

## OBEY GOD

(Acts 4: 13-20) (Acts 5: 25-32)

OBEY: To carry out the instructions or orders of; to submit to the control of; to be obedient.

When one becomes obedient to God, there is a submission to his control and authority.

Obedience to God brings you into compliance with him. It gives you character that allows you to yield yourself to him and to become meek and humble to his requests or demands.

When you begin to obey God, you will have:

Opposition

People fighting against you

Persecutions on every side

Dilemmas Inside and outside

In obeying God there are friends and sometimes relatives that you may have to separate yourself from. In scripture Abraham was called by God to leave his country, kindred and fathers house. (Genesis chapter 12)

In Genesis chapter 22, God not only tested Abraham's faith, but he also tested his obedience. He told him to offer up his son as a sacrifice.

When obeying God, you cannot be fearful of man, nor the devil. (II Timothy 1:7) *"For God hath not given us the Spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

Jesus told his disciples in St. Matthew 10:28, *"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

Many people are not obedient to God because they don't know THE VOICE OF GOD. In Matthew chapter 10 Jesus declares himself as the Good Shepherd. If Jesus is the shepherd then we as believers are the sheep of his pasture. His sheep know his voice and a stranger they will not follow.

Sheep always follow their own shepherd. They become familiar with his voice. There can be 10 shepherds calling their sheep, but they will only follow their shepherd's voice. They will flee from the voice of a stranger.

Eastern Shepherds give names to their sheep, as we do to dogs, cats and even horses. Every sheep recognizes his name and comes when called.

You cannot obey God until you understand his voice and know it.

In Acts chapter 1, it speaks of the ascension of Christ going back to the father. It also gives the account of the gathering of the Disciples in the upper- room. Acts Chapter 2 gives the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which was promised. They were all baptized with the Holy Ghost and received power.

Peter preached a sermon after that experience and 3,000 souls were converted and added to the church.

Acts Chapter 3 tells about the first healing by the Apostles since the baptism of the Holy Ghost. After that experience, Peter and John went to the temple at the house of prayer. A lame man was healed that day. In Acts chapter 4, began the persecution of the Apostles because of that miracle. Peter kept preaching and 5,000 more souls were converted and added to the church.

In Chapter 4, is basically where all the trouble started. They laid hands on Peter and John and put them in lock down. They demanded that they not speak in the name of Jesus any more but they had to obey God. After their release they immediately began to speak in the name of Jesus.

In Chapter 5, The Apostles were arrested and cast into prison again, but they kept on preaching.

It is always better to obey God rather than man. OBEY GOD!!!