

SAVED BY OBEDIENCE

I am glad you still decided to read this devotion after reading the title. I am sure those who are well taught in the New Covenant know that we are not saved **BY OUR OWN OBEDIENCE** to the laws of God. **However, we are saved by obedience.** This obedience actually has nothing to do with us, **but everything with Jesus!** We are saved by the obedience of Jesus Christ! What many Christians do not know is that man must be saved by obedience because it was disobedience that caused man to be lost. It would take perfect obedience by one to undo the perfect disobedience of another.

Rom 5:19 For as by **one man's disobedience many were made sinners,** so also by **one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**

One man's [Adam] disobedience made us all sinners, but by One Man's [Jesus] obedience to God, righteousness is offered to all. **Righteousness comes through obedience, just not our imperfect offering of it.** It came through the perfect offering of obedience by Jesus Christ. As the second member of the God-head, Christ did not have experiential knowledge of obedience to the Father. He was submitted to the Father in perfect agreement throughout eternity, however, when Christ took on flesh, He was given a human will that could be placed in opposition to the will of God. I imagine that almost all of Jesus earthly life was lived in total agreement with the will of God, but there were times Jesus will came in opposition to the Father. However, each and every time Jesus submitted His will to the Father.

Luk 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**"

Jesus obviously had a different will than the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, or He would not have said **NOT MY WILL**, by yours be done. In eternity Christ did not experientially know obedience to the Father. He actually had to **learn obedience** when he took on flesh.

Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience** by the things which He suffered.

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Jesus had to learn obedience by encountering situations in which His human will became in conflict with God's. In these times He experienced emotional suffering. We will emotionally suffer to lay down our will for God's. No man has ever always laid down His own will perfectly for God's will, except Jesus. Adam failed in this respect. Eve was deceived, but Adam knew what He was doing when he ate of the tree. [1 Tim. 2:14] He knew he was committing high treason against God. He said a big **NO** to the will of God. This **NO** was called **REBELLION!** This **NO** caused Adam to become a sinner. This **NO** caused all who would come from him to be a sinner as well. [Rom. 5:19] Man was sold into the slave-market and prison of sin because of the **NO**. The only way that man could get out of this prison was that their penalty for treason be paid, and at the same time a perfect obedience be offered that would satisfy God. Sinful man could not offer either one. A slave is paid no wages, so man had nothing in which to pay for their own redemption. Also, they were spiritually dead and unable to keep God's holy Law perfectly as God demanded. Man was in a hopeless state...but God, because of His great mercy and love, had a plan devised to save man. [Eph. 2:4] The Trinity had planned that the second member of the God-head- The Word, The Eternal Son of God, would take on human flesh and redeem man and offer to God perfect humanity and obedience by which man would be saved. Jesus came to earth to save us by His obedience to the Father. He came and learned obedience by the temptations He suffered and was thus made a perfect representative and sacrifice for us. Hebrews says that through these trials and temptations Jesus was **PERFECTED**. Now, Jesus was perfect in the manger and at all times as He grew up, so what is meant He was perfected by learning obedience? Jesus had to be tried in every point in which man had failed. In every situation that man told God **NO** to His will, Jesus came to say **YES** in each and every one of those situations. Did you ever wonder why Jesus was not sacrificed as a baby since that is why He came? Why did He not die when He was 12 when He went to the temple to serve His Father? [Luke 2:42-49] No, He left that day to return with His parents and was subject and obedient to them. Jesus lived 33 years before He died on the cross for humanity. He lived those years being tested in every way mankind had failed and had given God a **NO** to His will. Although Jesus wanted to be about His father's business when He was 12, He knew He had to return home with His parents and be subject to them to fulfill the commandment to honor your mother and father.

