



UPPER ROOM DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

OCTOBER
2026

ISSUE #15

KINGDOM LIVING *Digest*

*But be doers of the
word, and not hearers
only, deceiving
yourselves.*

James 1:22 (NKJV)



FAITH THAT
MOVES



OBEDIENCE:
THE LANGUAGE
FAITH SPEAKS



THE COST &
THE REWARD
OF SAYING YES
TO GOD



KINGDOM
LIVING TIPS



REFLECTION &
APPLICATION



THE SPIRITUAL
THREAD



FROM THE
PASTORS' DESK



CHURCH
UPDATES

Faith *That Moves*

There is a version of faith that stays entirely inside the mind. It agrees with the right doctrines, affirms the right scriptures, and holds the right beliefs. It can articulate the character of God with precision and recite the promises of Scripture with confidence. And yet it never moves. It never costs anything. It never shows up anywhere that requires something real to be risked or surrendered.

Scripture has a word for that kind of faith. James calls it **dead** (James 2:14-26 ESV).

Faith was never designed to be a private intellectual agreement with truth. It was designed to be a living, active, visible force that expresses itself in the choices a believer makes, the directions they take, and the obedience they walk out even when it is inconvenient, uncomfortable, or costly. The transformation we have been tracing throughout this year; the renewed mind, the aligned words, the rooted life; was never meant to remain internal. It was always meant to produce something visible. Something that the world around us can see and that God can work through.

October is the month we take that step. After months of examining what happens on the inside of the believer, we turn our attention to what **genuine** internal transformation looks like when it walks out the front door. Obedience is not the opposite of grace. It is the evidence of it. It is faith refusing to stay seated when God says move. It is trust made visible in the ordinary and extraordinary decisions of daily life.

The question this month is not whether we believe. It is whether our belief has legs.



OCTOBER

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|----|---------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | DAY 274 | ☐ | JOHN 20:24-21:14 |
| 2 | DAY 275 | ☐ | JOHN 21:15-25 |
| 3 | DAY 276 | ☐ | MATTHEW 28:16-20 |
| 4 | DAY 277 | ☐ | LUKE 24:44-53 |
| 5 | DAY 278 | ☐ | ACTS 1:1-11 |
| 6 | DAY 279 | ☐ | ACTS 1:12-26 |
| 7 | DAY 280 | ☐ | ACTS 2:1-13 |
| 8 | DAY 281 | ☐ | ACTS 2:14-40 |
| 9 | DAY 282 | ☐ | ACTS 2:41-3:11 |
| 10 | DAY 283 | ☐ | ACTS 3:12-4:4 |
| 11 | DAY 284 | ☐ | ACTS 4:5-22 |
| 12 | DAY 285 | ☐ | ACTS 4:23-37 |
| 13 | DAY 286 | ☐ | ACTS 5:1-16 |
| 14 | DAY 287 | ☐ | ACTS 5:17-42 |
| 15 | DAY 288 | ☐ | ACTS 6:1-15 |
| 16 | DAY 289 | ☐ | ACTS 7:1-29 |
| 17 | DAY 290 | ☐ | ACTS 7:30-60 |
| 18 | DAY 291 | ☐ | ACTS 8:1-25 |
| 19 | DAY 292 | ☐ | ACTS 8:26-40 |
| 20 | DAY 293 | ☐ | ACTS 9:1-19 |
| 21 | DAY 294 | ☐ | ACTS 9:20-31 |
| 22 | DAY 295 | ☐ | ACTS 9:32-42 |
| 23 | DAY 296 | ☐ | ACTS 10:1-23 |
| 24 | DAY 297 | ☐ | ACTS 10:24-48 |
| 25 | DAY 298 | ☐ | ACTS 11:1-18 |
| 26 | DAY 299 | ☐ | ACTS 11:19-29 |
| 27 | DAY 300 | ☐ | ACTS 12:1-25 |
| 28 | DAY 301 | ☐ | ACTS 13:1-12 |
| 29 | DAY 302 | ☐ | ACTS 14:1-28 |
| 30 | DAY 303 | ☐ | ACTS 15:1-21 |
| 31 | DAY 304 | ☐ | ACTS 15:22-41 |

