torn and mended, and worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and had become crumbled. They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, ‘We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.’ The men of Israel said to the Hivites, ‘Perhaps you are living within our land; how then shall we make a covenant with you?’ But they said to Joshua, ‘We are your servants.’ Then Joshua said to them, ‘Who are you and where do you come from?’ They said to him, ‘Your servants have come from a very far country because of the fame of the Lord your God; for we have heard the report of Him and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon and to Og king of Bashan who was at Ashtaroth. So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provisions in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them and say to them, ‘We are your servants;

*now then, make a covenant with us'." This our bread was warm when we took it for our provisions out of our houses on the day that we left to come to you; but now behold, it is dry and has become crumbled. These wineskins which we filled were new, and behold, they are torn; and these our clothes and our sandals are worn out because of the very long journey.' So the men of Israel took some of their provisions, and **did not ask for the counsel of the Lord. Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them**, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation **swore an oath to them**. It came about at the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were neighbors and that they were living within their land. Then the sons of Israel set out and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon and Chephirah and Beeroth and Kiriath-jearim. The sons of Israel did not strike them because the leaders of the congregation **had sworn to them by the Lord the God of Israel**. And the whole congregation grumbled against the leaders. But all the leaders said to the whole congregation, **'We have sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them'**."*

~Joshua 9:3-19

LESSONS:

- Obedience bears fruit.
- Incomplete obedience will always neutralize one...
 - ...in their faith.
 - ...in their relationship with God.