



"Obeying God's Will"

-*"My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death"*-

Matthew 26:36-38 NLT

[36] Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." [37] He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. [38] He told them, "**My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.**"

Introduction

Jesus was in great anguish over his approaching physical pain, temporary separation in his humanity from the Father, and death for the sins of the world. The divine course was set, but Jesus, in his human nature, still struggled. *Hebrews 5:7 NLT - While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.* Because of the anguish Jesus experienced, he can relate to our suffering. Jesus' strength to obey came from his relationship with God the Father, who is also the source of our strength

*John 17:11 NLT - Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; **now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.***

*John 17:15-16 NLT - I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, **but to keep them safe from the evil one.** [16] They do not belong to this world any more than I do.*

Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane is the agony of God and man in one Person, coming face to face with sin.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT - Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

- The veil is pulled back here to reveal all that it cost Him to make it possible for us to become sons of God.
- His agony is the basis for the simplicity of our salvation.
- Because of what the Son of Man went through, every human being has been provided with a way of access into the very presence of God.

Christ, our Example in Obedience

Philippians 2:8 NLT - he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

His obedience was not to death as a master, but His path of obedience, in the things He did and suffered, led Him to obedience unto death as a goal *Hebrews 5: 8 Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. [9] In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.*

Obedience is the:

1. The Proof of Love

John 14:15 NLT - "If you love me, obey my commandments.

2. The Badge of Loyalty

Romans 16:19 NLT - But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

3. The Soul of Liberty

Romans 6:16 NLT - Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

4. The Securer of Blessing

Isaiah 1:19 NLT - If you will only obey me, you will have plenty to eat.

5. The Spirit of Service

Joshua 24:24 NLT - The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God. We will obey him alone."

6. The Act of Worship

Hebrews 11:8 NLT - It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.

7. The Life of Holiness

1 Peter 1:14 NLT - So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.