Attitudes of the Heart
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The Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV)
Attitudes of the Heart

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Preface

Many churches put an inordinate emphasis on outward conformity and reformation and teach very little on spiritual attitudes of the heart. For this reason, when I became the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in April of 2010, one of my first priorities was to teach a series on internal attitudes that the Holy Spirit desires to produce in every Christian. This book is the culmination of that series.

How to use this Book

**Open the Bible.** This book is designed for Bible study. In order to fully benefit from the studies contained here, you must be willing to open your Bible and search the scriptures for answers. These studies are based upon the King James Version of the Bible. If you are accustomed to reading another version you may need to have both opened in order to discover the right answers.

**Take your Time.** The purpose of any Bible study is not to race to the finish line. If your time spent studying scripture does not produce a better understanding of the word of God then it is in vain. Take your time going through these studies. Stop and think about what you’ve read and take the time to apply the truths to your life.

**Reflect.** Throughout these studies you will see the symbol followed by a question. There is no room to write an answer because these are designed for meditation. Take a minute and think about how the question applies practically to your life. Apply the study and be willing to change where God prompts you to. You will also see questions prefaced by **Think.** These were originally questions for open discussion in our church. There are no right or wrong answers for these just your own personal opinion.

**Pray.** Bible truths are only imparted by the Holy Spirit of God. While you study, pray that God would help you to understand and apply His word to your life.

Contact

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Obedience

1 John 2:3-4
And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

In our last study we looked at the foundational heart attitude of Faith. We learned that faith is trusting God based upon His revelation of Himself. Because our faith rests on the promises of God, it is not accurate to say that it is a “blind faith.” Faith is standing firmly on the promises of God as found in His word. It is then trusting Him to fulfill those promises, based upon what we know about His character (Heb 11:6).

What we will see in this study is that faith does not stand alone as an attitude of the heart but it is inseparably linked to another heart attitude – obedience.

ジョン 2:17-20. Q. v17. What is faith if it stands alone?

Q. v18. Because faith is an inward attitude of the heart, it cannot be seen. How can our faith be seen?

Q. v21-23. Verse 23 indicates that Abraham believed God. According to verse 21, how was his belief made visible?
Gen 22:8. Q. What did Abraham believe God would do?

When Abraham offered his son Isaac, he did it in obedience to the command of God while trusting in the character of God (Gen 22:2-3). He believed that God would provide a substitute for Isaac or that He would raise him from the dead (Gen 22:5, Heb 11:19). Each of the men and women mentioned in Hebrews 11 have their faith described by an act of obedience toward God.

❓ Think. What should we think of someone who claims to believe in God but has no evidence of obedience to God in their life?

Salvation – An Act of Obedience

Heb 5:9. Q. For whom is Jesus the author of eternal salvation?

Rom 6:17-18. Q. How did these people become free from sin?

Acts 5:32. Q. To whom has God given the Holy Spirit?

Acts 6:7. Q. How does this verse describe the actions of the chief priests?
2 Thess 1:8. Q. On whom will God take vengeance?

The above verses make it clear that obeying the gospel is synonymous with being saved. It is perfectly legitimate and scriptural to see salvation as an act of obedience on the part of the unbeliever. The unbeliever does not produce this obedience on his own however; it is the result of the intervening work of the Holy Spirit of God. Nevertheless, it remains an act of obedience.

итель. Why do you think salvation can be referred to as both a matter of “belief” and “obedience?”

Saved By Obedience

Every man or woman who has ever been genuinely saved from their sin has been so by obeying the gospel. In order to understand why scripture refers to salvation in this way, we must understand two very important yet neglected aspects of salvation – repentance and the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Repentance involves turning from sin and turning to God (1 Thess 1:9, Acts 26:17-18). It is the obedient response to the gospel’s claim that sin is a violation of God’s holy character and must be turned from.

Acts 17:30-31. Q. What command does God have for all men everywhere? Why?

Luke 10:13. Q. Why did Jesus pronounce woe or condemnation over Chorazin and Bethsaida?
Acts 2:38. Q. After Peter’s powerful salvation message at Pentecost, the gathered Jews asked him what they should do. What was Peter’s response?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Repentance is required for salvation (Acts 20:21, Mark 1:15). Jesus said that without repentance we would all perish (Luke 13:3). Since, according to these verses repentance is a command, it is also a matter of obedience.

Turning from sin to God is in actuality, turning from a life of rebellion against God to a life of submission to Him.

Rom 6:16-22. Q. v17. What were we? ________________________________________________

Q. v17. What did we do? ______________________________________________________________

Q. v18. What did we become? __________________________________________________________

The Bible says that we were once the servants of sin, but have become servants of righteousness. Salvation then, involves a change in who we serve or obey (Matt 6:24). This, in a nutshell, is what repentance is all about.

For the sake of the redemptive plan, God has put all things under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36, Eph 1:22, 1 Cor 15:27, Heb 2:8) and has ordained that all who would be saved, would be so by submitting themselves to His authority (Rom 10:9-10, Php 2:5-11; John 12:26).

