A Passion for God: A Passion to Obey Him
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I. Introduction.

II. The evolution of a passion to obey God.
   A. It begins with a fear of the consequences of disobedience.
   B. It progresses with a commitment to obey God.
   C. An increasing knowledge of Christ follows.
   D. A desire for God’s best comes from this.
   E. Faith in God’s promises develops.
   F. Recognition of past blessing comes from obedience
   G. Realization of the wisdom of obedience evolves.
   H. Encouragement of others comes from a desire for obedience.
   I. Concern for testimony becomes an influence.
   J. Love and devotion to Christ is the ultimate development.
      1. If Jesus Christ is truly Lord to us, we will make a commitment to Him as such.
      2. One is either obeying Christ or self.
      3. We must choose to obey Jesus no matter the consequences.

III. How we know if we have a passion to obey Christ.
   A. The bottom line of decision-making will be obedience to God.
   B. Instantaneous response to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.
   C. Even when we struggle, the goal is obedience not justification of disobedience.
   D. One’s focus is on obedience to God and not the consequences.
   E. One is determined to obey Christ regardless of the consequences.
      1. God is big enough to arrange the consequences.
      2. God will work good from every circumstance.
F. One is continually seeking to be obedient.

G. One has a hungering desire to know Christ better.

H. The opinion of others will not be decisive in a person’s decision-making.

I. The decisions that are insignificant to others become extremely significant.

J. One accepts adverse consequences joyfully.

IV. Results of obeying God.

A. Suffering.

B. More faith.

C. Blessing.

D. An enlarged view of God.

E. A positive impact on the lives of others.

F. A motivation for future obedience.

G. Increasingly clear instruction.

H. A reverence for God’s faithfulness.

I. A sense of security.

J. Increasing love and devotion to God.

Application questions:

1. How is it helpful to understand that passion to obey God develops?

2. Which tests of true passion for obedience do you find most challenging? Explain.

3. How have you seen your own obedience or the obedience of others end in any of the results listed above?