

## **Bible Study – Real Obedience** **Pastor Charles A. Hall – January 9, 2025**

**Obedience:** Surrendering our will to God. Hearing the Word of God and acting on it. Aligning our will to God's will; it simply means doing what God has asked us to do.

**Sacrifice means: An offering:** To give up, renounce, or destroy, especially for an ideal or belief. It is the release of something to the Lord that we consider is of value. It simply means giving God your time, possessions, and energy in an acceptable and honorable manner.

As we enter into a new year, we give thanks to God for His grace and mercy in keeping us through all the challenges of 2024, and giving us the gift of life in 2025. Truly God has been good to each of us. As a result of God's goodness, we should be more committed to obeying His instructions, guidance, and commandments in the days ahead. If you are like me, I want to grow even closer to the Lord in 2025, than I was in 2024. In order to accomplish this the Word of God tells us that we should be more obedient to His word. In other words, we should not just be hearers of God's word, but doers of His word as well. The manifestation of our life, and the decisions we make are reflective of our obedience or in some cases lack of obedience. God's blessings are a manifestation of an obedient life.

- **James 1:22- 25** (22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. (25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
- **Romans 1:5** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- **1John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous
- **Isaiah 1:19** If ye are willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

One of our greatest challenges in the coming days is to be able to surrender what we want, what we believe, and what we feel is right. Then we must obey God's word as an act of real and absolute obedience to His will. An even greater challenge is to learn to do this on a regular basis without wavering or complaining. This can be difficult to accomplish because we sometimes confuse personal sacrifices with obedience. In other words, we oftentimes give up things that we consider as important to us, so that we can do what we think God wants, rather than seeking confirmation from God's word. This causes us to place more emphasis on the sacrifice rather than the act of being obedient. We start to seek self-gratification in the sacrifices, with little or no concern about whether our sacrifice produce obedience. The word of God tells us that being obedient to God's word is far more important than any sacrifice.

- **1 Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
- **Proverb 21:3** To do justice and judgement is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.