

Write Upon My Heart

Obedience

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CHARACTER—WHAT IS IT?

What is character? Why do we say that one person has good character and another poor character, or that someone has character and someone else does not? What is being measured? It is not really a person's actions, for people often make mistakes acting in good faith, and we do not consider that bad character. No, it has to do with who a person is—or has become—by the *habits* that he or she has formed.

Good habits become good character, and bad habits become bad character; and yet character is not just the sum of one's habits. In many cases it has taken only a single bad habit to destroy a life. In other cases, just one outstanding good habit has prevented an otherwise mediocre life from totally crumbling. We cannot know which habit might be our most powerful support, or which might cause our complete downfall. So, the safest venture is to develop as many good habits or traits as we can, especially in areas displacing any habits that we have which may not be good.

It takes work to form habits, but the good news is that once they are formed they are a snap to keep, for then they come naturally to us! How nice it is to be so used to doing the right thing that we actually prefer to do it! *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,”* —Galatians 6:7. Develop good habits when you are young, and you will reap the benefits for all of your life.

Where can we look to find the best essence of good character? How about God's Word? It has the essence of everything good. Jesus was an example of perfect character. *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps,”* —1 Peter 2:21. As we study His life and God's Word, they will give us the guidelines by which to form our own habits and lives.

HABITS—WHAT ARE THEY?

Habits are those things that we do most naturally or instinctively—without having to make a decision, because the decision has been made enough times that we do not have to think about it any more. Things said and done by habit are

sometimes done without thinking.

For example, you do not contemplate whether or not to dress in the morning. You do it out of habit. If you brush your teeth every morning, you do not ask yourself if you should each day. You do it out of habit. Each good habit that we build—diligently—doing the best thing in an oft-repeated situation—is like a fence that we build between ourselves and some sort of heartbreak. However, it requires no effort to develop bad habits, and bad character is exactly what lack of effort becomes. So, a little work early in life can do much to prevent the manifold grief and loss encountered as a poorly formed character limps on through the years of life.

HABITS—THEY BEGIN IN THE HEART

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he,” —Proverbs 23:7a. That means that we are what we think. We say what we think, and we do what we think. What determines what we think? We do. Why do we think the way that we do? We taught ourselves to think that way. Often when people say, “I really didn’t think about it,” they had already taught themselves exactly what to think about “it.”

Each thought makes a tiny connection in the brain like a thread. Each similar thought strengthens that connection by adding another thread. Eventually, the threads become great enough in number that they become a rope. Often a mind becomes bound by such a rope, whether it is a good rope or a bad rope. Habit begins to affect our thinking. We begin to do things almost automatically because what we think is what we will do.

It is important to form good habits *now*. Later may be too late. We are becoming *right now* what we are going to be. We are going to become what we are thinking *now*, because *“as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* Our thoughts are very powerful. We cannot touch them or see them, but nevertheless, they are very real. They are more powerful than our actions because they control our actions. However, we can decide what we think! We can make our thoughts subject to our will and the will of God. We have access to a power stronger than our thoughts—the power of God. He tells how to control our thoughts. *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and*

every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,” —2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

So, why is it so important to form good habits early? Is not God powerful enough to break bad habits? Yes, He has the power to break any habit, but there are very many that He never breaks. The reason is that people grow to like their habits. They begin to hate the thought of breaking them—even the bad ones. People do not like change. The ropes that bind their minds are of their own making, and they are loath to give them up. How many drug addicts live absolutely horrid lives, bound to drugs from which they wish they were free, yet who will lie, cheat, steal, fight, and even kill to continue taking the drugs causing them so much misery? People grow to like their bad habits so much that they often will not let them go for what they wish they could have.

How do we learn not to like our bad habits? By learning to like new ones. Do what is right, and soon you will like doing it. There is a saying, “Your actions will determine your emotions.” We become comfortable with something only after we do it for a while. Another saying says, “Eat olives nine times and you will like them.” Proverbs 16:3 teaches, “*Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.*” Do you want to think rightly? Do you want to feel good doing right even if you do not like it right now? Just do it anyway! See how much it changes the way you think and feel. Replace bad habits and have good character by simply making new habits in place of the old ones!

Lastly, it is not enough to have good character. We can have the very best character, and yet become lost for eternity, for there are none who have not sinned. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the price for our debt of sin. Only by trusting Him will we see the Celestial City.

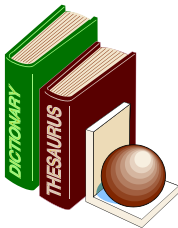
It is said that “character has its own reward,” and so it does. People with good character instinctively feel much better about themselves than people without it. This is a far better and happier way to live. However, this reward pales at the prospect of eternal reward. It is great to have character. But, remember, it is infinitely more rewarding to belong to Jesus, and have character for His glory.

