



Obedient Living

John 15:1, 10, 11

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

A.W. Tozer wrote: “If you have believed but not obeyed, you have postponed your Christian life.” It is a great thing to trust Christ as your Savior, faithfully read the Bible, and practice prayerful living. Yet, there are next steps in your spiritual journey. One of the most important is doing what God says! Simply put, obeying God is a key factor in your spiritual growth.

In this beloved passage on the vine and the branches, Jesus spoke about obedience. The Greek word that is used here is tereo. It means to keep, to observe, or to heed. For Jesus, it is not enough to know how to grow as a Christ-follower. He wants us to “**obey!**”

In this passage, Jesus teaches us **four reasons** why should we obey God:

I. Obedience is our response to God’s sovereignty

(verse 1)

1. Become dependent on God

“*the true vine*”

2. Let God run your life

“*the gardener*”

II. Obedience is our response to God’s love

(verse 10)

1. God demonstrates His love by His atonement

John 3:16; Romans 5:8

2. We demonstrate our love by obeying Him

John 14:15, 23-24

III. Obedience is our response to Christ’s example

(verse 10)

1. Jesus humbly submitted to God the Father

Luke 22:42; Philippians 2:5-8

2. Jesus faithfully obeyed God the Father

John 14:31; Philippians 2:8

IV. Obedience is our pathway to God’s joy

(verse 11)

1. When we obey God, He gives us joy

Psalms 19:8; 81:10,16

2. When we obey God, our joy is complete

Psalms 16:11

Your Response:

1. Are you living in the will of God? Are you relying on God's sovereignty and not your own?
2. Are you obeying God in every area of your life? In what areas do you need to conform your life to God's commandments?
3. How is your joy connected to your obedience? What needs to change in your walk with God to increase your joy?
4. What would your life look like if you fully obeyed God in every detail of your life?
5. Is there one of God's commands that you have not been obeying? Make a plan with God how you are going to start obeying Him in this.
6. What is one thing you can do this week to apply the truth of this passage in your life?

Resources:

The Liberty of Obedience by Elizabeth Elliot
The Gospel of John by William Hendriksen
The Gospel of John by R.C.H. Lenski
Abiding in Christ by J. I. Packer, Carolyn Nystrom
Secrets of the True Vine by Bruce Wilkinson