

“Tonight, we continue in our series on *Our Christian Walk*, and the focus God laid on my heart is this:

‘Keep Walking – Obedience in the Midst of Struggle.’

This is a study for those who’ve ever felt like giving up.

For those who are trying to obey God while carrying pain, confusion, or exhaustion.

This is for the one who’s still showing up—still saying yes—even when it’s inconvenient, unclear, or lonely.

Tonight, we’re going to talk about what it really means to obey when it costs something.

To walk when it’s hard.

To trust when it doesn’t make sense.

We’ll see that obedience isn’t just about results—it’s about what God builds in you along the way.

And we’ll be reminded that every faithful step is seen, recorded, and rewarded by a God who never forgets.

So if you’ve ever found yourself walking with tears in your eyes, this one’s for you. Let’s go deep together tonight.”

Our Christian Walk: Keep Walking – Obedience in the Midst of Struggle

“The measure of our faith is often revealed in the moments we don’t understand, can’t explain, and still choose to obey.”

Section I – The Call to Obey: God Always Starts With a Word

Before the walk begins, before the cost is revealed, before the trial ever appears—God speaks.

Obedience doesn’t start in action, it starts in **revelation.**

It begins with a word from the Lord—whether written, preached, or whispered by the Spirit.

This is how God has always worked with His people:

He gives a word.

He gives a command.

He gives a promise.

And then He waits... to see if we will walk in it.

Genesis 12:1–4 – “Get thee out...”

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee...”

God didn’t hand Abraham a map.

He didn’t give coordinates or timelines.

He gave **a word**.

And that word came with a command that challenged **everything Abraham knew**:

- Leave your homeland
- Leave your family
- Leave your inheritance
- Go to a place you’ve never seen

All Abraham had was a word.

And verse 4 says:

“So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him...”

There was no “How, Lord?”

No “When will I arrive?”

No “What if it doesn’t work?”

He walked.

He obeyed.

Not because it made sense.

Not because it was convenient.

But because **God had spoken**.

Psalm 119:105

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

The Word doesn't light up the whole journey.
It doesn't expose every twist and turn.
It just lights up the **next step**.

And sometimes, that's all God gives you: **enough light for one step**.

Obedience is not about having the full picture—it's about trusting the voice that said "Go."

God's Word Always Comes First

Every act of obedience in scripture begins with **a word**:

- Noah built the ark *"according to all that God commanded him"* (Genesis 6:22)
- Moses returned to Egypt *"as the Lord had commanded"* (Exodus 4:20)
- Peter cast the net again *"nevertheless at Thy word..."* (Luke 5:5)
- The servants filled the waterpots *"Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water."* (John 2:7)

Before there was fruit, there was faith.

Before there was proof, there was obedience.

Before there was breakthrough, there was trust in the voice of God.

We Don't Obey Because We Understand—We Obey Because We Know His Voice

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

(John 10:27)

The sheep don't need a map.

They don't need explanations.

They need one thing: **the Shepherd's voice**.

And when the walk gets hard, when the way gets narrow, when the road winds through valleys, hills, and shadows—it's not the strength of the sheep that matters.

It's the **faithfulness of the Shepherd**.

That's why we walk. That's why we keep walking.

Obedience is Born in the Quiet Place

The strength to obey outwardly is forged in the quiet place of prayer and devotion.

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...”

(John 14:21)

We can’t obey a voice we never spend time listening to.

And we won’t walk in confidence if we never sit in His presence.

The walk of obedience begins with:

- **Knowing His Word**
- **Hearing His voice**
- **Trusting His character**

Before the hardship comes, before the valley deepens, before the road winds—God calls. And those who are listening will hear that call and begin the journey.

Obedience is not about the strength of your legs.

It’s about the clarity of your ears.

Can you still hear Him saying “Go”?

Section II – The Cost of Obedience: Leaving Comfort, Facing Resistance

If hearing God is the beginning of obedience, then **leaving comfort** is the proof of it.

Obedience will always cost something. And the moment we say “yes” to God, we are saying “no” to something else.

It might be:

- Our personal timeline
- Our comfort zone
- The opinions of others
- The familiar, the predictable, the secure

But make no mistake: **real obedience interrupts your life.**

Genesis 12:1 – “Get Thee Out...”

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house...”

God didn't just say, "Go."

He said, "Get thee out."

That word **"get"** in the Hebrew ("lekh-lekha") is more than a suggestion—it's a demand. It's a **severing command**.

