

“STEPS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS”

Big Idea . . . Part 6: Adopt the Master’s PLAN (#4)

INTRO: Examining the steps to spiritual success on the abundant life Jesus spoke of in John 10:10. This is the life God intends for all His children to enjoy. So far:

Step 1: Accept the Master’s MISSION to declare the glory of God, resulting in continuous joy for us now and forever (Jn. 15:8, 11).

Step 2: Adopt the Masters PLAN which consists of five keys:

#1 The key to glorifying God is BEARING FRUIT (v. 8). Fruit comes in at least three varieties . . . and varying degrees . . . How progress in bearing fruit?

NF (disciplines)	SF (prunes)	MF (abide)	MF
			

#2 The key to bearing fruit is ABIDING – living in constant communion with Him. Practices: respond to His discipline and pruning. Get in the Word and connect in prayer. Remain humble and dependent

Today, Key #3 The key to abiding is OBEYING (Jn. 15:4-10, 14; 1 Jn. 3:24). Obedience leads to abiding.

I. WHAT IS BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE?

A. Biblical obedience is NOT:

1. Conditional – “on my terms”
2. External only (legalism) – Pharisee’s hypocrisy
3. Intellectual only (Jam. 2:19)
4. Hearing only (Jam. 1:22); Matt. 7:24-27)
5. Verbal only (Matt. 7:21-23; Lk. 6:46; 1 Jn. 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9)
6. Partial - Incomplete

B. Biblical obedience is internally, externally, and unconditionally doing what God says, when He says, where He says, and How He says for me to do it. A “Yes Lord” mentality not “but Lord.”

II. WHY SHOULD WE?

- A. God’s unconditional *love* (Jn. 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Jn. 4:16) – Hymn “Love so amazing . . . my all”
- B. God’s *ownership* (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:15-20 Salvation is a change of ownership)
- C. God *commands* it (Deut. 10:12-13; Matt. 28:20). God blesses obedience (Lk. 11:28; Jn. 13:17)
- D. My *salvation* (1 Jn. 1:6, 8, 10; 2:3-6; Jn. 10:27; Matt. 7:21-23) – Practice supersedes profession. Salvation imparts divine life that seeks to obey God (Phi. 2:12-13). Not perfection but consistent direction.
- E. My *love* for Him (Jn. 14:15, 21, 23) – highest motive – over: fear, reward. Proves I’m in His family (Mk. 3:31-35).
- F. HE IS LORD! NT (750 Lord, 24 Savior), Acts (90 vs. 2). Jesus obeyed to abide (15:10b). He exemplified obedience (Heb. 5:9; 1 Jn. 2:6; Jn. 4:34; 6:38; 14:31).
- G. Obeying is key to *abiding*!

A.W. Tozer “The Lord will not save those whom He cannot command. He will not divide His offices. You cannot believe on a half-Christ. We take Him for what He is – the anointed Savior and Lord. . . He would not be who He is if He saved us. . . without the understanding that He can also guide and control our lives.”

III. HOW CAN WE BECOME MORE OBEDIENT?

Remember Key 3: The Key to Abiding is OBEYING. The key to more obedience is more LOVE (next lesson) – The greater our love for Him the greater our obedience TO Him! Granted, consistent love-driven obedience is often hard to do.

CONC: Phil. 2:9-11 . . . Question is not, “Is He Lord?” but “Am I obeying—based upon love—Him?” The number one proof of our commitment to Christ is internal and love-motivated obedience. How can we better walk in obedience? Our next key! Repeat the first three keys to close . . .