

## HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO GOD?

### Complete or Incomplete Obedience

Deuteronomy 6:16-25

When God speaks...what you do next shows what you truly believe about God!

- *Rebel* (Example...Jonah).
- *Totally and completely obey.*
- *Obey...but incompletely.*

As you desire and seek to live the **victorious Christian life...** the **abundant Christian life...**you are being refined with each *battle, crisis, trial, test, or temptation* that you face in your life. You can be sure that the devil is going to try to *defeat* you...*destroy* you...or at the very 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*...your *obedience* to God.

**Lordship of Christ...Jesus Christ's authority and rule over all things...especially as reflected in the life of the Christian.**

**Lordship** is the process in **sanctification...progressively growing the believer in Christlikeness.**

### I. COMPLETE OBEDIENCE:

**Complete 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.*

*“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”*

~John 15:10-11

*“The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*

~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.*

Biblical examples of those who **completely obeyed** God.

- **Peter** (a beautiful example of *refinement* and one who *absolutely surrendered...died to himself...*and learned to come completely under the *Lordship of Christ*).
- **Ananias...**([Acts 9:10-18](#)...going to pray over **Saul/Paul** to restore **Saul's** vision after being blinded on the **Damascus Road**).
- **Paul** (ie. he wanted to go to Asia, but was keenly aware that God had closed that door...[Acts 16:6](#))...
- **James**...the half-brother of Jesus...became the leader of the church in **Jerusalem**.
- **John**...even when in exile.
- **Priscilla and Aquila...**([Acts 18](#)).

*“...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...Rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry, because you have rejected the word of the Lord...”*

~I Samuel 15:22b, 23

## II. INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE:

**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.

- **Ananias and Sapphira...**

*“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter responded to her, ‘Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?’ And she said, ‘Yes, that was the price.’ Then Peter said to her, ‘Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.’ And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.”*

~Acts 5:1-10

- **Israel...**

*“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.

*“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

*“And as for you, you shall **make no covenant** with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But **you have not obeyed Me**; what is this you have done? Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’”*

~Judges 2:2-3

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

- *Prayerlessness.*
- *Being presumptuous of God. Moving without seeking God.*
- *Pride...self-centered.*

*“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*

*Ashtaroath. 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:

- **The believer’s relationship with God isn’t based on PERFORMANCE...it’s based on OBEDIENCE.** No one is perfect. We have *all sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (**Romans 3:23**).
- **Obedience bears FRUIT (John 15:8-11).**

- **Incomplete obedience robs the believer of their RELATIONSHIP with Christ...their *joy*...their *peace*... their *intimacy*.**
- **Incomplete obedience will always neutralize one in their FAITH. It leads to a “*shipwrecked*” faith (**I Timothy 1:19**).**