Obedience: The Language Faith Speaks

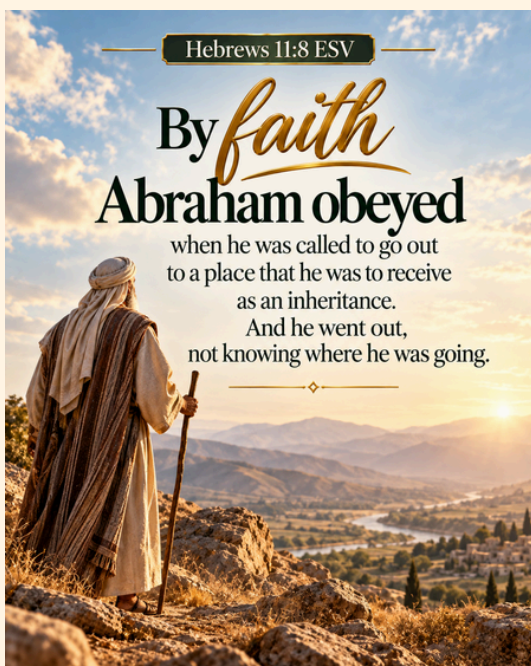
PASTOR LILLIE POWELL

Every relationship has a language. A way that love, trust, and commitment are expressed beyond what is simply felt or spoken. In the believer's relationship with God, that language is obedience. Not obligation. Not performance. Not the anxious attempt to earn what has already been freely given. But the genuine, willing, and active response of a heart that has been truly transformed by the love and truth of God.

Jesus made this connection unmistakably clear in John 14:15 when He said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." The structure of that sentence matters. He did not say Keep My commandments, and I will know you love Me, as if obedience were a test to pass. He said **IF** you love Me. Meaning love is the starting point, the source, the motivation; and obedience is what flows from it naturally. Genuine love for God does not produce reluctant compliance. It produces a willing heart that wants to align with what God desires because it trusts that His ways are good.



This is the foundation of Kingdom obedience. It is not rooted in fear of punishment or the pressure of religious expectation. It is rooted in a relationship with a God whose character has been seen clearly enough that His instructions are received as wisdom rather than burden. The believer who has genuinely encountered the goodness of God does not obey reluctantly. They obey gratefully, because they have learned that every command of God is ultimately an act of love pointing them toward their greatest good.



Abraham demonstrates this with striking clarity. Hebrews 11:8 records that when God called him to go to a place he would receive as an inheritance, he obeyed and went out, not knowing where he was going. There was no map. There was no full explanation of what lay ahead. There was only a word from God and a choice: trust it enough to move, or stay where it was comfortable and familiar. Abraham moved. And his movement was not simply personal courage. It was faith speaking in the only language that produces lasting results.

1 Samuel 15:22 frames it from another angle. Samuel tells Saul that to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams. Religious activity, even sincere and costly religious activity, does not substitute for simple obedience to what God has said.

1 Samuel 15:22 ESV

And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams."

God is not primarily after our offerings. He is after our trust. And trust, expressed practically, looks like doing what He says even when we do not fully understand it. Even when it costs us something we valued. Even when the outcome is not yet visible.

This is the language faith speaks. Not merely the language of prayer and worship, though both are essential. But the language of a life that moves when God says move, stops when God says stop, gives when God says give, and surrenders when God says release. Obedience is not the ceiling of the Christian life. It is the floor. It is the starting place from which everything God wants to build in and through a believer becomes possible.

The *Cost* and the *Reward* of Saying *Yes* to God

PASTOR JONNIE MAE KING

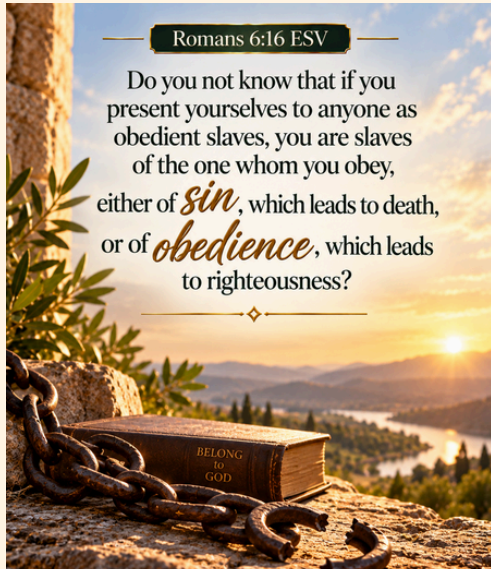
Obedience is rarely free. Almost every time Scripture records a significant act of obedience, there is something attached to it that cost the person who said yes. Abraham left his homeland and his father's house. Moses walked back into Egypt after forty years of exile. Esther approached the king unbidden at the risk of her life. The disciples left their nets, their boats, and their livelihoods without a detailed explanation of what they were walking into. None of these acts of obedience were without cost. And yet every single one of them became a gateway to something that could not have been reached any other way.

Deuteronomy 28 opens with one of the most comprehensive pictures of blessing in all of Scripture and its opening condition is obedience. If you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe all His commandments carefully, all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you. The blessings described are not rewards earned by perfect performance. They are the natural results of a life aligned with the purposes and principles of God. When we live the way God designed us to live, things work the way God designed them to work. Obedience is not transactional. It is relational alignment that produces flourishing.

