

Obedience: The Acid Test of Love

John 14:15-24

INTRODUCTION

Revival is... *“the extraordinary movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of _____, producing extraordinary results.”*

Revival is the Reviver at work in the life of His own, the church. Take this with you: **a revived heart loves and serves**. The revived heart loves God and people; serves God and serves people, especially God's people.

So far...

(1) We have considered the need and the importance of _____.

The attitude that draws the attention of God; humility draws that gaze of the Almighty. *Proud hearts do not respond well to God. And God does not respond well to proud hearts.*

(2) Next, we looked at Psalm 32 and saw the need for _____...the need for a transparency before God.

In other words, the need for confession of sin to God. When it comes to revival, silence is not golden. There's a blessing that accompanies confession of sin and a heaviness from the hand of God that accompanies the hiding of sin.

(3) We also considered the importance of _____.

We turned to Psalm 51, James 4 and walked away learning that **repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of behavior. Repentance results in hating what you once loved and loving what you once hated.** The purpose of repentance is not to make us feel better about ourselves but to restore us to a right relationship with God, so that our lives may again bring glory to Him and be used for His purposes.

(4) When we take revival seriously...when we take seeking God humbly, honestly, repentantly, we can easily feel overwhelmed with a sense of conviction, failure and guilt; if we are not careful, we may even give up on seeking God to revive our hearts.

God knows this and that's why He provides _____.

Grace is God's provision for our need...saving grace, sanctifying grace, sustaining grace.

(5) Last time we saw the importance of _____

The joy of experiencing personal revival includes all that we have reviewed and much more. For this morning, we will take a look at _____: the acid test of _____.

With this in mind, please turn in your Bible to **John 14:15-24.**

Let's explore what it has to say regarding the relationship between love and obedience.

Firstly, please note...

I. _____ for Christ must fuel our _____ to Christ

Love for Jesus involves both an attachment to Him and a oneness with Him which naturally leads one to obey Him and walk as He walked (1 John 2:6). One obeys what one loves. Indeed, our patterns of obedience reveal what we really love.

APPLICATION: Why do you obey Christ? Why do you do what you do in His name? What fuels your obedience to Christ? Duty or delight?

Love for Christ must fuel my obedience to Christ; secondly...

**II. _____ to Christ is evidence of our _____
for Christ**

True faith is not about saying certain words in an attitude of prayer. True faith is practical. And so is love...love is practical. To say that God's grace and our obedience are at odds is to misunderstand God's grace. **Titus 2:11-12** states, *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age..."*

Let me make an important clarification. I am not suggesting that the way to get to Heaven is to work really hard. The Bible is clear, we can never, be good enough to warrant eternal life. Even though some people seem to live pretty well, God requires perfection. The fact is we are not called to obey **so we can gain** salvation; we are called to obey **because** of our salvation. Good works do not precede a changed heart; good works (obedience) result from a changed heart. **The Bible is clear that true faith is active faith.** The difference between a disciple and a pretender is that one is following Christ; the other is just talking about it! **The true believer is the one who shows that they love the Lord in what they DO.** Obedience is the evidence that we love Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION: What does your life say about your love for Christ? When it comes to obedience to Christ, what's your life's message? Do others draw a clear conclusion about your love for Christ because of your obedience to Christ?

Lastly, please note...

**III. Love-fueled obedience to Christ will result in
increased _____ and _____
of God**

Obedience is the way to increased intimacy and enjoyment of God. Jesus promises a new fellowship with the Father for those who obey. This is not like a piece of candy that is offered as a bribe to entice a child to be well-behaved. This blessing is just common sense. When we obey, we open doors to God's blessing. When we disobey, we close those doors.

Every time we disobey, we cut ourselves off from fellowship with the Lord. We erect a barrier. This barrier hinders the warmth of His love, the enjoyment of His person. The goal of obedience is not material blessings as some would seem to indicate. The goal of obedience is an increased intimacy with the Father...a much better motivation than any truckload of material things.

CONCLUSION

Where do we go from here? My friend, have you trusted in Christ as Lord & Savior? Will you seek Him today? If you continue to resist His grace, you will experience His judgment. **Believing the gospel makes a difference!**

**'Making it Personal.' - The OQ (Obedience Quotient) Test
3 Questions:**

(1) Is there anything I know God wants me to do, that I've not done? For example...

- Forgiving someone and being reconciled to him or her?
- Calling or writing to encourage a Christian brother or sister?
- Honoring my parents?
- Devoting more time to my spouse or children?
- Getting out of debt?
- Getting rid of some material thing that has captured my heart?
- Sharing Christ with a particular person
- Showing special honor to the Lord's Day?
- Developing a daily habit of Bible reading and prayer?
- Showing hospitality to someone?
- Giving sacrificially to the Lord's work through His local church?

(2) Am I continuing to do something that I know God wants me to stop? For example...

- A recreational activity or hobby that is consuming too much time?
- Overspending, failing to pay what I owe?
- Arguing?
- Cursing, bad language?
- Flirting?
- Gambling?
- Gossip, slander, critical spirit?
- Holding a grudge?
- Losing my temper?
- Lying, cheating, stealing from my employer or someone else?
- Acts of violence?
- Viewing pornography?
- Overeating, smoking, drinking, or other addictions?
- Adultery (emotional or physical)?
- Too much or the wrong kind of television and movie viewing?

(3) Have I placed any limits on what I am willing to do for God? Am I reluctant to...

- Sacrifice my time in order to serve others?
- Give sacrificially of my possessions and resources to further His kingdom?
- Set aside time on a daily basis for Bible study and prayer?
- Associate with others not like me in order to reach them with God's love?
- Reduce my work hours and, if necessary, my income in order to meet the spiritual needs of my family?
- Break off friendships and relationships that draw me away from Christ?
- Stand alone for righteousness, even at the risk of being misunderstood or ridiculed?
- Make a commitment to be an active part of a local church?
- Husbands: Love my wife more than I love myself, and provide spiritual leadership for my family?
- Wives: Respect and support my husband?
- Parents: Love my children?
- Children: Respect & obey parents?