Repentance and submission to the authority of Jesus Christ is a matter of obedience. Some might accuse us of “works-salvation” for preaching repentance and the lordship of Jesus Christ. But the fact is, this obedience is the very essence of saving faith. It is not enough to believe the facts of the gospel. The devils believe there is one God (James 2:19). They even believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God (Matt 8:29; Mark 3:11; Luke 4:41). They certainly understand that Jesus rose from the dead and that he is Lord of all (Col 1:16-17). Believing the facts of the gospel does not save us, but responding to those facts with obedience does. Besides all of this, repentance and faith could never be viewed as “works” since they are both sovereignly granted to the sinner by God himself (Acts 5:31; Acts 11:18). Without the intervening work of God, the unbeliever could never be saved (John 6:44).

At the moment of salvation, the believer does not understand all that repentance and obedience to Christ entails. All he knows is that Christ is the only way to be saved, and that He is the one whom God has exalted as Lord over all. As the Christian grows, he learns more and more about what it means to serve God and to obey His Son. The point is, salvation from its very starting point, involves a willing heart of obedience toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

Think. If the above is true, how should it affect the way we present the gospel?
Saved To Obedience

The man or woman who understands that salvation is a matter of obedience to God will continue in obedience. Jesus Christ himself said that this continued obedience is a mark of genuine salvation.

John 8:31. Q. Who are Christ’s genuine disciples?

1 John 2:3-5. Q. How do we know if we know Christ? In whom is the love of God perfected?

The genuine Christian understands that the Christian life is a life of obedience. From the moment we hear the gospel message and God’s command to repent, we understand that He requires obedience. In fact, the very essence of repentance is turning from disobedience to obedience.

Eph 2:10. Q. What has God created us unto? What has God ordained?

1 Peter 1:1-2. Q. We are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God. What are we chosen (elected) “unto?”

God’s plan of redemption includes calling out a people from sin and disobedience to submission and obedience. These are those whom God would create to perform “good works.” The continued, day-by-day work that God does in our hearts by the Holy Spirit is to make us obedient to His commands. Philippians 2:13 says, For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
Obedience is so integral to the salvation plan that Jesus Christ made it central to the Great Commission:

Matt 28:19-20. Q. According to verse 20, what were the disciples to teach others?

Christ told us that we are not only to preach the gospel, but to continue to teach Christians all that he has commanded, encouraging them to a life of obedience.

When you first heard the gospel, was Jesus presented as both Saviour and Lord? Could you say that your current lifestyle could be described as “observing all things that Christ has commanded”? What would you need to change in your life to be able to confidently say that you are following Christ as your Lord and Master?

Obedience, an Act of Love

Sometimes we think of obedience as forced or obligatory, but a Christian’s obedience toward God should not be this way:

John 14:15. Q. What should motivate us to obey Christ’s commands?

John 14:21. Q. What is evidence of our love for Christ?

The word of God is plain, if we love Jesus Christ, we will obey Him. Jesus’ direct statement that a love for Him results in obedience is clear evidence that salvation at its very core is obedient submission to the authority of Jesus Christ. This obedience is not driven by guilt, fear or obligation. It is driven by heartfelt love for God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Christian obedience is a loving submission to the one who loved us and died for us. It is a legitimate attitude of the heart.

Trust and Obey, For There is No Other Way, To Be Happy in Jesus

James 1:22-25. Q. v25. What will the man be who not only hears the word of God, but obeys it?
The word *blessed* here means “happy” or “fulfilled.” True happiness in the Christian life comes from obedience. The most miserable person in the world is a disobedient Christian. He can no longer find happiness in sin, nor does he experience the blessings of an obedient Christian life. Consider some of the following *blessings of obedience*.

**Answers to Prayer:**  
1 John 3:22. **Q.** When can we be confident that we will receive answers to our prayers?

**Spiritual Discernment:**  
John 7:17. **Q.** Who will be able to discern right from wrong doctrine?

**The Presence of God:**  
John 14:23. **Q.** Who will experience the presence of God?

**Stability in Life:**  
Luke 6:46-49. **Q.** v48. What is the man who obeys Christ’s words like?

Many of the promises and blessings that accompany salvation are conditional. That is, they apply only to the *obedient* Christian life. The Christian who fails to obey God’s word, to submit to the leading of the Spirit or who continues in sin, is forfeiting the blessings of obedience. He suffers from instability in life, spiritual ignorance, broken fellowship with God and unanswered prayer. True, spiritual happiness comes only when the Christian lives a life of consistent obedience to his Lord.

In closing, it is important to remember that obedience is not legalism. It is not doing our best to follow God’s rules. It is a love-driven *attitude of the heart*. It is a loving submission to the one who died for us and the outward evidence of our faith.

"True, spiritual happiness comes only when the Christian lives a life of consistent obedience to his Lord."
Review: Obedience

1. Why do you think James says that faith without works is dead?

2. Why is it accurate to say that salvation is an act of obedience?

3. How do the doctrines of repentance and the lordship of Jesus Christ demand obedience?

4. Continued obedience is a mark of genuine salvation but that doesn't mean that a genuine Christian is not sometimes disobedient. How might we differentiate between a lack of salvation and simply being in a backslidden state?

5. Sometimes we think of obedience as something that we are obliged or forced to do. How is Christian obedience different?

6. Why will a disobedient Christian be unhappy?