

The Challenge of Obedience
New Testament Challenge Part 8
4/4/2010

Phil 2:8-9 He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death —his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

Jas 1:22-25 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does."

We are at a crossroads. Am I actually going to take the risk and pay the price to build my life around the Word of God?

Matthew 7:24. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, the wind blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock.

"And everyone who hears these words of mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rains fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell. And great was its fall,"

DANGER: I am capable of self-deception.

James 1:22 "Be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."

Here are three teachings from the Bible to evaluate yourself with.

1. "Love your enemies."

An enemy is simply whoever you don't want to love.

To love another person is to want God's best for them.

2. "Patiently endure trial."

James 1:2-4, My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy because you know that the testing of your faith -- these trials -- if you will endure them patiently, will produce endurance in you.

Heb 5:7-8 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could deliver him out of death. And God heard his prayers because of his

reverence for God. So even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all generously."

3. Resist temptation.

James 1:12 -- "Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted. For afterwards, he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

"Flee from temptation." 1 Tim 6:11

Don't be overwhelmed.

- God will help you.
- Every moment is an opportunity

Memory Verse:

James 2:8 "He humbled himself and became obedient even to the point of death."