

Wheel Illustration

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I. Introduction.

- A. There is a difference between relationship with God and fellowship with him. Not all who have a relationship with God maintain fellowship with God. (1 John 1:7)
- B. Fellowship means experiencing Christ day by day. Relationship means accepting Christ.
- C. We are never content. (Ecclesiastes 1:8-11)
- D. There are certain things that produce a satisfying Christ-filled life.
- E. The wheel illustration gives the obedient Christian in action.

II. The rim is obedience.

- A. Obedience is the proof of love. (John 15:21)
- B. Obedience is the key to the abiding presence of God in our lives. (John 14:23)
- C. Obedience is the test of Lordship in our lives. (Luke 6:46)
- D. Obedience is the key to daily abiding. (John 15:5)
- E. Obedience is the witness to the unconverted world. (2 Corinthians 6:3)

III. The hub is Christ, where the action and center is. It carries all the weight and gives power. (Colossians 2:2-3; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:22; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 6:10)

IV. The foundation spoke is the Word of God.

- A. It is the foundation of our salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15)
- B. It is the basis of our assurance. (Revelation 3:20; 1 John 5:11-12)
- C. It is the basis for our witness.
- D. It is our victory. (Psalm 119:9-11)
- E. It is the basis of growth. (1 Peter 2:2-3)
- F. It is our peace. (Psalm 119:165)
- G. It is healing. (Psalm 107:27)
- H. It is life. (Psalm 119:130)
- I. It is guidance. (2 Timothy 3:16; Proverbs 6:22)

J. It is only ineffective if there is regret, doubt or disobedience.

V. The spoke of prayer.

A. God pours into use through the Word and through prayer. (Matthew 7:7)

B. Prayer brings reality to life.

C. Prayer is conditional..Prayer is ineffective if there is regret, doubt or disobedience. (Psalm 66:18; Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; James 1; Isaiah 59:1-2)

VI. The spoke of fellowship.

A. Fellowship has been provided because we have tremendous need for it. (Malachi 3:16; John 17; Hebrews 10:25)

B. There is power in fellowship. (Matthew 18:19; Deuteronomy 22:30)

C. It gives strength, support and belonging. (Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

VII. The spoke of witness.

A. God has limited himself to human means.

B. Jesus promised power for witness.

C. We need people who will witness. (Acts 22:14-15)

D. God chose us to know his will. (John 15:16; Romans 1:16)

VIII. Conclusion.

A. The key to the Christian life is balance.

B. The aspects of the wheel can become real in your life.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean that Christ is the hub of obedience?

2. Which spokes are you the weakest in? Which are you the strongest in?

3. What is your plan for growing in obedience? Explain.
