

“To bring about the obedience of faith ...” – How do we do that?

- 1) First we gather **raw data**. Our source is God via his Holy Book the Bible. Initial Bible study.
- 2) Then we **process** the data. This is where we observe, interpret and form our theology and doctrine.
 - What does it take for me to obey God in proportion to my stated belief in God?
- 3) Now we **choose** based on our research. Believe? Disbelieve? Obey? Disobey?
- 4) Overall we factor in the **“people are people”** variable.
 - We analyze our gathering, processing and choosing with the perspective of the wisdom of God and the foolishness of humans. Always trust God; never trust ourselves.
 - We use the BETTER, BELIEF and PERSON principles.
 - We question what we actually and truly believe if we do not obey what we say we believe.

• **The BETTER principle:** I will only give up what I have for something better. In the absence of trust and a high view of God, the BETTER principle will overrule even the clear teaching of Scripture.

• **The BELIEF principle:** We obey what we truly believe in and rely on. This principle helps us reference and evaluate our view of God and the Bible.

• **The PERSON principle:** Our obedience is to God. If we are merely obeying a book, a rule or a regulation, then it is certainly more understandable when we do not obey something that we cannot grasp or accept. But our relationship to God through his word is very different. God commands us, directing the course of our lives in ways that we cannot always understand and sometimes struggle to accept. Here then we have the PERSON principle. Do we trust God the Person? Not merely an abstract directive communicated by words on a page. But do we trust God? This is God calling.

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Obedience of faith ... How this works out in real life!

■ The obedience of faith is believing what God says and trusting him enough that we follow through in obedience.

- 1) We obey God in **what we understand**. [Clear instruction such as adultery ...]
 - (Leviticus 18:20 ESV) And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor’s wife and so make yourself unclean with her.
- 2) We obey God in **what we understand but struggle to accept**. [Love your enemy.]
 - (Luke 6:27 ESV) But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.
- 3) We obey God in **what we only partially understand**.
 - We preach the GOOD NEWS OF GOD whether or not we understand predestination, election or the free will of man.
 - (Romans 10:15 ESV) How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!
 - Predestination: (Romans 8:29 ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined ...
 - Election: (Romans 9:21 ESV) Has the potter no right over the clay ...
 - Free will: (Romans 10:13 ESV) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

► Obedience of faith ...

- Faith means to believe in, trust in, rely on. So we are trying to bring about (“promote” AMP) the obedience of what we have faith in, believe in, trust in and rely on.

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