Obedience

*If I must do things my way,
If I do not follow directions well,
If I do not see my job as serving others,
I know nothing yet of obedience.*

God wants His children to be obedient. Imagine for a moment having children who do not obey. Exactly what would that be like? An obedient person is one who obeys what he is told to do—not with questions or grumbling, but cheerfully and promptly. If we obey with a pout or a frown, we are really disobeying in our thoughts and hearts. God wants us to obey happily, and with smiles on our faces. When we obey, it also shows that we love Jesus and we want to serve Him. “*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments,*” —1 John 2:3. Every day we have choices and decisions to make. Will we obey God? Or do we prefer our own way? God wants us to obey Him in every single thing that we do. When we are obedient, we please Him. This shows that we love Him, and that we want to serve Him. “*If ye love me, keep my commandments,*”.—John 14:15. When we obey our parents and others in authority over us, it shows that we love and respect them too.

How do you affect the world around you? Do you offer cheer and trust to those around you by being obedient? Or are you one of those people who has your own way while those around you patiently endure the discomfort of it? Let’s each decide to change our world. We can start by obeying God in all things, and then by making others less uncomfortable—by being obedient.



LEARNING THE TRAIT

The word “obedience” means to comply with or follow the commands, restrictions, wishes, or instructions of one in authority. Synonyms include accordance, acquiescence, compliance, deference, docility, dutifulness, duty, meekness, observance, orderliness, quietness, respect, reverence, submission,

submissiveness, and willingness. To obey is to do what is commanded or required, or to forbear doing that which is prohibited. Look up the definitions of the following words using a dictionary, and write them in the space provided.

Accordance _____

Acquiescence _____

Compliance _____

Deference _____

Dutifulness _____

Submission _____



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Copy the following verse.

1 John 2:3

What does this verse mean?

How can this verse be applied to your life?

BIBLE EXAMPLE



1. Read Daniel 3:1 through Daniel 3:30.
2. Answer the following questions.

(1) What was King Nebuchadnezzar's commandment to his subjects?

(2) What was the people's response?

(3) What was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's response? Explain their response.

(4) How was the king's commandment contrary to God's commandment?

(5) Why did the three men believe that they must risk the king's wrath?

(6) If the king had commanded his subjects to do something else, in accordance with God's law, should they have obeyed? Why?

(7) Does it seem that it would be easier to just obey the king in this situation? Why?

(8) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in a strange land, and under a strange king, and yet they were brave enough to follow God and obey Him. What gave them courage to obey?

(9) Do you think that they were scared? Why did their fear not keep them from obeying?

(10) What shows our love to God?

(11) Explain what you personally learned from reading this passage.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

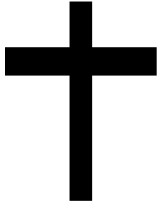
Copy the following verse.

Romans 6:16

What does this verse mean?

How can this verse be applied to your own life?

MORE ABOUT JESUS



Jesus is our example; we want to be like Him. He kept *all* of His Father's commandments. "*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me,*" —John 6:38. He loved His heavenly Father and wanted to obey Him in all things. He obeyed without question and without complaint. Jesus did not *have* to obey God the Father. During the last night of His earthly life, when He was praying to His Father about what would take place, He prayed, "*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done,*"—Luke 22:42. He *willingly* obeyed God and gave up His life for us through obedience. "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,*" —Romans 5:19. By His obedience we were made righteous!

If we love Jesus and want to follow Him, we will keep His commandments. Jesus said to His followers: "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" —Luke 6:46. Do we call Him Lord? Are we obedient to Him? Jesus desires our obedience because He loves us. Our obedience does not benefit Him. It benefits us. It is not only the very best way to live here on earth, but it is the only way to have true happiness and joy. Through it we may abide in real love, His love. "*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love,*" —John 15:10. Never for a moment forget that Jesus was *God*, and He was obedient. Should not we, who are only dust, obey God too?

1. Jesus did not have to obey God the Father. Why do you think He chose to obey Him?

2. Why is obedience "proof" of love?

3. Why did Jesus leave us an example of obedience?

4. Why do you think it is important to follow the example of Jesus?

5. What should we do when we are tempted to disobey?

A STORY ABOUT OBEDIENCE—

GRETCHEN’S WONDERFUL DAY

Isabella Alden

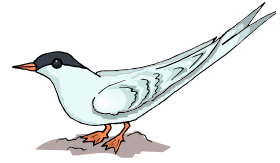
She never knew that it was wonderful. She thought it exactly like other days. It began by her getting up even a little earlier than usual, so that she had time to arrange her hair neatly; and Mrs. Dunlap, the American lady, meeting her on the stairs, said to herself, “The child has very pretty hair.”

But, of course, Gretchen did not hear that.

Gertrude was up early too, and out of the house, with bare feet, and into mischief. That little Gertrude was really the most mischievous four-year-old who was ever born, I do think!

Gretchen was sent for her in haste, and coaxed her in. What do you suppose she had in her hand? A half-frozen bird!

“Poor little thing!” said Gretchen, meaning the bird, and she took it tenderly in her hands, and fed it, and petted it back into life, and bore silently the rather sharp scolding of the housemother for letting the naughty little four-year-old out in the cold. She did not even explain that she was in the outer kitchen, at work on something, which the housemother had sent her to do, and knew nothing of Miss Gertrude’s movements.



“It is a wonder she doesn’t explain,” said Mrs. Dunlap, the American lady, who had been looking on, and knew all about it. This thought interested her so much that, later in the day, she asked Gretchen about it.

