

# The *ART* Of Obedience

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The discipline of desired obedience to God is rare on this earth. Most simply refuse to obey God. For many of these types, this would ring true: *“Obedience” [to God] is a dirty word.* Others discourage obedience because they think all forms of submission to God are tied to some kind of ugly *works salvation*. For those of us who seek a Bible-based understanding of what type of life our Lord calls us to, we find beauty in a holistic commitment – one that affirms the whole Counsel of the Word of God.

Yes, legalism is not what God wants from His people. The passages along these lines are many. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done ...” is a *close brother* to “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” The Old Testament (Isaiah 64:6) also speaks to the quality of fleshly works when it says, ‘all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags.’ Yuck!

Instead, Jesus Christ once again shows us a **better way**, one which is pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Please take just five minutes to read John 14 & 15. See these appeals to love God through obedience in this light: When we yield to God in us – those of us who have been born again and who walk in God’s Spirit – works of obedience come naturally. When we abide in God’s Vine having experienced Galatians 2:20 transcendence, we find life in Christ to be sweet abundance. We even live out John 3:21. SWEET! Pretty cool!

Our simple appeal in this short devotional is this: Let’s keep practicing the art of pleasing God Most High by dying to self and living in Christ. In this state, God is not only glorified, He is also loved. And we can walk in JOY because we are indeed living out a walk of active faith as we live in love-based submission to our Savior. Oh, yes, let’s not forget to include Hebrews 11 in this consideration. By faith many obeyed God. Don’t believe the lie that faith and works are anathema before God. A faith-based obedience – obeying God while walking in faith – honors God. Even Paul emphasized grace in his labor – see I Cor. 15:10.

The skill of obedience – if it is to be pleasing before God – mandates we live in loving relationship with God. This obedience is not *of the law* nor *of the flesh* but is actually flowing from this precious phenomena: It is God who is at work in us both to will and to do His good pleasure. SWEET! Pretty cool! All we need do is yield to almighty God.

So let’s *let go and let God* have His way in us. Let’s take up our cross and die to ourselves daily AND go on to live in His resources as we present ourselves as His living sacrifices unto His glory and praise. For this is the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. This includes the understanding that God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

*Lord, help me submit to You whereby I better ambassador on Your behalf – as Your living sacrifice – for this is the blessed and reasonable service You grant Your children in Christ Jesus Your glorious Son – in whom You were, and are, well pleased. Amen*