

Portal of Obedience P3

Introduction

In our series of being the portal - meaning a gateway, door or entrance point - we are saying that obedience opens the pathway in which to bring all the promises of God to us, whereas rebellion closes the pathway as rebellion is the sin of witchcraft.

There is: Full obedience, half-pretend obedience, disobedience.

Half-pretend obedience

Isaiah 1:12 *When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.*

Like you and I, these people came before God each week, albeit they came as a large assembly of religious people (**convocations**), each bringing with them their individual worship and sacrificial offering, yet each pretended to be living righteously, but God could see that whilst they were bringing what was required in offerings, their hearts were rebellious and because of this the pathway or portal of obedience closed over them. Though they were full of worship and offerings the root cause of their disobedience was evil deeds, they didn't do what was right, they didn't seek justice or encourage the oppressed, nor defend the cause of the fatherless or the widow, so much so that God told them to get out of His presence.

Illustration: *You and I thinking that God always accepts my behaviour, thinking He loves us just the way we are. When we are ignorant we don't know these things but we are not ignorant.*

Disobedience

Isaiah 1:2-4 *Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.*

You are not the only one to feel the pain of raising godly children only for them to backslide. Israel, like many believers, had become disobedient to God turning their backs on Him and His word. The fore fathers had corrupted their ways (**one generation**) the children now are given to corruption (**second generation**) as they had rejected the ways of God.

When you live a disobedient life like this you open the doorway for sorcery and evil spirits to come near to you. Obedience is something that even Jesus had to learn in order to model the life to the world.

Hebrews 5:7 *During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned **obedience from what he suffered** and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

Jesus' life through His obedience opened up the portal – gateway and pathway - becoming the eternal source of salvation, but only for those who obey Him. Because He learned full obedience we too must learn full obedience so we too can please our heavenly Father.

Point to note: Jesus as a man could cast out demons, raise Lazarus from the dead, He had the power to do this as the Son of God. The power of obedience for Jesus to learn was that for Him to do that which He saw the Father doing. To speak that which the Father was speaking, without the Father speaking, was Jesus working independently of His Father, for Satan knew this power, hence why he tried to tempt Jesus into turning stones into bread.

Jesus was showing us that if you are going to become the portal or the gateway, then you must synchronise your will and movements on the earth with your Father's will in heaven for this is truly what it means to become a portal of obedience.

Many believers don't ask permission from God to do things and when the wheels fall off their lives they come running to God.

Illustration of the merry go round madness of disobedience in believers.

Obedience: **God speaks**, you listen then you obey. When you obey you get good results causing you to go from strength to strength. From strength to strength you then go from glory to glory, this is what it means to be a portal of obedience.

Disobedience: **You disobey**, you get into trouble you cry out for God to help you and God helps you. Once you come out of trouble you easily drift and start going down your own path, doing your own thing again, running your own way and quickly you get back into trouble. You ask God for His help and God bales you out again, you come out thanking God then you give a testimony of how God rescued you only for you to then repeat the same nonsensical cycle. Many testimonies are not testimonies at all but are testimonies of rebellion rather than deliverance.

Matthew 12:43 *"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.*

Remember rebellion attracts evil spirits and those who rebel will dwell in the parch land. God will withdraw His peace, His presence and then you are in true trouble, but with the portal of obedience God opens up a new measure of life, as there are so many things in heaven waiting for you.

The word coming to your life today is the entrance point.

Many of us come to church to listen rather than come to learn how we can change. Those who smoke, drink, gossip, lie and live alternative lifestyles never change despite us hearing the word. Some days we want to change fast, others don't want to change until they are in trouble and then they sing, '***I surrender all***'. We challenge what is said and how it is said, so we don't have to obey. We have words in our vocabulary like, But, What if, the culture has changed, all these are defenceless arguments which show us that we are still not a portal of obedience.

Full obedience.

When God speaks and I act, I open up a passage way, a portal in which for great things to happen.

Pray: Father give me the grace to obey Your voice, to do what You choose from this day henceforth, Give me a soft heart, give me a tender heart. Today when I hear Your voice I will not harden my heart for I will turn to You and obey Your word in Jesus Name.

All you and I have is God and His word, not your car, house, money in the bank, because non- believers have them also, but we must live by two unchangeable facets, which is **God's unswerving nature**, in other words He is the same today, yesterday and forevermore and His ability to be able to do that which His own mouth has spoken.

God spoke one thing and David in his heart heard two revelations such as...

Psalm 62:11 *One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are **strong**, and that you, O Lord, are **loving**. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.*

Isaiah 45:19 *I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.*

Isaiah 48:16 *"Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there.*

God is there at the beginning and the end of that which He spoke.

Seven principles that will help your life

Genesis 12:1-4 *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.*

Promise: God is able to bless you, make your name great, make you a nation, and your descendants will become great.

Whilst Droylsden was insignificant with no promise to become great, God with one man can turn things around showing us this is how powerful you can become when God is with you.

How do we get this blessed life?

Hear and obey the word immediately: The longer you struggle with God's word the more problems will be absorbed into your life. God spoke to Abraham you would have a son but it took Abraham 25 years to get his act together. **Hagar, fear Pharaoh** all got involved in Abraham's life because it took time for him to sort his life out.

Matthew 4:18-22 *As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.*

*Mt 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." **At once they left their nets and followed him.** Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, **and immediately** they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

Peter left his nets and followed Jesus, we must learn to act immediately.

All those who are coming to the School of the Prophets, let me ask you this question: When God spoke to you about going and you said yes, did the money come for you to go? Those whom God has been speaking to have had the money but spent it on other things

Go all the way with God until mission of obedience has been completed.

When God speaks to us it is for everyone not just for one man.

Genesis 11: 27 -32 *Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no children. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his*

son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Terah received the word for him and his whole family, but Terah camped and stayed at Haran showing us they didn't go all the way. Terah died but the word was for the entire family. We must understand that when the word comes to us in this place, it is for everyone of us, this way we are corporately entering in. When I say come to Building in the Spirit and you determine in your heart to do other things this is becoming like Terah as he did not obey and if you don't build you have no protection and safety and if you build your own house - shame on you.

Every word must become a personal word:

Genesis 11:30 *Now Sarai was barren; she had no children. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.*

The Call of Abram Genesis 12:1 *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.*

Acts 16:9-10 When Paul had his vision but they all concluded that this is our vision.

Everything God wants from me he wants from you also, but many say this is Pastor's ministry, God spoke to him and you distance yourself from this word.

Every word you hear me preach you must quickly conclude this is for my life and act immediately. This is why most churches are disconnected from heaven and legacy because people sit and take for themselves when they want according to what their itching ears determine is for them.

All provision is only given when obedience is continued and completed.

All provision will be given to us when we corporately act immediately on that which God is saying. Some of you start off in blessing and then the provision, the job, the opportunities dry up only for you then to come to me and ask why. How many people shut down God and allow their hearts to be driven away by business and when blessing stops they work harder and deeper and we never see them anymore. The record books in heaven are full of people who started well and as soon as blessing came they withdrew and now their very names are in danger from being erased from the lamb's book of life. How do you ever think you are going to enter into this portal with a mentality like this?