

# **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?

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

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

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