

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 118

PRACTICAL ("real-life")  
OBEDIENCE  
– God's People DO Obey

**"PRACTICAL  
OBEDIENCE"!**

! = "DOING" the obedience,  
not just "TALKING" about it!

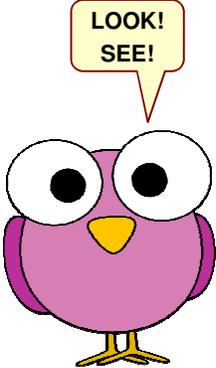
? ? ?

**IS THAT REALLY  
IN THE BIBLE?**

Let's just look at  
the Bible and see  
what it says!

– To start, remember last  
week's theme verse?

LOOK!  
SEE!



↓

Last week, we saw that we must  
guard our hearts  
from all corrupting influences.

Above all else, guard your heart,  
for it is the wellspring of life.  
Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

- **WHY?** Because what's in our heart will  
show itself in our actions.

This is the  
**BASIC PRINCIPLE:**

What is "real" on the inside will  
eventually be "visible" on the outside.

(You can "fake it" for only a limited time.)

**Heart (HIDDEN)**

If you claim...

IN MY HEART, I **DESIRE** TO FOLLOW GOD!

I **DELIGHT** TO OBEY GOD MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

**Actions (VISIBLE)**

We can simply ask...

DO YOU ACTUALLY **DO** THE "FOLLOWING" AND "OBEYING"?

IF YOU **DON'T**, WE KNOW YOU'RE A **FAKE**.

Jesus says it this way:

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit.

Matthew 12:33 (NET)

- This principle applies to all of life
  - yes, even to plants!
- Jesus applies it to people's conduct
  - a reflection of what is in their hearts.

**IT'S GUARANTEED!**

God gave us this principle, and it is never wrong.

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit.

Matthew 12:33 (NET)

- God's sovereignty guarantees it will be this way.
- We can pretend it's not true, but all we accomplish is to deceive ourselves.

People sometimes misapply this principle, and reach false conclusions... when they don't pay attention to Scripture.

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit.

Matthew 12:33 (NET)

An example of misapplication:  
Seeing a person's religious activities, and concluding that he is saved.

- When we do this, it's not the "rule" that is at fault, but our misapplication of it.

**AN EASY TEST!**

- People are prone to self-deception.
  - \*\* Therefore... \*\*
- God gave us an easy-to-apply test, so that we can know with certainty what is true!

We just need to open our eyes and look at the evidence!

OPEN YOUR EYES!



Let's see how easy it is to apply this truth:

**EASY!**

**EASY!**

**EASY!**



✓ Do you claim to be a FRIEND of Jesus?

You are my friends *if you do what I command.*

John 15:14 (NIV)

- ❑ "Do what he commands" = YOU ARE HIS FRIEND.
- ❑ "Don't do what he commands" = YOU ARE NOT HIS FRIEND.

✓ Do you claim to LOVE Jesus?

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, *he will obey my teaching.*

My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

John 14:23 (NIV)

- ❑ "Obey his teaching" = YOU LOVE HIM. (And God loves you!)
- ❑ "Don't obey his teaching" = YOU DON'T LOVE HIM.

✓ Is your claim to LOVE Jesus TRUE or FALSE?

He who does not love me *will not obey my teaching.*

These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

John 14:24 (NIV)

GOD says so!

- ❑ "Don't obey his teaching" = Your claim is FALSE. (God says so.)
- ❑ "Obey his teaching" = Your claim is TRUE.

✓ Do you claim to have SAVING KNOWLEDGE of Jesus?

We know that we have come to know him *if we obey his commands.*

1 John 2:3 (NIV)

- ❑ "Obey his commands" = YOU KNOW HIM.
- ❑ "Don't obey his commands" = YOU DON'T KNOW HIM.

✓ Is your claim to KNOW Jesus TRUE or FALSE?

The man who says, "I know him," but *does not do what he commands* is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:4 (NIV)

- ❑ "Don't do what he commands" = Your claim is FALSE. (And you are a liar.)
- ❑ "Do what he commands" = Your claim is TRUE.

✓ How can we easily distinguish between the SAVED and the UNSAVED?

This is the way God's children are distinguished from the devil's children.

Everyone who doesn't do what is right or love other believers isn't God's child.

1 John 3:10 (GW)

- ❑ "Doesn't do what is right / doesn't love other believers" = UNSAVED (and a child of the devil).
- ❑ "Does what is right / loves other believers" = SAVED (and a child of God).

Does this mean we work for our salvation?

**OF COURSE NOT!**

• Salvation is ALWAYS:  
by grace  
through faith.

**But salvation effects how we live!**

If our salvation is genuine, it will affect what we do:  
It will result in practical day-to-day obedience.

God saved me!  
Therefore, it's affecting the way I live!

My values are changing! And that's changing my conduct!

**Since salvation affects our WORKS...**

- Ultimately, our **WORKS** (obedience, or lack of it) will determine how we are judged!

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

1 Peter 1:17 (NIV)

- Our **WORKS** (obedience, or lack of it) will be the difference between heaven and hell.

... and each one was judged according to his deeds.

Rev. 20:13 (NET)

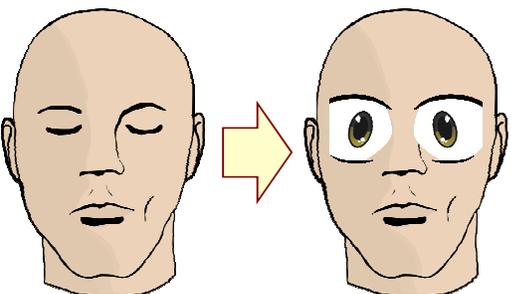
**Practical Day-to-day Obedience**

This principle is the "eye-opener."



- WE just need to open our eyes!**
- We also need to pay attention to SCRIPTURE.**
  - Scripture alone defines the nature of true obedience.

**We just need to open our eyes!**



**Based on Scripture's definition of "obedience."**

A WELL-USED BIBLE IS BEST!

IF YOU ARE THE ONE MAKING IT WELL-USED!



## By this principle...



- We can recognize our own salvation (or lack of it).
- We can recognize other's salvation (or lack of it).

So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.  
Matthew 7:20 (NET)

## Yes, Jesus says we can recognize each other's fruit.

★  
(NOTE THE WORDS "YOU" AND "THEM.")

So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.  
Matthew 7:20 (NET)

Jesus makes it as simple as this:

YOU can recognize MY fruit.  
I can recognize YOUR fruit.

So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.  
Matthew 7:20 (NET)

⇒ As long as we accept God's definition of that "fruit."

- God alone defines what is genuine love for God, genuine saving knowledge of God, genuine fruit of the Spirit, etc.



⇒ Otherwise, we will reach false conclusions.

- Example: Participation in religious activities or humanitarian activities is not the "fruit" that God says proves salvation.

## YOUR MISSION:

- **Open your eyes**, so you can see things the way they really are!



- **FIRST with yourself**, so you won't perish.
- **THEN with others**, who's eternal destiny may depend on whether or not you warn them.

If you're trying to sit on the fence between "**obeying**" and "**not obeying**"...

Let the Scripture passages we read spur you to repentance and genuine salvation!

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