

Obey

The Christ follower is to be so convinced of **WHO** Jesus is and so grateful for **WHAT** Jesus has done that they willingly choose to **DO** what Jesus says!

Those who followed Jesus in the Gospels believed in who Jesus claimed to be and began to do the things that Jesus taught them to do.

They re-organised their lives around the teachings of Jesus.

- They began to be generous with their money and possessions.
- They began to do family different.
- They began to treat people better.
- And they wanted to share their new experience with others.

This new way of living attracted the curiosity of the Jewish religious establishment and Roman society and soon Christianity spread.

Jesus was so attractional to those who followed Him, they willingly embraced Jesus and lived out all that He taught, and they realised it worked!

The lifestyles of the early Christ followers were so contagious that ultimately, it toppled the Roman Empire that crucified Jesus.

They weren't afraid of death or persecution. They were men and women of fearless conviction that **Jesus was in fact who He said He was!**

Obedying Jesus will cause us to give up some things and to change some of our attitudes and behaviours.

John 14:23-24 (NCV) "...If people love Me, they will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make Our home with them. ²⁴ Those who do not love Me do not obey My teaching..."

Our obedience to Jesus' teachings reveals our love for Him.

We please Jesus when we obey Him wholeheartedly.

James 2:24 (CEV) We please God by what we do and not only by what we believe.

Noah is a great example of wholehearted obedience.

Hebrews 11:7b Noah obeyed and built a boat...

*Genesis 6:22 Noah did **everything** exactly as God commanded him.*

When God said I want you to do this, Noah didn't just build any boat. He built it to the exact specifications and design without questioning.

What does it mean to obey God wholeheartedly?

Without Reservations. No holding back. No hesitation. No procrastination. No delay.

Wholehearted also means I do what God asks me to do enthusiastically and joyfully.

Psalms 100:2a (TLB) Obey Him gladly...

It's having the same attitude as David;

*Psalms 119:33 (TLB) Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll **wholeheartedly** obey.*

The Bible says our natural inclinations are the opposite of what God wants us to do.

*Romans 8:8 (NJB) Those who live by their **natural inclinations** can **never be pleasing** to God.*

It's natural for us to be self-centred.

It's normal human nature for us to be self-centred. But God says, *"I don't want you to think that way"*.

Remembering, the Christ follower is to be so convinced of **WHO** Jesus is and so grateful for **WHAT** Jesus has done that they willingly choose to **DO** what Jesus says!