“What use?” said Gretchen smiling. “She knew she sent me to another place to work. When she thought it over, she knew all about it; but just then she was tried; and what use for me to try her some more?”

“She is a thoughtful little girl, and good-tempered withal,” said Mrs. Dunlap. But this she said to herself. That half-frozen little bird received much care that day; yet I have never heard that Gretchen neglected any of her work, and she had much to do. Upstairs and down, chambermaid, housemaid, errand-maid, where did *not* her busy feet have to run? She sang, much of the time, bursting into little snatches of happy song when she thought she was out of hearing, keeping quiet as a mouse when anybody was near. “She has a wonderful voice,” said Mrs. Dunlap, but nobody told Gretchen that.

A good deal of Gretchen’s time was spent in the kitchen. Not a pleasant place for a little girl to stay, or so thought Mrs. Dunlap. The housemother had different ideas about kitchens than American mothers. To be sure, everything was neat and clean; but it was in what Minnie Dunlap called “a huddle.” Kettles and pans and pails and dippers, almost without number, were hanging on the walls, and there was the smell of something boiling or sizzling on the great stove all the time. Out of doors the day was bright, and half the children of the town were out enjoying the flurrying of snow. They had come for Gretchen, but the housemother



said, “No, Gretchen had work to do.” She seemed always to have work to do. Mrs. Dunlap, watching her, wondered if she would cry, or look gloomy and pout. She did neither. She was still for a few minutes, and then as she seated herself to grind the black coffee for supper, she kept time to the grinding with an odd little German air that was half sad, half merry. Mrs. Dunlap had come to the kitchen on an errand and saw her.

“Gretchen is a cheerful little thing.” She said this to the housemother, after they had left the kitchen.

“Yes,” the woman answered; she was good-natured always, and why shouldn’t she be? She had plenty to eat, and good clothes to wear, while many another, whose father and mother were dead, went hungry to bed. All this she said in odd-sounding German words, but Mrs. Dunlap understood. The honest-faced German woman, seeing that she had a good listener, explained that while she had only taken in Gretchen out of charity, she meant to do well by her, and teach her to work, and earn her own living. By and by she could go across seas, maybe, and get good wages, doing housework.

“I don’t believe she will,” said Mrs. Dunlap with a smile; but this she said to herself. And Gretchen, thinking everybody was out of hearing, sang on, a happy, cheery song.

Putting all the little bits of that day together—watching Gretchen be tender to the little bird, tender to the mischievous little girl, respectful to the housemother who wasted no tender words on her, industrious, patient, faithful all that busy day—Mrs. Dunlap settled something in her own mind.

It was when Gretchen came to bring her candles, and answered her cheery German “yes ma’am” to a loud call, and hastened away with as quick a step and as pleasant a face as though she had not been called a hundred times before that day, that Mrs. Dunlap said to Minnie:

“I mean to do it.”

And Minnie said:

“Aunt Katie, I’m so glad!”

The next morning the story came out. Mrs. Dunlap, the American lady, wanted to take Gretchen, the orphan girl, “across seas” with her this very fall. She liked her face, liked her voice, liked her gentleness, liked her ways with little children,



liked everything about her, and would teach her about God, and would send her to school, and teach her to sing, and to play the piano, and be a friend and companion to her always. Would Gretchen like to go?

Ah, wouldn't she! I cannot begin to tell you how dearly she loved the American lady.

"Gretchen," she said to her one day when they were on the great ship. "Do you know it was that Thursday, when the first snow came, and the little bird was almost frozen, and Gertrude ran away barefoot and found it, that I, watching you, made up my mind fully to take you home with me? You decided it, my dear."

"Me, ma'am!" said Gretchen with sweet, wide-open eyes. "I did not do anything that day, only just my bits of duties."

Ah! If we only did our bits of duties each day.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might . . ." —Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Answer the following questions concerning the story.

1. Why was it important for Gretchen to obey?

2. How did Gretchen obey?

3. What did Mrs. Dunlap notice about Gretchen?

4. Do you think that Mrs. Dunlap would have wanted to take Gretchen back to America with her if she had not been cheerfully obedient? Why?

5. What do people around us notice when we obey?

6. What do people around us notice when we disobey or grumble while obeying?

7. How are “our bits of duties” and “whatsoever our hands findeth to do” related?

Do As You Are Told

Stephen Girard, the Philadelphia millionaire, was once called on by a poor man who wanted employment. Girard told him to go into a vacant plot of ground nearby, and carry all the stones on one side of the plot to the other side, and the next day to move them all back again.

At the end of the week, when the poor man came for his wages, Girard said to him, “I like you; you have done what you were told to do.”

Trying To Do Right

*Oh that it were my chief delight
To do the things I ought;
Then let me try with all my might
To mind what I am taught.*

*Wherever I am bid to go,
I'll cheerfully obey,
Nor will I mind it much, although
I leave some pretty play.*

*When I am bid, I'll freely bring
Whatever I have got,
And never touch a pretty thing,
If Mother tells me not.*

*When she permits me, I may tell
About my little toys;
But if she's busy or unwell,
I must not make a noise.*

*And when I learn my hymns to say,
And work, and read, and spell,
I will not think about my play,
But try to do it well.*

*For God looks down from Heaven on high,
Our actions to behold,
And He is pleased when children try
To do as they are told.*

Taylor



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Copy the following verse.
John 14:15

What does this verse mean?

