

87. REASONS TO OBEY GOD

We live in an age of rebellion where many people care little about God, seek their own pleasure and ignore God. Many Christians are lukewarm. They are glad to be saved and going to heaven, but they don't care much about obeying and serving God. They are too busy having a good time, and living for themselves than to care about living for Christ and rescuing people from hell.

In order to be saved we must see ourselves as big sinners who have lived for self, wronged God and have broken the chief commandment of Matthew 22:37,38 of not loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and not loving our neighbour as ourselves.

When some Christians are asked to come to church they say: "You are always pushing me to come to church." A truly born again child of God with a new nature should find it a joy to come to church to fellowship with believers and to learn more of the Bible.

We should not ask, "How little can I do for God?", but we should ask: "How much can I do for God?" We should find it a joy to serve God. Consider these reasons to obey God:

1. God created us.

God allows us to live in His wonderful world of beauty that He has created for our enjoyment. To not obey God is to not acknowledge His goodness in giving us all these things richly to enjoy. It is selfish and very ungrateful to take all from God and give Him nothing or little in return.

2. God has goodwill towards us.

God wants good things for us, "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4.

3. God knows what is best for us.

God's ways are better than our ways. God is much wiser and smarter than we will ever be. Often our wishes are based on wrong information.

"I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou had hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:17,18.

4. If we obey God today, then God will open up exciting new opportunities for us later.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10.

Every time we are challenged to obey God, we should view it as a test permitted by God. If we obey God we pass the test and blessing follows. For example, the Abrahamic covenant was given after Abraham passed the faith test in Genesis 13:5-18.

5. If We disobey God in any issue, we fail the test and loss results.

For example, Lot chose the best land for himself near Sodom, but he inherited trouble when he was captured by Amraphel in a war. He later lost everything in the destruction of Sodom.

6. If we disobey God, our children will follow our example and disobey God also.

For example, Lot lost his reputation and testimony before his two daughters and sons-in-law when he asked them to flee from Sodom. "But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law." Gen. 19:14.

Lot's two daughters so disrespected his lack of standards that they made him drunk and committed incest with him.

On the other hand Abraham obeyed God and his son Isaac obeyed God, following his father's good example.

7. If we obey God, our children and grandchildren will be likely to obey God also.

This will bring blessing to our following generations. For example, Abraham was greatly respected for his obedience to God by many generations of people to come.

8. If we obey God, we will be greatly respected by God and Godly people for years to come.

People will remember us with great respect and they will be encouraged to obey God as well.

"The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot." Proverbs 10:7.

9. One act of disobedience leads to more disobedience

This is how bad habits are formed. The devil says "one sin won't hurt." This is a lie, because it is harder to do right after a sequence of giving in to sin. Many people fall into deep sin and trouble after giving in to a lot of small temptations.

10. If we obey god, then God will deliver us from trouble.

"The righteous is delivered out of trouble." Proverbs 11:8.

11. If we obey God, we will prolong our days.

We all like to live a long and happy life. "Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess." Deuteronomy 5:33.

12. Obeying God brings blessings.

"Them that honour me, I will honour." 1 Samuel 2:30.

Our obedience will bless us and our children:

"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever." Deuteronomy 5:29.

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God...and a curse if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God." Deut. 11:26-28. Israel's history proves that obedience brings blessing, and disobedience brings trouble.

13. Disobeying God brings discipline.

"My son, despise not thou the chastening (discipline) of the Lord." Hebrews 12:5.

If we remember that sin will bring God's discipline upon us, we will fear God, knowing that He watches everything we do, approving or disapproving of our actions. God is powerful enough to bring trouble to us if we sin. Therefore we are strongly motivated not to sin.

14. Disobeying God stops our prayers from being answered.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18.

". . . that your prayers be not hindered." I Peter 3:7.

15. Obedying God proves our love for him.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. All Christians claim to love God, but we prove our love for Him by obeying Him in difficult situations and in temptations. James 1:12.

16. God owns us now that we are saved.

We should live to please Christ who died for us. "Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19,20

We are redeemed by Christ's blood. This means that we are now bought back to Christ as our owner from the slave market of sin. "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say." Luke 6:46

17. So Christ will say to us "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21.

If we obey Christ now, He will say "Well done" to us in front of all the believers and angels of all history. If we have disobeyed God on earth we will be ashamed later on in heaven.

18. So as not to be ashamed before Christ in heaven.

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." I John 2:28.

Some believers will be ashamed at Christ's coming because of a wasted life of sin and selfishness. Other believers will have confidence, joy, glory and rewards at Christ's return, because they used their time wisely for Christ and eternity, resulting in many people being saved.

