DONE - Week 1 - In with the New: Walking in Obedience: Purposeful Surrender

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1 INTRO

APPLICATION

WELCOME to the SPRING SEMESTER of EQUIP

In with the New - Walking in Obedience

Scripture Anchor:

Blessings of Those Who Fear the Lord

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord,
Who walks in His ways.

2 When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Psalm 128:1-2 (NJKV)

MAIN THEME - True obedience leads to freedom and alignment with God's design.

Opening Prayer
“Lord, we surrender this time to You. Open our hearts and minds to Your Word. Teach us what it means to walk in obedience and trust Your perfect plan. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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APPLICATION

Prompt Discussion:

What come to mind when you hear the word obedience?

Does it feel restrictive or freeing?"

What is Biblical Obedience?

Act of submitting to and following God's will, commands, and teachings as revealed in the Bible.

It involves listening to God’s word, responding with faith, and aligning your actions and attitudes with His guidance.

Obedience in the Bible goes beyond mere rule-following; it reflects love, trust, and reverence for God.

Jesus always emphasized the importance of Obedience:

“If you love me, obey my commandments.

John 14:15 (NLT)

Key Thought:
True obedience is not a burden—it unlocks the greatest freedom and abundance.

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

By allowing God to renew our minds, we move away from worldly patterns of Disobedience and Doing it My Way and are blessed to experience the fulfillment of His perfect will in perfect obedience.

Instead of being restricted, obedience to God frees us from sin's bondage, bringing joy, purpose, and alignment with His design for our lives.

Application: Reflect this week on a specific area of life where obedience to God feels challenging.

Pray for His strength to surrender and trust the abundant freedom that comes from walking in His will.

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APPLICATION

Understanding the Heart of Obedience

Why is trust an essential component of obedience?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Trust gives us the confidence to follow God, even in uncertainty.

Trust acknowledges His wisdom above our own and reflects faith in His goodness and faithfulness.

When we trust God fully, obedience becomes an act of faith and worship, knowing His plans are always for our good and His glory.

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APPLICATION

Transformative Examples of Obedience

Abraham's Radical Faith

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

4 So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT)

Key Point: Obeying Without the Full Picture

Abraham’s obedience was remarkable because he stepped out **without knowing** where God was leading.

QUESTION: Have you ever been called to step out and follow without first knowing where to go?

He trusted God’s character and promise more than the comfort and security of his current circumstances.

Faith isn’t about having every answer—it’s about trusting God’s plan even when we can’t see the next step.

Even 2057 years later, the Apostle Paul referenced Abraham’s obedience.

Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

Romans 4:20-21 (NLT)

Reflection Question:
How does Abraham’s obedience challenge the way you approach uncertainty in your life?

Practical Application Activity

Faith Declaration:
Write a statement of trust inspired by Romans 4:20-21.

"God, I pray that my faith in You will never waver. I trust You fully to guide me in this situation ______________________________

Your promises are true, and I will take this step ________________________ in faith, knowing You are faithful to perform what You've promised."

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APPLICATION

NEXT EXAMPLE OF RADICAL OBEDIENCE

Mary's Complete Surrender

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38 (NKJV)

Teaching Point:
Mary's response to the angel Gabriel reflects complete surrender and obedience to God's will.

She didn't ask for detailed plans or guarantees of how everything would work out.

She trusted in God's sovereignty and chose to obey, even when His plan was far beyond her understanding.

Reflection Question:

How do you typically respond when God asks something unexpected of you?

Action Step:

Write down one area in your lives where you are reluctant to surrender to God's will.

Pray over that specific situation this week, asking God to help you trust Him as Mary did.

How Does Mary's Surrender Connect to Our Walk with Christ:
Mary's response mirrors the call of every believer to fully follow Christ.

Jesus Himself modeled ultimate surrender in His prayer at Gethsemane:

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Luke 22:42 (NLT)

By surrendering to God’s unexpected plans, Mary paved the way for the birth of Christ—the greatest gift of redemption to humanity.

Discussion Prompt: How does Mary's surrender mirror the life of a disciple who must daily take up their cross and follow Christ (Luke 9:23)?

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

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APPLICATION

Modern Application Examples:
Apply Mary’s surrender in today’s context:

Parenthood: A couple trusting God’s timing and provision as they navigate marriage and parenthood.

Career Moves: Someone is called to leave a stable, comfortable job for a faith-based mission or ministry position.

While the future may feel uncertain, responding with Mary’s faith and surrender can lead to God’s blessings and alignment with His purpose.

Health Struggles: A person battling illness may trust in God’s higher plan by choosing joy and hope despite the diagnosis, believing that His purposes are always good.

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APPLICATION

Practical Application: Walking in Obedience

Steps to Grow in Obedience

Listen Intentionally

Cultivate a prayer life and engage with Scripture.

New Example: Find a quiet place each morning to start your day with a "listening prayer," asking God to reveal His will for that day.

Respond Immediately

Delayed obedience is disobedience—act when God speaks.

Reflect on Jonah’s delayed obedience. Although he eventually went to Nineveh, his reluctance caused unnecessary struggle. Immediate obedience spares us from avoidable hardships.

Trust Beyond Understanding

Trust God even when His plan disrupts your comfort.

Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water (Matthew 14:28-31). Trust may require stepping into uncertainty, but Jesus is always there to catch you.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

Find one area where you've been saying, “I know better,” and surrender it to God this week.

Call to Action: Memorize Romans 12:1-2 and recite it daily as a declaration of surrender.

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

Closing Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for speaking to us through Your Word. Help us to trust You fully, surrendering our plans to Your greater design. Give us the courage to obey, knowing that Your ways are perfect and lead to life more abundant. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

8 CLOSING

APPLICATION