How can this verse be applied to your life?

DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM

Read the following example and answer the questions.

Peanut Butter Cookies

“What’s for dinner, Mom?” asked Karen as she came into the kitchen. “I’m starving!” She rubbed her stomach, and went toward the refrigerator.

“Chicken and dumplings,” answered Mom. “And then there is apple pie for dessert. It will be ready in half an hour, so don’t snack on anything; otherwise you won’t be hungry for dinner.”

“I’m starving, Mom!” groaned Karen, and she rubbed her stomach again. “It sure smells good!”

Mom laughed good-naturedly. “I’m sure it won’t hurt you to wait thirty minutes,” she said. “I’m going out to bring in the laundry; it shouldn’t take that long. Will you be staying in the house?”

“Yes, I will be,” answered Karen.

“If you hear the timer go off, let me know,” said Mom as she went out the back door to the clothesline carrying the laundry basket.

Karen walked into the living room and picked out a book to read off the bookshelves. “Oh, I am so hungry,” she thought to herself. She tried to read her book, but all she could think about was how hungry she was. “I’ll just go and check how much time is on the timer,” she said to herself, and she went into the kitchen.

“Twenty-five minutes!” she exclaimed, glancing at the clock. “I’m never going to last that long.” She spied the cookie jar on the counter. Mom had just baked cookies the other day, and she had made her favorite kind.

“Mmmm, peanut butter cookies! I’m sure that it won’t hurt if I just have a *little* something to eat. I’ll just eat a few and that should last me to dinner.”



She hurriedly grabbed a few cookies and ran upstairs eating them along the way. As Karen ate her cookies, she surely wasn’t thinking about what her mom had told her. And what is more important, she wasn’t thinking about what the Bible says: “*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord,*” —Colossians 3:20. And I am sure that the cookies did not taste as good as they would have if she had eaten them with Mom’s permission.

1. Why do you think Karen disobeyed her mom?

2. Did Karen think she knew more than Mom did? Explain your answer.

3. Even if Karen was hungry, should she have used that as an excuse to disobey her mom? Why not?

4. How did Karen treat her mother?

5. What actions would have been more pleasing to God?

6. How could Karen have turned from her sin and done right?

7. Some people wouldn't think that what Karen did would be wrong. Why was it wrong?

Karen did not know the verse that says, “*Be sure your sin will find you out,*” but God introduced her to it that day. When Mom came back into the kitchen, she checked the cookie jar to see if there were enough cookies for everyone’s lunch the next day; she noticed immediately that the cookies were missing, and she knew that Karen was the only person who had been in the kitchen. She would later talk to Karen about her disobedience.

There is no such thing as a *little* sin. The habit of committing little sins grows like any other habit. The night before Dad had read to the family, “*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. Karen must learn to be faithful, just, and obedient now before it is too late.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Copy the following verse.

Colossians 3:20

What does this verse mean?

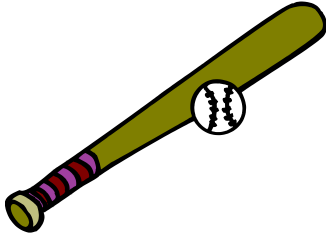
How can this verse be applied to your life?

DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM

Read the following example and answer the questions.

Too Much Fun

“Catch the ball, Pete!” yelled John, as Bill had hit the ball with all his might. “Smack!” the ball landed right in the middle of Pete’s mitt. “You’re out!” Pete yelled. Tim shook his head and laughed as he headed back to home plate. “Okay, Dave, you’re next.”



Dave grinned and picked up his favorite bat; he took a couple of practice swings and stood, waiting for the ball. John pitched the ball to him, and “Crack!” he hit a hard ground ball and took off for first base.

The boys had been playing all afternoon. They had been invited to the Moore’s house for an all-day barbecue, and had enjoyed playing many different games together.

“Boys!” called Mr. Easton from the house. “It is time to be picking up; we need to get ready to go home.”

“Too bad!” said Tim. “We were doing pretty well!”

“Yeah,” said Pete, “I was just getting warmed up.”

“Well,” said John, “I’m sure we could play for a few minutes longer; it wouldn’t hurt. Maybe they’ll let us stay longer if we keep on playing. I sure would like to stay longer. We’ve had a lot of fun today.”

“We sure have,” seconded Dave.

“Shall we take one more turn?” suggested Pete.

“You’re up!” said Dave to Tim. Tim ran and grabbed his bat.

As John and Dave kept on playing, they were thinking: “I sure hope that Dad will let us stay longer. Maybe if he sees us playing and having such a good time, he will.” But they were having a hard time concentrating on the game, and couldn’t ignore the pricking of their consciences. They knew that what they were doing wasn’t right, and they were also wondering if Dad would say anything. Maybe they were remembering the Bible verse, “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right,*” —Ephesians 6:1. They were probably realizing that they were not

pleasing their parents or God by their behavior.