But the cost must also be acknowledged honestly. Following God's instruction will sometimes mean disappointing people. It will sometimes mean stepping away from opportunities that look attractive but are not what God has directed. It will mean saying no to things the flesh wants and yes to things that require faith to embrace. It will mean being misunderstood by people who are measuring life by a different standard. Obedience lived out in a world that does not share Kingdom values will always carry a social cost.



What Scripture consistently demonstrates, however, is that the reward of obedience **always** outweighs its cost. Not always immediately. Not always in the form we expected or in the timeline we prefer. But always. Joseph's obedience through years of unjust suffering produced an outcome that saved nations. Ruth's obedience in staying with Naomi, when every practical reason said to leave, produced a lineage that would eventually include the Messiah. The disciples who left everything to follow Jesus received a commission, a community, and a purpose that outweighed everything they left behind by immeasurable degrees.



Romans 6:16 frames the choice plainly. We are always obeying something. Either we present ourselves as servants of sin, which leads to death; or as servants of obedience, which leads to righteousness. Neutrality is not an option. The question is not whether we will serve, but **who**. And the answer we give with our daily choices shapes everything about where we end up.

Saying yes to God is rarely the path of least resistance. But it is always the path of greatest purpose. And for the believer whose mind has been renewed, whose words have been aligned, and whose roots have grown deep, it becomes less a reluctant surrender and more a natural expression of who they are becoming.

KINGDOM LIVING TIPS

Walking in Daily Obedience

- Start with the obedience you already know is required. Do not wait for a dramatic call when God has already given you a clear instruction that you have been delaying.
- Treat partial obedience as disobedience. Doing most of what God says while holding back one area is still a closed hand.
- When obedience feels costly, write down what you are trusting God to provide or protect in that decision. Returning to it builds faith over time.
- Surround yourself with believers who are also walking in obedience. Their example reinforces your own commitment when the cost feels high.
- Celebrate small acts of obedience. Every time you choose God's way over your own, something is being built in you that will hold when greater tests come.

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

This month, bring one specific area of your life before God in honest reflection. Is there an instruction He has given that you have been delaying, negotiating, or quietly setting aside?

Obedience deferred is not obedience. It is a decision to wait for more comfortable circumstances before trusting God fully. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where your faith has remained internal but has not yet shown up in action. Then take one concrete step of obedience in that area this month, not because you feel fully ready, but because faith moves before it sees the full picture. Journal what happens when you do.

God is faithful to meet every step of genuine obedience with His presence and provision.



Over the past four months, we have traced the foundations of spiritual stability from its roots in God's character, through the disciplines that cultivate it, the renewal of the mind that protects it, and the community that sustains it. Each of these dimensions prepares the believer for what may be the most severe test of stability any of us will face: genuine suffering.

John 16:33 ESV

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Suffering is not peripheral to the Christian experience. It is woven into it. Jesus warned His disciples plainly in John 16:33 that in this world they would have tribulation. Paul catalogued his own suffering in 2 Corinthians 11 not as an exception to faithful Christian living, but as evidence of it. Peter wrote to believers who were being scattered and persecuted, not to offer them an escape from their suffering, but to anchor them in the midst of it. Scripture does not present suffering as a sign that God has abandoned His people. It presents it as a terrain through which God does some of His most profound and lasting work.

The question spiritual stability must answer in the face of suffering is not why. Why is a question the human heart asks from pain, and God is not afraid of it. But why is rarely the question that produces stability. The question that produces stability is **who**. Who is with me in this? Who is holding what I cannot hold? Who has already walked through what I am walking through and come out the other side? The answer to those questions is the anchor that holds when suffering threatens to sweep everything away.



Suffering
Does Not Mean *Absence*

One of the enemy's most effective strategies during seasons of suffering is to convince the believer that what they are experiencing is evidence that God has withdrawn. That if God were truly present, truly good, and truly powerful, the suffering would not be happening. This lie has undermined the faith of countless believers throughout history. It is not new, and it is not subtle. But it is persistent.

Psalms 22 opens with what sounds like the cry of abandonment. "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" These are words of genuine anguish, written by David, and ultimately fulfilled in the cry of Jesus from the cross. But the psalm does not end in abandonment. It ends in praise, in testimony, and in the declaration that God has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has He hidden His face from him, but when he cried to Him, He heard. The suffering was real. The feeling of abandonment was real. And yet the presence of God was equally real, even when it was not felt.

Isaiah 43:2 ESV

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:2 captures this with extraordinary tenderness. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned. The promise is not that the waters will not rise or that the fire will not be hot. The promise is presence. Uninterrupted, unwavering, sustaining presence in the middle of what would otherwise be overwhelming.