Abraham was being told to:

- Leave the land that had raised him
- Walk away from relationships that had shaped him
- Abandon the inheritance that would have secured him

This wasn't a gentle tug—it was a **divine tearing away**.

Obedience will often require you to detach from things you thought you needed in order to follow the God who is **all you truly need**.

Hebrews 11:24–27 – Moses Refused the Palace

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt..."

Moses made a costly choice:

- **Refused royalty**
- **Chose suffering**
- **Walked away from temporary pleasure**
- **Identified with slaves instead of kings**

Why?

Because obedience will often **put you at odds with the system**.

It will make you give up what the world values to gain what heaven honors.

Moses left comfort, wealth, privilege, and a title—all because God's call meant more.

Genesis 39 – Joseph Obeyed, and Was Thrown in Prison

Joseph said “no” to Potiphar’s wife.
He chose integrity over indulgence.
He chose purity over passion.

And what was his reward?

Prison.

False accusation.

Forgotten.

We must settle this truth in our hearts:

Obedience does not always lead to promotion right away—it often leads to pain first.

Obedience Doesn’t Always Look Like Victory... at First

Let’s be real:

- Obedience may look like rejection.
- It may feel like you’re going backward.
- It may make others question your sanity.
- It may stretch your faith to the limit.

But let’s also be truthful:

- Obedience positions you for favor you couldn’t earn.
- It opens doors no man can shut.
- It aligns your life with the timing of God.
- It connects your suffering to a purpose greater than you can imagine.

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...” (*Job 13:15*)

Even when it feels like God is allowing pain, even when obedience costs you relationships, opportunities, or comfort—you walk.

Because you trust **Him** more than you trust outcomes.

🔥 Jesus: The Ultimate Example

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

(Philippians 2:8)

Christ obeyed not only when it was hard, but when it was deadly.

And His obedience opened the door for resurrection—not just for Himself, but for **us all**.

Your obedience may not just affect you—it may shift eternity for someone else.

🧠 Ask Yourself:

- What have I refused to surrender in order to obey?
 - Where have I hesitated because obedience felt inconvenient?
 - What comfort zone has God called me out of?
 - Have I wrongly equated obedience with immediate ease?
-

Obedience will take you out of comfort—but it will always lead you into purpose.

It may cost you now—but it’s securing something eternal.

And the pain of obedience is always less than the pain of regret.

Section III – Walking in the Dark: Obedience When There’s No Clarity

One of the hardest places in our walk with God is the space between the **command** and the **fulfillment**—between the word and the result.

This is the season where you’re obeying, but it’s not working like you thought.

You’re walking, but there’s no confirmation.

You’re sowing, but the harvest is invisible.

You’re praying, but heaven seems silent.

This is the **dark walk of obedience**—when your only light is the Word He gave you before the darkness came.

Genesis 22:1–2 – Abraham on the Mountain

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him,

Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

**And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah;
and offer him there for a burnt offering...”**

God had given Abraham the promise. Isaac was the answer.

And now God is telling him to sacrifice the very thing he had waited for.

Imagine the emotional weight:

- The walk up the mountain in silence
- Isaac asking, *“Where is the lamb?”*
- Abraham choking back the answer

This was a walk with **no clarity**, only trust.

But what did Abraham say?

“...I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” (*Genesis 22:5*)

He believed—even in the dark—that **God would provide**.

That kind of obedience doesn’t come from emotional hype.

It comes from knowing **God’s character** more than you understand His ways.

2 Kings 4:1–7 – “Go, Borrow Vessels”

The widow was desperate. Her sons were about to be taken by creditors.

Elisha’s instruction?

“Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.” (*2 Kings 4:3*)

That made no sense.

She had one pot of oil—and was told to borrow **as many empty pots** as she could.

No explanation. No preview of the miracle. Just **“Go do it.”**

Imagine the awkwardness:

- Knocking on doors
- Explaining she needed empty jars
- Gathering containers with **no idea why**

But she obeyed—and the miracle **only came after she acted** in the dark.

Psalm 23:4 – The Shadow Doesn’t Mean the Shepherd Left

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...”

Notice: David doesn’t say God removed the valley.
He doesn’t say God lifted the shadow.

He says: **“Thou art with me.”**

That’s what obedience in the dark looks like:

Not the absence of fear—but the presence of God.
Not the removal of the valley—but the faith to keep walking in it.

Obedience Without Clarity Is the Deepest Trust

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Walking in the light is easy.
Walking when the road is smooth takes no faith.

But **walking when it’s dark...**
Obeying when it’s unclear...
Serving when no one sees...
Worshipping when you don’t feel it...