Well, you will be glad to know that after a few minutes the boys and their friends decided to please God and please their dad. They stopped their game, and started to pick up the yard and put everything away. They even had smiles on their faces. Dad was happy that he did not have to tell them a second time to pick up the things. The boys were happy too. Yes, everyone was happy when they decided to obey God.

1. Why do you think the boys did not quickly begin picking up the things?

2. The boys knew they would have to pick them up sooner or later. They would probably say that they did plan to obey, but their intention was not to obey until they had to obey. Is that really obedience? Explain.

3. What was wrong with their reasoning?

4. What important reasons might Dad have had to go home that the boys had not even considered?

5. What was the “root” sin behind their disobedience?

6. What was God's will for them at that moment?

7. What would the devil want them to do?

8. Explain why obedience that is not immediate is not obedience at all.

Obedience

When mother calls me to her,
Although I am at play
Yet I must come directly,
And *willingly* obey.

And everything she bids me
I cheerfully must do;
'Tis not enough to *do* it,
I must be *willing* too.

She always loved me dearly,
She loves me dearly still;

And well I can remember
When I've been sick and ill,

How often she has nursed me,
And stayed for hours awake,
And how much trouble daily
She's taken for my sake.

Indeed I will obey her,
And try to please her too;
Oh, if I had no mother,
Whatever would I do?



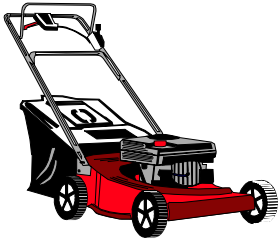
SCRIPTURE STUDY

Copy the following verse.

1 John 5:3

What does this verse mean?

How can this verse be applied to your life?

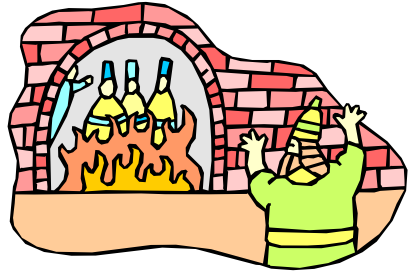
	<p style="text-align: center;">DO IT</p> <p>Whene'er a task is set before you, Don't idly sit and view it, Nor be content to wish it done; Begin at once and do it.</p>
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INSTRUCTIONS IN OBEDIENCE

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” —John 14:15

Obedience is a very important word. In fact, it may be one of the most important words in the Bible. It surely is one of the most important words to a Christian. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, tells us what God expects from us, what God will do to us if we are disobedient, and what He will do for us if we are obedient. In generation after generation, man has either obeyed or disobeyed God. Our generation must now make that choice. I wonder what God will say about this generation? What will God say about you? *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city,”* —Revelation 22:14.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, as we learned earlier, had firmly purposed in their hearts and minds that they would never disobey God, even if it meant their death. Can you think for a moment how they must have felt looking into that furnace full of fire? The men who threw them in died from the heat. It must be the same feeling that thousands of martyrs have felt as they were tied to stakes to be burned for their faith.



Their faith in God and love for God were so strong that no one could tempt them to disobey Him. It makes us look pretty silly when we have a hard time obeying simple instructions from Mom or Dad, doesn't it? If you would like to be a boy or girl of courage, and you would like to have the kind of faith that stands the test of fire, don't you think that you must *begin now* by being faithful to obey in all the little things—the things you are asked to do each and every day?

Without obedience, we cannot please God. In fact, even if we say “we really love God,” and we disobey Him, in truth we do not love Him at all. *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man,”* —Ecclesiastes 12:13.

“Fear God, and keep his commandments. . .”

Our job is to obey! No matter what we *want* to do, we need to obey. Because

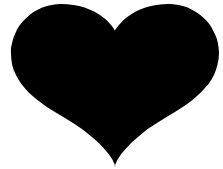
children might not know all of God’s commandments, God has made a way for them to obey Him until they learn. God has given them parents.

As we learn more about obedience, we will learn that there is another sin behind the sin of disobedience. We could call it a “root” sin. A root is the part of a plant or flower that is underground. It is the hidden part that we do not see. It is sort of the “heart” of the plant. The part of the plant that you do see grows or issues forth from the root. A root sin is the underneath sin or the reason behind the visible sin. The root sin of disobedience is always “self-will.” “I want to do *my* will instead of God’s will.” “I think I will do things *my* way instead of God’s way or my parents’ way.”

“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”— I John 2:5-6. Jesus was obedient unto death.

SEARCHING YOUR HEART

Answer the following questions.



1. Can you think of some times or situations when you have a hard time being obedient? What are they? Explain why.

2. What specific things can you do to strengthen these weak areas?

3. What effect does your disobedience have on those around you?

4. What effect could your obedience have on those around you?

5. Talk these things over with your parents. Ask them to help you begin changing. They will be happy to pray for you and remind you.

What Does It Mean to Obey?

*It means Your words, not mine be said.
It means Your thoughts, not mine be thought.
It means Your rights, not mine be sought.
It means Your songs, not mine be sung.
It means Your way, not mine to choose.
It means Your life, not mine be lived.
It means Your will, not mine be done.*

A STORY ABOUT OBEDIENCE—

JESSIE AND HER BIRD

By A. L. O. E.

