

The Framework of Obedience

Believing in Christ

- 1 Jn 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
- Acts 16:30-31 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Surrendering Yourself

- Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Loving the Lost

- 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Doing Good Works [faith without is dead]

- Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Growing in Faith [we must make effort to grow spiritually, or we want]

- 2 Pet 1:5-8 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submitting to Authority

- 1 Pet 2:13-15 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

Enduring Hardship

- James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Denying Yourself [the choice of 2 directions: self/world and God]

- 1 Pet 4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Doing Justice

- Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

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Forgiving Others [obeying Biblical truth in broken and difficult relationships]

John 17:20-23 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me/

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

The motivation for making Jesus the Lord of our lives should not be to get ourselves into heaven, to impress God with our spirituality or to try to get God to love us. Jesus wants us to chose Him as Lord because we understand who He is, what He has done for us, and how we can never live our lives without him. He wants us to make this choice out of a selfless motive of pleasing him and not only for what we can get from it.

Disciplines of the Christian life only operate in one who is committed to discipleship.

We must be sold out to him and his purpose in our life before disciplines do us any good. Disciplines or the attempt to walk in the disciplines of the Spirit, will produce nothing put religious peity and self righteousness apart from a passion for God borne out of a heart of love.

Disciplines do not produce holiness... God in me produces holiness.

Religion thinks spiritual disciplines make you a better person: Relationship thinks disciplines are a part of obeying my loving Father, who by the way knows that I have a flesh nature that will destroy me and His plans for my life unless I have a framework of discipline.

Is God pleased with our discipline?? Apart from service, NO.

Is God pleased with our spiritual gifts?? Apart from love, NO.

The first call is always to CHRIST.

The goal is not to be more religious, but it is to be more Christ like.

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Spiritual discipline is a by product of the Christ-life within me.... Without a hunger for God and a sold out attitude FIRST, disciplines will only condemn us when we don't follow them.

The life in God that brings the most peace and rest and happiness and bears the most fruit is one of total devotion and not half-hearted following.

Why ALL?? God has so much better planned for us.

Religion says I give PART of my life...Relationship says I give ALL of my life..

God's Call is ALWAYS ABSOLUTE

- Josh 22:5 "But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."
- Mark 12:30 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.
- Mal 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.
- Prov 3:5-6 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.
- Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
- 2 Cor 2:9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.
- 2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.
- 2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- 2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
- Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
- Eph 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;
- Phil 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,