That’s when God is forming something **stronger than emotion**.
He’s forming a believer who’s grounded in **truth**, not just feeling.

Consider These Questions:

- Am I only obedient when the outcome is guaranteed?

- What promises am I still walking in, even though I haven't seen the answer yet?
 - Has silence from God caused me to pause my walk?
 - Can I trust Him when I don't understand Him?
-

Obedience in the dark is not blindness—it's boldness.

It's not confusion—it's confidence in the last word God gave you.

And the valley is never final for those who **keep walking**.

Section IV – The Formation of Obedience: What God Builds in You When the Walk is Heavy

We often look at obedience through the lens of outcome:

"If I obey, God will bless me."

"If I follow the command, He'll answer the prayer."

"If I sow the seed, I'll reap the harvest."

But the truth is, **obedience isn't just about what comes after the act—it's about what's happening inside you during it.**

Obedience is a **spiritual construction site**.

God uses it to build:

- Endurance
- Depth
- Stability
- Humility
- Faith that doesn't depend on feelings

Every hard step is doing more than you think—it's shaping someone God can trust with more.

Romans 5:3-4 – Pressure Builds Patience

**"...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"**

The word “*worketh*” in the Greek means to **accomplish**, to **achieve**, to **carry out to completion**.

Tribulation—walking in obedience while under pressure—is **producing something**.

God doesn’t waste pain.

He doesn’t overlook struggle.

When you obey and it hurts, when you walk and it’s heavy, **He’s forming spiritual muscle**.

That’s why some of the strongest saints are also the ones who’ve suffered the most:

- They’ve learned to **pray without answers**
 - To **serve without applause**
 - To **love without receiving back**
 - To **trust when it makes no sense**
-

James 1:2–4 – Let Patience Have Her Perfect Work

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Obedience in the trial does more than test you—it **matures you**.

James says: “*Let patience do its work.*”

In other words: Don’t rush the process. Don’t shortcut the path. Don’t bail on the call just because it got hard.

The Lord is building:

- Spiritual maturity
 - Holy consistency
 - A heart that’s **anchored**, not tossed
-

1 Peter 5:10 – Established After Suffering

“But the God of all grace... after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

You want to be:

- **Stabilized in your faith?**
- **Strengthened in your walk?**
- **Settled in your calling?**

Then walk through the struggle.

Keep obeying when it doesn't feel fruitful.

Keep showing up when it's not glamorous.

Because this suffering?

This silent obedience?

This painful walk?

It is God's **training ground**.

God's Greatest Vessels Are Forged in Fire

"Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer."

(Proverbs 25:4)

The refining process removes what weakens the metal.

And in obedience, God is removing:

- Pride
- Self-dependence
- Emotional impulsiveness
- Shaky faith

What's left is a **vessel fit for honor**.

So don't resent the walk.

Don't despise the fire.

It's not a punishment—it's a **preparation**.

Ask Yourself:

- What has obedience exposed in me?

- What old attitudes, habits, or thoughts is God pressing out of me?
 - Where do I feel the refining fire—and am I willing to stay in it?
-

Obedience is not just about doing—it's about **becoming**.

And God is more interested in forming you than in rushing your results.

What He builds in you **in the fire** will hold you up when the storms come.

Section V – The Witness of Obedience: How Your Walk Speaks Louder Than Words

Not all preaching is done from pulpits.

Some of the most powerful sermons are **walked**, not spoken.

In a world filled with noise, opinions, and religious performance, **obedience** stands out.

A believer who obeys God—quietly, consistently, humbly—**becomes a witness** that cannot be denied.

Even when you feel unseen. Even when you feel ineffective.

If you are walking in obedience, your life is **preaching something eternal**.

Matthew 5:14–16 – A City on a Hill

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Jesus didn't say your **words** would shine.

He said your **good works**—your obedience—would shine.

Your walk of obedience...

- In hardship
- In struggle
- In trials
- In seasons of waiting

...becomes **light in the darkness**.

A beacon for others. A guide for the weary. A testimony for the skeptical.

1 Peter 2:12 – Your Lifestyle Preaches

“Having your conversation [your way of life] honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

People may criticize you.

They may misunderstand you.

They may reject your values.

But they are **watching** you.

And the day will come when your steady, consistent obedience causes them to:

- Rethink what’s real
- Respect what’s righteous
- Turn toward the God you serve

Your walk becomes a **silent sermon** they’ll never forget.

Daniel 6 – Daniel’s Faithfulness Under Fire

Daniel was told to stop praying.

