

10:17) Hearing is not sufficient; we must also obey His Word. (Mark 3:35)

Here are the glorious results of obedience to God's Word...

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be **perfect**, **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works.”*
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Spiritual maturity and growth is the outcome of adherence to the Scriptures!

The following are definitions of some of the Greek words God used in the verses above.

Observations: Benefits of the Bible

(Note: Strong's refers to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.)

* **Doctrine** - Strong's G1319 - didaskalia - “teaching, instruction - that which is taught, doctrine - teachings, precepts”

* **Reproof** - Strong's G1650 - elegchos - “a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested - conviction”

* **Correction** - Strong's G1882 - epanorthōsis - “restoration to an upright or right state - correction, improvement of life or character”

* **Instruction** - Strong's G3809 - paideia - “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now

reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body - whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. - instruction which aims at increasing virtue - chastisement, chastening, (of the evils with which God visits men for their amendment)”

* **Perfect** - Strong's G739 - artios - “fitted - complete, perfect - having reference apparently to “special aptitude for given uses”

* **Thoroughly Furnished** - Strong's G1822 - exartizō - “to complete, finish - to furnish perfectly - to finish, accomplish, (as it were, to render the days complete)”

The Glorious Results of Obedience

As you can see from the definitions of the Greek words that God inspired Paul to teach Timothy, obedience to the Scriptures leads to wonderful maturity in Christ.

Embracing our own desires, and accepting logical excuses to dismiss the Word of God will only lead to an ineffective and harmful Christian life.

Will we obey God's Word?

Yes! Like Christ, we will submit ourselves to God.

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“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” (Luke 22:42)

Jesus did not always like the will of God, but He always submitted Himself to it!

Yes, it is true. In His humanity there was an occasion when Jesus did not want to do His Father's will. Jesus did not relish the thought of separation from His Father, while hanging upon the Cross. He wanted to avoid the Cross, if it would have been possible. But Jesus submitted to His Father's will, even though He did not like it.

(Praise the Holy Name of Jesus, for His obedience brought us salvation!)

So what about those times when we don't like the Word of God?

Most assuredly there have been times when we have encountered passages of Scripture that we don't like. Sometimes these verses may appear contrary to a doctrine we favor.

BUT GOD, I DON'T LIKE YOUR WORD RIGHT NOW!

Perhaps they give instructions to do something that we don't want to do.

Whatever the reason for our “discomfort”, these portions of Scripture are most likely the areas where God has the greatest potential growth for us. Will we, like Jesus, submit to the will and Word of God, or will we be disobedient?

What is at stake?

Jesus would have never disobeyed His Father's will, but if he had... our salvation would have been at stake, and no one would be saved.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

In our case, when we disobey God's Word, we risk losing out on the blessings of trusting God.

The Scriptures are not negotiable. We either believe them and trust God, or we don't, and instead foolishly choose to trust ourselves.

Spiritual growth will be hindered and without repentance eventually backsliding will take place. Worst of all, the heart of God will be deeply saddened.

JUSTIFYING REBELLION

God desires faithfulness from His people. He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Many Christians start out strong. They read the Bible, commit to loving and obeying the Word of God, but then the Scripture instructs them regarding something they don't like.

Here is where the problems begin. When the Bible clearly says something contrary to our opinion, we have to make a choice.

1. Will we choose to trust God acknowledging that He knows best?

Or...

2. Will we justify disobeying the Word of God to do as we desire?

What choice will it be?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 55:8)

It is important to remember that God's ways are not like our ways; therefore, it is VERY EASY to justify doing what we want to do. Normally God's plans seem illogical.

If we rely on our reasoning, we will arrive at numerous excuses, validations, logical insights that divert us from the will of God. Our thoughts

and conclusions will serve to distance us from the clear Word of God.

A Form of Godliness

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:5)

Choosing logical reasoning over embracing the Word of God, is a demonstration of a lack of trust in the Lord. If God tells us to do something and we say, “That doesn't make any sense”, we are not trusting God.

This approach to the Word of God will lead us to have a form of godliness with no power!

Obedience to God's Word is powerful. He can and will bring about changes in our lives. We will move from glory to glory and grow in Him.

Disobedience to God's Word brings chastisement and correction; it causes God's displeasure, and leads to negative consequences and a powerless form of Christianity.

The Way of Growth and Victory

TRUST GOD! OBEY HIS WORD!

If you desire spiritual growth, it will ONLY come through loving obedience to God's Word. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) We gain faith by hearing the Word of God. (Romans