19. Our obedience now, proves that God can trust us with great, exciting opportunities after Christ returns.

"Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21. Disobedience now will rob us of chances to enjoy heaven to the fullest. In heaven we will suffer loss of rewards for unfaithfulness now. (I Corinthians 3:15).

20. We will have to give account of our life to Christ.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12.

How will you explain to God why you disobeyed Him? How will this make you feel?

"For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men." Romans 14:18.

Will you happily explain to Christ how your talents brought ten talents? Will you "occupy till I come?" or will you hide God's talents in the earth, wasting what opportunities God has entrusted you with?

21. We obey God so that we will not be wasters of time and talents.

"He that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." Proverbs 18:9.

"Remember how short my time is." Psalm 89:47.

The prodigal son "wasted his substance with riotous living." Luke 15:13.

To waste our time, talents and money on selfish affairs is so wrong when we see how the fields are white unto harvest, how souls are going to hell, and how so many poor people overseas are wanting the gospel. Time is one of our most valuable possessions. We must use it to win people to Christ and to teach God's Word all over the world.

22. By obeying God, we conquer selfishness and develop a Christlike character.

"Give and it shall be given to you." Luke 6:38.

People who are selfish are difficult to live with. Selfishness is a mark of immaturity. We must become givers, not takers. The more we give, the more we get. To be unselfish is one of the first lessons that we must learn in God's school. When we obey God, we deny ourself, we take up our cross (death to self), and follow Christ (Mark 8:34). Selfish people seeking to "save their lives shall lose it. But whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, shall save it." Mark 8:35.

23. We obey God in order to thwart Satan's planned destruction of our life.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.

Satan is in the business of ruining people's lives by getting them to depart from God, and to go their own way. We should watch, obey God and stay close to Christ lest we fall into Satan's traps set to ruin our usefulness to God and our happiness. Satan wants, at all costs, to stop people getting saved. He does this chiefly by stopping Christians from growing and becoming dedicated soul winners and Bible teachers. Learn to look at life from an eternal viewpoint and to see yourself as playing a key role in changing people's eternal destiny from hell to heaven. If you let Satan defeat you, this means that thousands of people will go to hell. See your life as playing an important, pivotal role in God's plans. You must not desert God's team.

24. We obey God in order to rescue people from hell.

If you fulfil God's plans for your life, you can have a ministry that multiplies millions of disciples for Christ all over the world. These people will **love** you now, and **thank you** forever in heaven **for your obedience** to preaching the gospel.

25. Obeying God brings eternal rewards in heaven. See Chapter 8 on Rewards.

26. To set a good example to others.

We teach by our lips and by our life.

"Your zeal hath provoked very many." II Corinthians 9:2.

We either encourage people to serve God or we discourage people as they follow our example. Godly Hebrew kings encouraged the people to be Godly. Wicked Hebrew kings encouraged the people to be wicked and ungodly. We either bless or stumble others by our example. Let us be the best examples for others that Christ wants us to be.

27. To follow the example of great Christians in the past.

When we remember how the Apostles and many faithful Christians made great sacrifices in the past to advance the cause of Christ, we are motivated to follow their example to win our generation to Christ. In heaven we will meet those Christians and we will be asked: "What did you do for Christ in the spiritual war?" When we think of how many people were martyred for Christ, many of us will be greatly ashamed because of how little we did for Christ, when we had so many wonderful opportunities that others never had.

28. To win our country for Christ.

If we obey God, then our country and other countries can be won for Christ. If we disobey God by being lazy or sinning, then the cults and false religions will spread their lies to win our country for the devil. There is a constant spiritual war going on for the souls of men. We must never give up, but continue in the war for the souls of men. A strong church of obedient Christians will have a mighty impact on the world for Christ. A weak, small church of lukewarm, disobedient, lazy, sidetracked Christians will have little or no impact on winning the world for Christ. What an exciting goal to give your life to. Will you give Jesus Christ your best?

29. We are being watched from heaven by departed Christians who are cheering us on in the war for men's souls.

As in a relay, the past generation of Christians have passed the baton to us for winning our generation to Christ. Today we live at a time where the world's population is larger than it has ever been. We have a great opportunity to win more people to Christ than any previous generation. Believers in heaven are excited by our opportunities today, and are cheering us on to obey God and to win and train more people for Christ.

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight (hindrance or distraction), and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus . . ." Hebrews 12:1,2.

Will you serve God all the more as you read of the cheering in the heavenly grandstands for us to run our race well? Will you be a winner or a loser in God's race of life?

30. You'll be happiest obeying God.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye **do** them." John 13:17.

"Where there is no vision the people perish: but he that **keepeth the law**, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18.

"Behold we count them happy which **endure**. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy." James 5:11.

