

Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 4

Obedience is the Key to Abundant Life.

Phillip Keller said that many of us fail to realize that; “every commandment, law, precept, or principle established by God is for our well-being. His wishes and will are not repressive regulations intended to demean us or diminish our enjoyment of life. Quite the opposite – they are the definitive guidelines which, if we obey them, guarantee our ultimate welfare. They are of divine design to insure us of an abundant life. They release us from bondage to self and to sin. They set us free into the paths of right living in following Christ. They are light to our feet amid the darkness. They are an expression of His love that dispels our despair on the path of our pilgrimage with Him. As we choose decisively each day to comply with His commands in wholehearted obedience, we discover His presence, His love, His life engulfing us.”

To enjoy freedom in Christ we must be ready to submit to His Lordship. Obedience is the key that will unlock the life of abundance that God has promised.

Read Matt 7: 24 - 27

Jesus told the story of the wise and foolish builders to emphasize the importance of building our lives on the right foundation. He said whether a house will stand or fall depends on its foundation. The wise man is one who built his house on the rock (v.25). The foolish man is one who built his house on sand (v.27).

There are only two ways we can build our lives, either build it on the solid rock of Jesus' teachings or build our life on the shifting sands of worldly values which will ultimately lead us to destruction. Someone said what we believe matter, how we build our life also matter, on what we build our life matter most of all!

Questions to ponder

1. Why are Jesus' teachings (especially those in Matt 5-7) like a rock while worldly values and standard are like sand?
2. The two builders differ not only in the foundation their lives are built on; they differ in their response to God's word. How are they different in their attitude towards Jesus' teachings (24, 26)?
3. For many Christians the foundation of their lives is a mix of God's word and worldly values. What percentage of your foundation (values, priority, life's purpose) is made up of biblical values and what percentage is worldly? List 1 worldly value you will discard and 1 teaching of Jesus you will embrace in order to strengthen your life's foundation?