[**Luke 2:51, Ex. 20:12**] Jesus lived a perfect life saying **YES** to God the Father every moment of every day for those years. His life was one big **YES** to God's will. Until Jesus was fully tested and fully offered God a total **YES** through every test, He was not yet the perfect representative for us. He was not yet a perfect sacrifice for us. Jesus did not come to live a perfect life for Himself! He had no need of it! Jesus came to do this for one reason. He did it for us and as us, because we needed it! What Jesus did He did as our representative before the Father. On the cross Jesus not only was our representative in becoming sin and bearing all our sins, transgressions, and iniquities, but He also gave to God His perfect sinless life as our representative! Jesus offered up a big **YES** to God for mankind. This was the **YES** God demanded from man. We were saved by this **YES**! Too many Christians are trying to be saved or blessed by their own imperfect **YES** to God. God will not accept an imperfect **YES** to His will. He only accepts a perfect **YES**. God only accepts perfection when it comes to approving and blessing man. Jesus offered it for us and as us! When we accept what Jesus did for us on the cross and believe that He was raised from the dead, we are given the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This is the very same righteousness that He achieved on earth as a perfect man! **Through the obedience of one man, many are made righteous!** [**Rom. 5:19**] Undoubtedly, Jesus was tempted every day by the Tempter, but scripture specifically speaks of **six** temptations of Jesus. Three of these temptations are revealed to us when He went into the wilderness after He was baptized. [**Matthew 4:1**] The scripture says that Jesus was tempted there. Jesus gave God a big **YES** to His will in these **three** temptations. Three more are shown to us when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane. [**Matt. 26:39-44**] It says Jesus came before God **three** times and asked for the cup to pass from Him, but each time, He said not my will, but your will be done. He was tempted three times to say **NO** to God, but instead Jesus gave God a big **YES** each time. There are **six recorded temptations** in which Jesus said **YES** to God. The number six stands for sinful man in the Bible. Jesus offered to God a big **YES SIX** times in behalf of sinful man who had said **NO** to Him. Adam said **NO** to God in a garden and was cast into a wilderness. Jesus came into the wilderness and said **YES** to God and then went into a garden to finish saying **YES** to God where the first man had said **NO**. By the perfect **YES** of Jesus, He has opened paradise and the garden of God for all who trust in Him! Hallelujah!

We are saved by obedience, not our own, but by the obedience of Christ. In the wilderness Jesus overcame the Tempter by **quoting the Law** to Him. Each of the replies of Jesus to satan were taken out of the Law. [**Deut. 8:2, Deut. 6:16,**

Deut. 6:13] Why did Jesus quote the Law to the enemy? He in doing this He was proclaiming that He was the fulfillment of the Law! Jesus came to live out the Law and fulfill it by His perfect life. **[Matt. 5:17]** His perfect life lived in His flesh body was the fulfillment of the Law. His body is what cast the shadow of the Old Testament Law! **[Col. 2:17]** When Jesus died, we died to the Law through Him. **[Rom 7:4]** The Law demanded a perfect obedience from man to satisfy God. Every man who lived under the Law failed in this regard. Jesus came to offer perfect humanity to God. He did this for us as our representative. Jesus quoted the Law, but we are not called to take our stand upon the Law when we are tempted! **We are to take a stand upon Christ and His perfect obedience when we are tempted!** Too many Christians in the midst of temptation try to confess scriptures that command them not to do what they are being tempted to do. They are trying to do what Jesus did! You cannot do what Jesus did! Only Jesus could offer up perfect obedience to God's Law. When we are tempted we must place our faith in Christ and confess our righteousness and freedom from sin and temptation through the perfect obedience of Jesus!

Rom 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be **saved by His life.**

When we got saved we were reconciled to God through His shed blood. However, we still live in a fallen world with temptations. How are we going to overcome them? We overcome by the **OBEDIENT LIFE OF CHRIST!** We will be saved by His life! This life was the obedient life He lived before the Father. Jesus has given us His obedient life that will save us when we are tempted with sin. Sin is rebellion. Temptation then is a solicitation to rebel. Jesus has given us His perfect obedient life through the Holy Spirit in which we are saved. When temptation comes we are tempted to try to offer God our own imperfect obedience to overcome it. Without realizing it we are rejecting the offering of Jesus perfect obedience and are trying to save ourself! When we are tempted we need to rest in Jesus' perfect obedience in which He has already overcome the sin and temptation we face. When we place our trust in the obedience of Christ, which was given to God for us, we will see victory. In the New Covenant we are called to obedience, but not obedience to a set of rules. We are called to the **OBEDIENCE OF FAITH.** **[Rom. 1:5, 16:26]** I do not have time here to teach about this. Please refer to my teaching called **"True Obedience"** under the sermons

section on this website to study the Christian's obedience. A Christian's obedience to God is faith! God sees our faith and trust in Christ's obedience for us as **OUR OBEDIENCE!**

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

Here we have a very interesting verse. It says that whoever we present ourselves to obey, we are slaves to them we obey. Paul says that we can either obey sin which leads to death, or we can **obey obedience** and it will bring righteousness. It is pretty easy to understand obeying sin, but what in the world does it mean we can obey obedience! Again we obey by faith and trust. We are to obey [trust in] the obedience of Christ and experience righteousness when we do this! Whatever is crooked in your life or is being tempted to be made crooked is made straight by faith in Christ's obedience to the Father!

In the next devotion, I want to show you how to win in each and every temptation. It is impossible to be tempted and not deal with thoughts from the enemy. **Each temptation comes in thought form.** Therefore, it is important to know how to handle evil thoughts when they come to us. Most Christians do everything but what the one thing that Word teaches us that we must do in order to see victory. Please read the next devotion called, "**The Obedience of Christ**".