

# Obedience



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## We Show Love through Obedience

Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me" (John 14:21, page 1353).

Each of us should ask ourselves why we obey God's commandments. Is it because we fear punishment? Is it because we desire rewards? Or is it because we love God and Jesus Christ?

We will be much happier if we obey God because we love Him and want to obey Him. When we obey Him freely, He can bless us freely. He said, "I, the Lord, . . . delight to honor those who serve me" (D&C 76:5, page 137). Obedience also helps us become more like our Heavenly Father. But those who must be compelled to obey and then keep the commandments unwillingly lose their reward (see D&C 58:26–29, pages 105–6).

We don't always know the reasons why God gives us certain commandments. But we can trust that our loving Father in Heaven gives us commandments for our benefit, and we can show our love for Him by obeying without knowing why.

God will always prepare a way for us to be obedient, but this doesn't mean that obedience is easy. The prophet Nephi in the Book of Mormon said, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (1 Nephi 3:7, page 6). When we find obedience difficult, we should remember Nephi's words.

## Jesus Christ Obeyed His Father

Jesus Christ was the perfect example of obedience to our Heavenly Father. He said, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38, page 1336). His whole life was devoted to obeying His Father, but it was not always easy for Him. He was tempted in all the ways that we are (see Hebrews 4:15, page 1524).





## The Blessings of Obedience

The kingdom of heaven is governed by law, and when we receive any blessing, it is because we have been obedient to the law upon which that blessing is based (see D&C 130:20–21, page 265). Obedience brings many blessings; disobedience causes us to lose blessings.

The Lord counsels us, “If you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God” (D&C 14:7, page 25).

The Lord promises abundant blessings to those who obey Him until the end:

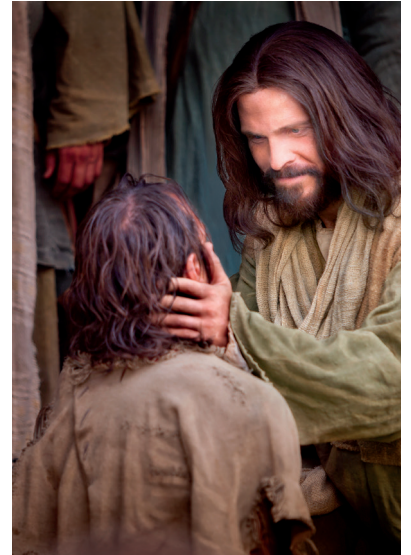
“Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory.

“And to them will I reveal all mysteries, yea, all the hidden mysteries of my kingdom. . . .

“Yea, even the wonders of eternity shall they know, and things to come will I show them, even the things of many generations.

“And their wisdom shall be great, and their understanding reach to heaven. . . .

“For by my Spirit will I enlighten them, and by my power will I make known unto them the secrets of my will—yea, even those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor yet entered into the heart of man” (D&C 76:6–10, page 137).



“I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.”

D&C 82:10, page 151

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UP

### Additional Scriptures

- **John 8:29–32, page 1341; Mosiah 2:22, 41, pages 149, 151** (blessings for obedience)
- **1 Peter 2:21, page 1547**  
Jesus Christ was obedient)
- **D&C 58:21–22, page 105**  
(obey the laws of the land)
- **Abraham 3:24–26, page 38** (we came to earth to prove our obedience)



# Personal Experience

Even though I grew up in the Church and was raising a family in the gospel, I made some terrible decisions that led to a drug addiction. I committed a crime that landed me in the state prison.

My first weeks in the prison were difficult. My cellmate had smuggled in some drugs and was selling them to others. She tried selling to me also, but I had already made a decision to become clean, obey God's commandments, and repent of all my sins. I gained strength by fasting and praying.

I learned that fasting and praying was the way for me to be obedient to God's will at all times. I soon started gathering other inmates together, some of them Church members and others not. We fasted and prayed for each other and our specific circumstances. We attended Sunday services and weekday institute classes together. We sought out priesthood blessings, and we strived to be obedient to the instructions we received in these blessings. I later realized that I was doing missionary work. Odd as it may seem, I have come to understand that it was a blessing for me to go to prison and help others learn the principles of obedience.

I changed from being an opiate junkie to seeking the Spirit every day. I am now back home, and my three children are closer to me than ever. I am grateful for the blessings of obedience and look forward to receiving all my temple ordinances and the accompanying blessings.

"I am grateful for the blessings of obedience and look forward to receiving all my temple ordinances and the accompanying blessings."





What should we do if we feel a commandment is too difficult to obey?

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What blessings have you received in your life from your obedience?

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Write down a commandment that you have struggled to obey. Then write your plan for strengthening your obedience to that commandment.

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Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Offender # \_\_\_\_\_