He was told to obey the culture.

To go along with the crowd.

To bow to the pressure.

But Daniel obeyed **God**, not man.

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” (*Daniel 6:10*)

He didn’t make a show. He didn’t pick a fight. He simply **continued in obedience**.

And the world saw it.

- It landed him in a lion’s den

- But it also led to a king making a decree that all people must fear Daniel's God

One man's obedience changed an empire.

Obedience is Evangelism Without a Microphone

- The employee who doesn't cheat on hours
- The single person who honors God with purity
- The parent who raises children in holiness
- The elder who remains faithful in sickness
- The teen who refuses to compromise in school

These are not small things.

They are **Kingdom-impacting acts of obedience**.

They show the world what it means to walk with God.

Not just talk about God—but **walk with Him**.

Hebrews 11 – Faith That Still Speaks

“...he being dead yet speaketh.” (*Hebrews 11:4*)

Obedience leaves a legacy.

Even after you're gone, your walk still speaks.

What will your obedience say to:

- Your children?
 - Your coworkers?
 - Your friends?
 - Your enemies?
-

Reflect:

- What is my walk preaching right now?
- Am I living what I claim to believe?

- Is my obedience visible when it matters most?
 - Have I undervalued the power of a consistent, holy life?
-

Obedience turns your life into a living epistle.

You don't just *believe* the gospel—you *embody* it.

And the walk you take today may be the path someone else finds Jesus on tomorrow.

Section VI – The Reward of Obedience: What Awaits on the Other Side of the Walk

Obedience is not glamorous. It's not always celebrated. It doesn't always come with quick results or immediate fruit. In fact, more often than not, it feels like you're walking blind, sowing in tears, and following God uphill with no applause and no guarantee of ease.

But here is the unshakable promise of the Word:

God is a Rewarder.

Not a forgetter. Not a user. Not a manipulator.

He is a **Rewarder**.

And every step of obedience—no matter how painful, inconvenient, unseen, or misunderstood—is **recorded** by the One who called you.

And it will be **rewarded**—either in this life, or in the next.

Hebrews 11:6 – “He is a Rewarder...”

“...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

The word *rewarder* here comes from the Greek word *misthapodotēs*—it means **one who pays wages due**.

In other words: **God will not let your obedience go unpaid.**

It may not come in the form you expected.

It may not come in the timeline you wanted.

But it will come.

Whether it's:

- Restoration

- Harvest
- Breakthrough
- Influence
- Family salvation
- Or eternal glory

God will settle every account.

Matthew 25:21 – “Well Done...”

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Faithfulness doesn’t always look impressive.
But God sees it.

- You kept praying when it felt dry.
- You kept serving when you were overlooked.
- You kept giving when you didn’t have much.
- You kept walking when you were tired.
- You kept loving when it wasn’t returned.
- You stayed faithful when quitting seemed easier.

And to that life of daily obedience, Jesus will one day say, **“Well done.”**

Not “Well said.” Not “Well posted.” Not “Well liked.”
Well done.

Galatians 6:9 – Don’t Grow Weary

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

You will reap.
You shall reap.

But not on your schedule.
Not by your clock.

“In due season” means **in God’s time**, when the harvest is ready, when the fruit is full, when the reward will carry the most weight.

So the command is clear:

Don’t faint. Don’t give up. Keep walking.

Revelation 22:12 – “My Reward is With Me”

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Jesus is coming.
And He’s not coming empty-handed.
He’s bringing **reward**.

Not just for pastors. Not just for missionaries. Not just for preachers.

For the **faithful**.

For the **obedient**.

For those who kept walking when it was hard.

Your work will be weighed.
Your walk will be remembered.
Your obedience will be honored.

Eternity Will Echo Your Obedience

There is coming a day when the road will end...
And you will stand before the One who walked with you every step.

You will see that:

- Every tear had purpose
- Every delay had meaning
- Every sacrifice was worth it
- Every obedience carried eternal weight

**“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,
worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...”**
(2 Corinthians 4:17–18)

This walk you're on?

It's not in vain.

It's not unseen.

And it's not unrewarded.



Personal Reflection:

- Have I doubted that obedience matters?
- Am I discouraged because I haven't seen the harvest yet?
- What reward has God promised me that I need to hold onto again?
- Is heaven still my focus, or have I become too focused on now?

Your walk will be worth it.

Your obedience will be honored.

And when the Master returns, may He find you still walking.

Not perfect, but faithful.

Not celebrated, but obedient.

Not strong, but steady.

Still walking.