“Yes, it is open; Mother has left it ajar,” cried Jessie, as she ran up to the green gate which divided her cottage garden from the road. The garden was a large one, but it contained very few flowers, being rather for use than for beauty. Long rows of cabbages and onions, plots of potatoes and beans, with sage and lettuce here and there, took up the greater part of the space. On the wall, indeed, there were peach and plum trees, and an apple tree grew on each side of the narrow path to the gate; but the blooms were now off the fruit trees, and had only left behind them tiny green balls, which looked as if they never would ripen or get soft enough to be eaten.

Jessie pushed the gate wider open. How tempting lay the prospect beyond it! There were the woods, where the pretty wild hyacinth made the ground blue with its bells; and there were the charming little mossy dells, where the stream ran gurgling over its pebbly bed; and there were shades, where the thrush and blackbird were singing, and the merry squirrels were lightly leaping from bough to bough.

“Oh, how tired I am of being left here in charge of this cottage and garden while Mother is away!” cried Jessie. “Here have I been for two long hours all alone, and nothing to amuse me but Ricky, and a tiresome task to learn. I’m like a bird in a cage myself, shut up in this lonesome place. The gate is open, and what can keep me from flying off to the woods? I can hear the merry voices of children playing amongst the thick trees. I’m sure that was Annie’s laugh. What should stay me from running to join them, and being as happy as they?”



“What should stay me?” repeated Jessie to herself more slowly, as the gate on which her hand rested creaked upon its hinges. “Did not Mother forbid me to go beyond the garden when she was away at the mill? Does she not trust her little Jessie to take care of everything at home as long as she is away?” Jessie hesitated for a moment, looked

wistfully toward the green woods, listened to the children's laughter in the distance, then resolutely pulled the gate toward her, though she gave a little sigh as she heard the click of the lock as it closed with a spring.

"I have shut the gate myself, as Mother had forgotten to shut it; I can't go now, if I would. I'm not sorry for what I've done, though I should so much have enjoyed gathering wild flowers with Annie. But obedience, as Mother so often has told me, is the best proof of our love. I want her always to be able to trust me, and to be sure that I'll do her bidding when she's away just the same as if she were here."

Saying this to herself, Jessie Martin turned from the gate, feeling far better satisfied than she would have done had she followed her own willful way. "Can I do anything else for Mother?" thought the little cottage child. "Yes, I could weed a little in the garden; that would make the time seem shorter, as well as the onion beds neater." Jessie was soon busily engaged pulling up chickweed and groundsel, which, though worse than useless where they were growing, would make a nice feast for her bird.

As Jessie, thus usefully engaged, was stooping over the onions, she heard a familiar "Tweet, tweet!" behind her. Jessie raised her head and looked around. To her surprise and alarm, what should she see but her own little Ricky, perched on an apple tree bough! The door of his cage, like the garden gate, had been left unfastened; the little prisoner had spread his wings and taken flight into the free open air.

"Oh, Ricky has escaped! What shall I do?" cried poor Jessie, wringing her hands in distress; for the bird had perched far above her reach, and she feared that his next flight would be over the gate, and into the woods. "How shall I ever catch him again? He will fly away—away where I never can get him; the wild birds will attack him and chase him; my pretty Ricky will be pecked to death!"

Ricky was very tame. He was accustomed to feed out of the hand of his little mistress, and would even peck at a lump of sugar when it was placed between Jessie's lips. Was it not possible then that he might come at her call, and so be saved from the terrible fate which she dreaded for him so much? Jessie approached the apple tree on tiptoe, holding out, to entice the bird, the chickweed which she had gathered. But Ricky shook his wings, and his "Tweet! Tweet!" seemed to say, "I can pick up such dainties for myself; I am a free bird now!"

Jessie trembled for the poor little creature, to whom freedom so soon might be

death. It was from no unkindness or selfishness that she had kept Ricky so long in a cage. The bird had been reared in the cottage from the time when he, a little unfledged gaping creature, had tumbled out of his mother's nest. Jessie had nursed him, tended him, and cared for him. Ricky had never wanted for anything that his little mistress could give him.

"Oh, Ricky, Ricky! Will you desert me?" cried Jessie. The bird appeared to be listening; he cocked his round head on one side, looked at her with his bright black eye, and chirped in a tone that seemed to express, "I've not quite made up my mind." Jessie ventured one step nearer, chirped to her pet, held out her hand, and chirped again. Ricky shook himself, then suddenly spread his wings and flew—away to the woods? No, no!—right into the little one's bosom, where he had nestled so often. In a moment Jessie's hand was laid softly but firmly upon him; the danger was over, her pet was safe, and with an exclamation of joy, the girl ran back with him to the cottage.

When Jessie had carefully closed the door, so that Ricky could not escape again into the open air, she feasted him on a bit of sweet cake, which had been given to her by her mother.

