

## **EXPERIENCING GOD**

### **EXPERIENCING GOD THROUGH OBEDIENCE**

God has always been at work in our world. He is now at work where you are. God always takes the initiative to come to you and reveal what He is doing or what He is about to do.

Joining Him will require you to make major adjustments in your life so He will accomplish His will through you. When you know what God has said and what He is about to do and when you have adjusted your life to Him, there is one remaining response to God that is necessary. To experience God at work in and through you, you must obey Him.

After God has taken the initiative to involve you in His work, you believe Him and adjust your life to Him. Only then do you reach a place of obedience. You must obey Him first. When He does a God-sized work through your life, you come to know Him intimately by experience.

#### **If You Love Him, You Obey Him**

Jesus said someone who has an intimate relationship with Him is the one who does the will of the Father. James strongly emphasized that faith that does not result in action is dead. When the disciples obeyed Jesus, they saw and experienced God's mighty power working in and around them. When they did not act in faith and obedience, they did not experience God's power.

Obedience is your moment of truth. What you do will...

- Reveal what you believe about God
- Determine if you will experience God's power
- Decide if you will know Him more intimately

When you come to a moment of truth, you must choose whether or not to obey God. You will not obey Him unless you believe Him. You cannot trust Him unless you love Him. You will not love Him unless you know Him.

#### **The Importance of Obedience**

If you know God loves you, you should never question what He tells you to do. It will always be right and best for you. When He gives a command, you are not to observe or discuss it...you are to obey it.

God blesses those who obey Him. The benefits of obedience are beyond our imagination but include being God's people, having a solid foundation when the storms of life come and knowing spiritual truth.

Rebellion against God is the opposite of obedience. Disobedience is a serious rejection of God's will. Servants of God do what He commands. They obey Him. Servants don't have the option to decide what or when or how they will obey. Choosing not to obey in His way and on His timetable is rebellion and brings with it serious consequences.

Many people today are self-centered. They want to do their own thing. They don't consider what obedience could mean in their lives. Obedience means joy and uninterrupted fellowship with God. He is interested in moving

you from where you are to where He wants you to be in this love relationship. From that point, you can experience all the joys He has to offer.

### **Obey What You Already Know to Be God's Will**

Some people want God to give them a big assignment to do for Him. They promise to do whatever it is He asks them to do. But when He watches their lives, He notices that they haven't obeyed what He's already told them to do.

What are some things that God has called all of us to do?

God doesn't give you a list of things to do so you can choose the ones you want to obey and ignore the rest. He wants you to obey ALL His commands based on the love relationship you have with Him. When He sees that you are faithful and obedient with some...He will then trust you with more.

How can we expect God to reveal more of His will to us when we aren't faithful in doing what He's call all of His children to do?

### **Disobedience Is Costly**

God doesn't take disobedience lightly. Because He is interested in developing your character, at times He lets you go in the wrong direction. But keep in mind that He will not let you go far without disciplining you to bring you back to a right relationship with Him. In your relationship with Him, He will let you make your own decisions even if they are the wrong ones. The Holy Spirit will then lead you to recognize you are not doing God's will and guide you back to the right path. He always corrects you and teaches you His ways.

God loves you and wants what is best for you. That is why He gives you His commands. These instructions are not there to limit or restrict, but to free you to experience the most meaningful and joyful life possible.

### **Affirmation**

When we hear God invite us to join Him, we often want Him to give us a sign..."Lord prove to me this is You and then I will obey." God is love. Trust Him and believe Him. Because you love Him, obey Him. Then you will fellowship with Him so much that you will come to know Him intimately. That affirmation will be a joyous time for you. Always remember that affirmation comes after obedience.

### **God Works Through You**

When you obey God, He will accomplish through you what He has purposed to do. When God does something through your life that only He can do, you will come to know Him more intimately. If you do not obey, you will miss some of the most exciting experiences of your life.

God wants to reveal Himself to you and to those around you. If you can do the work in your own strength, people will not come to know God. If God works through you to do what only He can do, people will be drawn to Him.

You must believe God is who He says He is and that He can and will do what He says He will do. When you obey Him, you must allow Him to do what He has said. He is the One who accomplishes the assignment...but does it through you.

You will be blessed when God does a special, God-sized work through you. You will come to know Him in a way that will bring joy to your life. When others see you experiencing God that way, they will want that experience too. Be prepared to point them to God.

God reveals Himself to His people by what He does. When God works through you to accomplish His purposes, you come to know Him by experience. You also come to know Him when He meets a need in your life.

When is the last time God met a need for you? Do we really spend time counting our blessings?

### **The "I AM's" of Jesus**

I am the bread of life – John 6:35

I am the light of the world – John 8:12

I am the gate – John 10:9

I am the good shepherd – John 10:11

I am the resurrection and the life – John 11:25

I am the way and the truth and the life – John 14:6

I am the true vine – John 15:1