

# The Blessings of Obedience

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August 6, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

**Three powerful words from Deuteronomy 28.** vs1-6, 15-19

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**Obedience is an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ my love for God.** 1 John 5:2-3

**Obedience is an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ the sincerity of my faith.** 2 Peter 1:3-11

**Obedience is an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ in my future joy.** 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## **Deuteronomy 28:1–6**

<sup>[1]</sup> “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>[2]</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. <sup>[3]</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. <sup>[4]</sup> Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

<sup>[5]</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>[6]</sup> Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. (ESV)

## **Deuteronomy 28:15–19**

<sup>[15]</sup> “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. <sup>[16]</sup> Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. <sup>[17]</sup> Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>[18]</sup> Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. <sup>[19]</sup> Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. (ESV)

## **1 John 5:2-3**

<sup>[2]</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>[3]</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

## **2 Peter 1:3–11**

<sup>[3]</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>[4]</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>[5]</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>[6]</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>[7]</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>[8]</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>[9]</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

<sup>[10]</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

<sup>[11]</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (ESV)

## **1 Timothy 6:17–19**

<sup>[17]</sup> As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>[18]</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

<sup>[19]</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** What motivates you to obey God?

### **Read and Discuss: Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19**

1. How would you describe the blessings God was promising to the Israelites if they obeyed (vs 1-14)? Why is it right or wrong for us to expect God to bless our obedience in the same way? Where can you see God has blessed you?
2. The curses God promises in verses 15-68 seem to contrast with the blessings, yet Moses spends far more words detailing the curses than the blessings in chapter 28. Why would this emphasis be warranted? If you were an Israelite what thoughts would you have about the offer of blessing or curse based on your obedience?
3. Given the possibility of disobedience, verse 63 says "as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you." How should that shape our understanding of God? How does that impact our sense of intimacy with God?

### **Read and Discuss: 1 John 5:2-3**

4. Why is our love of the children of God, God and our obedience to God all connected? What is the significance of the commands of God not being burdensome? Why then do we sometimes feel burdened by the commands of God? Take a moment to share about a time when obedience was a joy rather than a burden.

### **Read and Discuss: 2 Peter 1:3-11**

5. What does it mean that we are to "supplement our faith" as verse 5 says? How are these efforts evidence of the sincerity of my faith according to verse 3 and 4? What are we being warned about in verse 9? How do we encourage one another to be producing good works without discounting salvation by faith alone?

### **Read and Discuss: 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

6. According to verse 18 how are we to be storing up treasure for the future? How does this stem from setting our hope in God?

**Apply:** Where are you struggling to obey God? How can the truths in God's word help you overcome that struggle?

**Pray:** Thank God together for all he has done. Praise him for the various blessings in your life (feel free to list them). Pray for God to continue his sanctifying work among us and provide greater victory in our pursuit of holiness.