"Ah, Ricky," said the little cottage maiden. "It is well both for you and for me that I did not play truant today—that I stopped and weeded the onions, instead of gathering flowers in the wood. Had I run off to play, I should have lost my pretty little bird, I should have lost my mother's trust; I should have had a short time of pleasure, followed by sorrow and loss. *Love was the string* that kept us both from wandering away; the birdie obeyed his mistress's call, and the little girl thought of her mother."

Answer the following questions regarding the story.

1. Why did Jessie's mother trust her?

2. Why was it hard for Jessie to make the decision that she did?

3. What would have happened if Jessie had disobeyed?

4. Would her mother still have trusted her if she had disobeyed? Why not?

5. How did Jessie show her love to her mother?

6. How do we show our love to our parents?

7. Besides obeying her mother, what else did Jessie do?

8. What can we do when we obey, to make another's job easier?

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”— 2 Corinthians 10:5

Even our thoughts must be brought under the authority of God. We are to think what God wants us to think. The Bible is full of admonitions concerning our thought lives. Can you think of at least three?

DECISIONS TO MAKE

Decisions are choices that we make. We are responsible for them. We can blame no one else but ourselves when we make wrong decisions. Our aim or goal should be to make good, godly decisions. Won't you decide now to—



1. Obey in all things.
2. Obey immediately.
3. Do not yield to temptation.
4. Obey willingly and with a good attitude.
5. Obey even when Mom and Dad are not around.
6. Keep your thought life under God's authority.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Copy the following verse.

John 15:10

What does this verse mean?

How can this verse be applied to your life?

“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 for ever!”

—Deuteronomy 5:29

A STORY ABOUT OBEDIENCE—

IT DOESN'T MATTER

By Mary R. Jarvis

“Harold, go down to the Lower Fold and fasten up all the chicken coops and the henhouse door. Jem is away at the market with your father, and Jane is busy. Be sure you do it properly, and come straight back; baby seems so poorly tonight.”

And Mrs. Hayes turned in her weary walk to and fro, and began again to sing the old cradle song with which she was trying to soothe May to sleep.

Harold dearly loved his little sister, and kissed her soft fingers now as he went out, saying cheerily—

“All right, Mother, I’ll see the chickabiddies to bed in no time.”

He crossed the farmyard where the sweet-smelling ricks told of hay harvest safely over, and where the ducks were waddling home from the pond, quacking “good night” to each other as they passed; then through the orchard behind and over a stile into the lane.

A little way down was the five-barred gate that led to the Lower Fold, but at the stile several boys were waiting.

“Here, Harold, we were just looking for you! We are all going to sail our boats down at Brook Hollow. Come along, it will be such fun!”

“But I can’t come,” said Harold, regretfully. “I’ve got the fowls to see to, and Mother told me not to be long. Baby May isn’t well.”

“Well, you can be back in a jiffy. We can get there in a quarter of an hour, have some fun, and be home by eight. The fowls won’t hurt. Ours have to take their chance all hours, I can tell you!” And Ned laughed carelessly, as he seized Harold’s arm and turned him round.

“Perhaps it doesn’t matter for half an hour,” said Harold, hesitating. “Only Mother said—”

“Matter? Of course not!” broke in Ned rudely. “Come along; you’re not a nursemaid to be tied down like that!”

Fear of ridicule swept away Harold’s misgivings, and soon all four boys were hurrying to the Hollow, a mile away. There, in the fascination of racing the boats against each other, more than three half hours went by.

But the deepening darkness warned them of home and suppertime, and Harold's conscience, that had given him little stabs of reminder all the time, now woke up in good earnest.

"Look here, boys, I'm off home, and I'm sorry I came." And Harold darted away, followed by the mocking laughter of his comrades.

"I won't stop to go for a lantern and see to the fowls now," he said as he crossed the yard, "it doesn't matter if they are left for once!"

There was a bright light in his mother's room, and on the stairs he overtook Jane toiling up with a heavy pail of hot water.

"Oh, Master Harold, where have you been? Missus is in such a way, for baby's in a fit. And I'm all strange to the place and don't know where the doctor lives, and Master and Jem ain't got home yet. Oh, dear, dear!"

Before she had finished her incoherent tale, Harold was at his mother's side. And he never knew afterward which hurt him most—the reproach and grief on his mother's white face, or the sight of his baby sister in the agony of convulsions.

"Run for the doctor at once, Harold. Oh, how could you be so long?"

Cut to the heart, Harold flew down the stairs and ran as he had never run before, down the lane and across the meadows that were the shortcut to the doctor's house in the next village.

Fortunately, he was at home, and came at once. The warm bath had relieved the worst symptoms, but it was hours before baby was out of danger. And nobody slept much that night.

Just as Harold and his father were sitting down to an early breakfast next morning, Jane came in with coffee, and said bluntly:

"You never fastened up them fowls last night, Master Harold; and Jem says the rats have been and fetched seven out of the eight Leghorn chicks your mother set such store by."

Then the whole story of Harold's disobedience came out, and grieved the good farmer looked as he listened to the boy's sorrowful confession.

"Let it teach you a lesson, Harold, that will last your lifetime. Never say again about the smallest duty that, 'It doesn't matter.' And remember always that, '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.'"

Answer the following questions regarding the story.