The aim of life is not to be happy, but to be useful for God. When we are useful for God and accomplish His plans for us, then happiness comes as a by-product. As we make others happy, then we become happy, especially when we see them finding the joy of eternal life in Christ. Those who are constantly seeking happiness for themselves do not always find it. "He that loses his life shall find it." We find happiness and purpose in life as we lose our life in obeying and doing God's will, and in helping others find Jesus Christ.

31. God beseeches or begs us to obey Him.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1,2.

It is only reasonable that we present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, completely burning in zeal to achieve God's good, acceptable and perfect will. Why do people not obey God? Because they want to be conformed to this world. This world will pass away, and only what's done for Christ will last.

"Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

"He that doeth the will of God, abideth forever."

We will be able to obey God if we study the Bible, allowing it to transform us and renew our minds away from the worldly thought patterns of our past. We need to see life from God's viewpoint, not from a worldly, humanistic, false viewpoint.

32. We obey God because of his greatness as God.

An employee who doesn't obey his boss gets fired. "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of Hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, how have we despised thy name?"

a) **Ye offer polluted bread** upon mine altar. v.7. How many Christians today offer God their leftover time, their least effort, their least interest and their lowest enthusiasm?

b) **Ye offer the blind** for sacrifice. v.8. How many Christians give God what they don't want or need, such as 20 cents in the offering.

c) Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? v.10. How many Christians don't serve God unless they get paid. They don't serve God because they don't get paid for it. We should serve God without considering money.

d) Ye said also, **Behold, what a weariness it is**. v.13. How many Christians say how they can't be bothered serving God. They consider it too hard. "**I am a great King**, saith the Lord of hosts." v.14. Malachi 1:6,7,8,10,13,14. We must honour God above all earthly authorities because of the great God, King, Creator and Master that He is. He is God of the universe and we must honour and obey Him as such. It is serious to disobey the God of the universe.

33. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

When Saul disobeyed God in sparing evil King Agag, God described Saul's disobedience as follows:

1. He is turned back from following me. I Samuel 15:11.

2. To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken is better than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22.

3. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

4. Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

5. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king. v.23. Sometimes when we disobey God, God rejects us or sets us aside from being used to achieve His best plan for us. We get second best or set aside completely. This is called being disapproved, or tested and found unacceptable.

6. The Lord hath rent the Kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine that is better than you. v.28.

When we rebel, God may set us aside and use someone else to do the great work planned for us. When we disobey God it is as serious a sin as witchcraft. We must repent of all disobedience.

34. We obey God so as to keep God's protective hedge in place. This ensures our safety.

When we obey God as Job did, who was "a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil", God places a hedge around us to protect us from Satan's attacks. Satan said to God, "Hast thou not made an **hedge** about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" Job 1:8-10.

If we rebel against God, He may discipline us by removing the protective hedge to allow Satan to attack us. This may be what Paul meant when he said, "To deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." I Corinthians 5:5.

“Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” I Timothy 1:20.

Hence, a strong motivation to obey God is the thought of losing God’s protection, and being delivered to Satan to beat us up.

35. Obeying God brings us victory over sin and temptation.

“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” I John 5:4.

If we exercise faith in God’s promises, then we will overcome worldly temptations and we will walk in victory over sin. See I Corinthians 10:13.

36. Obedience pleases God.

Our goal should be to please God in everything. We do this by walking in faith and obedience to God.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him.” Hebrews 11:6.

Jesus said: “I do always those things that please Him.” John 8:29.

Paul said, “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” I Corinthians 10:33.

“If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10.

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” II Timothy 2:4.

“Enoch . . . had this testimony that he pleased God.” Hebrews 11:5. Do you please God in everything?

37. Disobeying God Grieves the Holy Spirit.

“Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.” Ephesians 4:30.

It is a sin not to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18.

38. If we obey God we more easily receive God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5,6. God opens the windows of understanding God’s will when we tithe. (Malachi 3:10).

39. To Gain Peace Of Mind.

“Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165.

People will do anything to get peace of mind and freedom from guilt and fear. Sin brings guilt and fear. Obeying God prevents sin, guilt and fear. We have peace knowing that we are in God’s will whatever the outcome may be.

40. Obeying God makes us Christlike in character.

It produces character qualities such as humility, wisdom, patience, kindness and all the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22,23. It makes us more aware of our faults, more ready to admit any blame, and much easier to get along with others. We should constantly check our behaviour to see if we are obeying God.

41. Disobeying God Is Sin. “Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out.” Numbers 32:23.

A law of the universe is “What you sow, you reap.” Galatians 6:7.

If we sin against God or man, be it by committing a sin, or by neglecting to do what is right, it will have an adverse affect on us. Hence, we avoid sin because we want to avoid the bad consequences that will come back on us. We need to develop a regular habit of always obeying God on every issue, every day. Then we will experience the joy and blessings that come from obeying God.