

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

Luke 6:46-49

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted.

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and **hears My words and acts on them**, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has **heard and has not acted** accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great." **(Luke 6:46-49)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Love For God.

- The first and greatest commandment.

"One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'" **(Matthew 22:35-37)**

- We love Him because He first loved us.

"We love, because He first loved us."
(1 John 4:19)

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **(Romans 5:8)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Love For God.

- We love Him because the magnitude of His love toward us.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16 NKJV)

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." **(1 John 4:10)**

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ..."
(Ephesians 2:4-5)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Love For God.

- Those who love Him keep His commandments.

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
(John 14:15)

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." **(John 14:21)**

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.'" **(John 14:23)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

- Be faithful.

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**." **(Revelation 2:10b)**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you ..." **(1 Peter 1:3-4)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Example of Abraham.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."
(Hebrews 11:8-10)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Example of Moses.

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward." **(Hebrews 11:24-26)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Example of Paul.

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." **(2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Example of Paul.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." **(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Hope was Paul's great motivator.

"Are they servants of Christ? – I speak as if insane – I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches."
(2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

■ Hope is our great motivator.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
(Romans 8:18)

"For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it." **(Romans 8:24-25)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

- Heaven is real.

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." **(Matthew 5:12)**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

- Heaven is real.

"... because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ..." **(Colossians 1:5)**

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ..." **(Philippians 3:20)**

- Paradise.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God." **(Revelation 2:7)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

- Permanent home of the soul.

"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." **(Matthew 25:46)**

"Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." **(1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Hope Of Reward.

- Worship and service.

"There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him ..." **(Revelation 22:3)**

- Place of rest.

"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.'" **(Revelation 14:13)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Commanded by God

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." **(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction." **(Proverbs 1:7)**

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." **(Hebrews 12:28-29)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Since our God is a "consuming fire"; those who disobey Him should be terrified!

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.' And again, 'THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.' It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." **(Hebrews 10:26-31)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Paul used the fear of God as a motive for obedience.

"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."
(2 Corinthians 5:9-11)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Threat of punishment.

*"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out **retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed – for our testimony to you was believed."*
(2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Examples of punishment.
The flood.

*"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." **(Genesis 6:5)***

*"Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.'" **(Genesis 6:11-13)***

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Examples of punishment.
Sodom and Gomorrah.

*"And the Lord said, 'The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.'" **(Genesis 18:20)***

*"Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground." **(Genesis 19:24-25)***

*"... just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire." **(Jude 7)***

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Examples of punishment.
Ananias and Sapphira.

"But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

*But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.' And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it." **(Acts 5:1-5)***
(cf. Acts 5:7-11)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Hell is real!

*"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels ...'" **(Matthew 25:41)***

- Hell is everlasting!

"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
(Matthew 25:46)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Our Fear Of God.

- Hell is a place of unquenchable fire.

"If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire ..." **(Mark 9:43)**

- Hell is a place of vile companionship.

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

(Revelation 21:8)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

- Do you LOVE the Lord?
- Do you want to go to HEAVEN?
- Do you NOT want to go to HELL?

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Some have left their first love.

*"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, **that you have left your first love.** Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent."*

(Revelation 2:1-5)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Some no longer hold fast the word.

"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain." **(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)**

■ Some no longer continue in the faith, thus no longer have hope.

"... if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister." **(Colossians 1:23)**

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Some have fallen away from God.

"For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame."

(Hebrews 6:4-6)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ Some no longer fear God.

*"For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,' and, 'A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.'" **(2 Peter 2:20-22)***

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ We must keep the faith!

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

(1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

"Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments ..."

(Deuteronomy 7:9)

What Motivates Us To Obey God?

■ We must remain obedient!

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not **obey the Son** will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* **(John 3:36)**

*"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the **obedience of Christ ...**"* **(2 Corinthians 10:5)**

*"And having been made perfect, He became to all those who **obey Him** the source of eternal salvation ..."* **(Hebrews 5:9)**

How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the word of God

(Romans 10:17; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient

(Hebrews 3:12-14; Matthew 7:21)