

The Power of God's Promises “The Rewards of Our Obedience”

INTRODUCTION

The word ‘obedience’ often elicits negative and defensive emotions. None of us likes to be forced to do things against our will. But there is an obedience that is good and necessary for our own welfare. Often times that good welfare is hard to see...just think of the 3 year old who doesn’t want to get into their car seat. God’s Word gives us many commands, many of which are counter-cultural and difficult in our own flesh to obey. So, let’s look for the rewards that come from obeying God and how they might spur us to greater love and obedience.

Ice Breaker Question - Optional (8 min):

Share one behavior you were rewarded for when you were a child, and what was your reward?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. The Presence of God - Read Psalm 84:1-4

Q1. How might you describe the 'courts' or 'house' of the Lord (feel free to brainstorm on this)?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16

Q2. Knowing that the 'temple' of God is where the Holy Spirit dwells, and that He dwells in the hearts of His followers, which of your descriptions of the 'house' of the Lord (from Q.1 above), should describe us? Would you now add any descriptions?

Read John 14:21-24

Q3. What is the motivation that should cause us to obey God? What is the reward for obeying God?

Read Titus 3:4-7

Q4. What would you tell someone who thinks that they cannot come to God because of who they think they are or what they have done?

2. The Protection of God - Read Proverbs 14:12

Q5. Would you say that God desires our obedience more for His own glory or for our protection?

3. The Provision of God – Read Matthew 6:20-21, 31-33

Q6. How are you storing up treasure in heaven? Can you think collectively as a group how you might store up treasure in heaven?

Read or recite Romans 8:28

Q7. What similarities do you see between this verse and Matthew 6:20-21 (see above)? How do you think that trusting Romans 8:28 would help you to obey Matthew 6:20-21?

4. The Promise of God - Read Matthew 25:22-23

Q8. What was the reward of the obedient servants? What rewards do you think today’s servants of the Lord will receive in heaven?

WRAP-UP

Read Psalm 84:10-11

Psalm 23:6 “Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (NIV)

As we follow and obey God out of our love for Him, we can be assured that we dwell together with Him. In addition, we know our efforts to obey Him will result in reaping and sowing blessings for today and eternity.

Memory Verse: John 14:23 (NIV). *“Jesus replied, ‘if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’”*

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs (use other side also):

Challenge: Commit to one discipline this week that helps you to ‘fan into flame’ the Spirit dwelling within you. (1 Th 5:19; 1Tim 1:6).