1. What fear kept Harold from obeying his mother?

2. Why would fear keep someone from obeying?

3. What were some of the consequences of Harold's disobedience?

4. How would things have been different if Harold had obeyed?

5. Why should we *never* say, even about the smallest duty, "It doesn't matter"?

6. Why is it very important to be faithful in the little things?

When you are tempted to disobey, stop and ask yourself what thoughts are prompting you to disobey? Are they "fear" thoughts? Are those thoughts worth disobeying your parents and your God? The Bible teaches us to fear God and not man.

THINGS TO DO

It's one thing to study a character trait, learn definitions, and ponder Scriptures. It is another thing to put those ideas into action and make them a part of your life. Following is a list of things that you can do to build the habit of obedience into your life. Complete as many items as you can (no fewer than four) from the following list.

1. Memorize Colossians 3:20
2. Memorize Ephesians 6:1-3
3. Write an essay on a biblical example of obedience.
4. Practice obeying immediately.
5. Finish all your jobs this week promptly.
6. Do something for your mother before she tells you to do it.
7. Do something for your father before he tells you to do it.
8. Do your jobs and your schoolwork happily, without being asked for one week.

If washed in Jesus' blood,
Then bear His likeness too!
As you onward press,
Ask "What would Jesus do?"

Remember . . .

When you have a task before you—

- ✓ Never say, "No." That is the opposite of obedience.
- ✓ Never say, "I'll do it later." That almost always turns out to be disobedience plus lying.
- ✓ **Never** say, "But—" as making excuses is just a sneaky kind of disobedience.

Do say . . .

- ✓ "Yes, Sir."
- ✓ "I'll do that right now."

If Father and Mother are not around, do say . . .

- ✓ "This is what my parents would like me to do."
- ✓ "This would please my parents."
- ✓ "This is what God would want me to do."

Trust and Obey

JOHN H. SAMMIS

DANIEL B. TOWNER

1. When we walk with the Lord In the Light of His Word What a glo - ry He
2. Not a shad - ow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quick - ly
3. Not a bur - den we bear, Not a sor - row we share, But our toil He doth
4. But we nev - er can prove The de - lights of His love Un - til all on the
5. Then in fel - low - ship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His

sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a - bides with us still,
drives it a - way; Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear,
rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown or a cross,
al - tar we lay; For the fa - vor He shows, And the joy He be - stows,
side in the way; What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go, —

And with all who will trust and o - bey.
Can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
But is blessed if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er
Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

Can you find these words in the puzzle?

cheerfully

commands

comply

dad

directions

do as directed

grandparents

instructions

mom

obedience

obey

obeying

parents

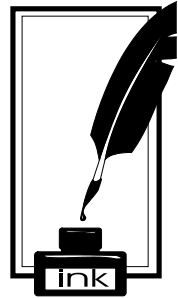
promptly

submit

D O A S D I R E C T E D U S O
O P A S U M O C R H J I T N Y
D A E C N E I D E B O R M O C
H A P C S D U O L Y H E G I D
Y C R H O U T S L C O C B T E
L Y O I A M I P U L C T I C O
L E M H O E M A O J K I H U B
U B P M Y O B A F D S O W R Y
F O T O C S U B N I T N A T I
R O L D G R S A N D O S U S N
E L Y P A R E N T S S O N N G
E G R A N D P A R E N T S I M
H E L P S T R G N I Y E B O I
C E T E R I D O H O P S U B M

KEEPING A JOURNAL

Many people say that it takes thirty days to create a habit, and that is just what we are trying to do—create the habit of obedience! The next thirty pages will be set aside to record your progress in making the character trait “Obedience” an integral part of *your* character. At the end of each day ask yourself the following questions, and write down the answers, and anything additional concerning your “obedience” trait.



Following are a few *reminders* or *goals* to help you begin focusing on obedience each day.

1. Take a sheet of paper and write the word “obedience” in large letters, and place it where you will see it the first thing in the morning when you awake.
2. Upon awakening and seeing the word “obedience,” say a prayer asking God to help you to be obedient that day.
3. Purpose in your heart to obey happily all day.
4. Purpose in your heart to obey no matter what happens that day.
5. Using index cards or small sheets of paper, write the word “obedience” on them, and put them in places in the house where you will see them.
6. Place one of the cards in your Bible; place others in your schoolbooks or reading books.
7. At noon or lunchtime, go to your room and kneel down and pray and ask God to continue to help you be obedient.
8. At dinnertime, have another private prayer time with God and ask for continued help in establishing the habit of obedience.



Day 1 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 2 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 3 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 4 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 5 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 6 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 7 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 8 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 9 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 10 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 11 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 12 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 13 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 14 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 15 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 16 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 17 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 18 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 19 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 20 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 21 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 22 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 23 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 24 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 25 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 26 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 27 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 28 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 29 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?

Day 30 Date _____

1. Did I obey happily and promptly today? _____
2. Was there anything in which I was not obedient? What was it, and why was I not obedient?

3. Was there anything in which I did not obey immediately? What was it, and why did I not do it immediately?

4. What sin or sins kept me from obeying, or from doing so immediately?

5. What could I have done without being told to be more obedient today?