What *Suffering* Produces in the *Stable Believer*



Romans 5:3-5 ESV

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 gives us the clearest progression available in Scripture for understanding what suffering accomplishes in a believer who remains anchored. Tribulation produces patience. Patience produces character. Character produces hope. And hope, Paul declares, does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

This is not a passive process. It requires the deliberate choice, repeated in the middle of pain, to remain submitted to God rather than bitter toward Him. The believer who endures suffering with their faith intact does not come out of it

unchanged. They come out of it deeper, more compassionate, more unshakeable, and more useful to God than they were before. The very thing the enemy intended to break them becomes the thing God uses to **build** them.

James 1:2-4 ESV

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4 echoes this with an instruction that can only make sense to someone who has seen God work through suffering firsthand. Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. The joy James describes is not the denial of pain. It is the perspective of someone who knows what the process is producing and trusts the One who is overseeing it.

Holding On When Holding On Is Hard

Practical stability in suffering does not arrive fully formed. It is maintained moment by moment, decision by decision. In the small choices to stay in Scripture when reading feels dry, to pray when the words feel empty, to gather with community when isolation feels more natural, and to declare the goodness of God when circumstances offer no visible evidence of it.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 ESV

*¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

Habakkuk 3:17-18 stands as one of the most remarkable declarations of stability in suffering in all of Scripture. Habakkuk was not in denial about his circumstances. He named them specifically and completely. But he made a decision that his circumstances would not determine his posture before God. That decision is the heartbeat of spiritual stability in suffering.

God has never promised His people a life without suffering. He has promised them something that nothing in this world can replicate: **Himself**. His presence in the fire. His peace in the storm. His strength in the weakness. And His purpose in the pain. The believer who holds on to those promises in their darkest season will find on the other side a stability that could not have been built any other way.

Next Month: Spiritual Stability, Part 6 – Finishing Well: Stability as a Lifelong Commitment



OBEDIENCE IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Pastor Lillie P. Powell

We often think of worship as something that happens on Sunday morning with lifted hands and songs filling the sanctuary. And it is. But worship is far broader than any single expression or setting. Romans 12:1 calls us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, and describes this as our reasonable service of worship. The life lived in daily obedience to God is an act of worship just as genuine as any song ever sung.

Romans 12:1 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

What strikes me most about obedience as worship is that it costs something. A sacrifice by definition requires that something be given up. When we choose God's way over our own preference, when we follow His instruction even when it inconveniences us, when we say yes to what He is

asking, even when we do not fully understand it; we are offering Him something real. We are placing our trust on the altar and declaring with our actions that He is worth it.

That is worship. And it is the kind of worship that shapes a life in ways that a single Sunday morning cannot. Let your obedience be your offering this month. Let every yes to God be an act of praise.

SMALL STEPS, SIGNIFICANT FAITH

Pastor Jonnie M. King

I want to speak to someone who feels like the obedience God is asking of them is too small to matter. The step feels insignificant. The instruction seems ordinary. There is no dramatic moment, no mountaintop experience, just a quiet and consistent nudge to do something simple that you have been putting off.

Do not underestimate small obedience. The Bible is full of people whose greatest moments began with a seemingly ordinary act of compliance. Naaman had to dip in a river seven times. The disciples had to cast their net on the other side of the boat. The

widow had to pour from a nearly empty jar. None of these looked like much in the moment. All of them became the hinge on which something significant turned.

God is not always asking for a grand gesture. He is often asking for faithful, quiet, consistent obedience in the place where you already are. Do what He has told you to do. Take the step He has already made clear. Trust that He knows what He is doing with your yes, even when you cannot yet see where it is leading.



Heavenly Father,

We confess that there are places where our faith has stayed in our hearts and has not yet shown up in our hands and our feet.

Forgive us for the obedience we have delayed and the instructions we have quietly set aside.

Give us the courage to move when You say move, to release what You say release, and to trust that every step of genuine obedience leads somewhere You have already prepared.

Let our lives be a living expression of our faith, visible, active, and rooted in love for You.

May the way we live declare that we believe what we say we believe.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHURCH UPDATES

**EMPOWERMENT
SERVICE**
— EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT —

Join Us!

7:30 PM

ACTS 2:42
And they devoted themselves
to the apostles' teaching
and the fellowship, to the
breaking of bread
and the prayers.

WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.
TOGETHER IN FAITH. TRANSFORMED BY HIS POWER.

**NO CHURCH
SERVICES**
ON

SEPTEMBER 6	SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18	SUNDAY
OCTOBER 22	THURSDAY

**REGULAR SERVICE
WILL RESUME ON
OCTOBER 25**

**PASTOR'S
Appreciation
MONTH**

We're so grateful for
your faithful leadership,
heartfelt prayers, and
tireless service.
You are truly a shepherd
after God's own heart.

**WAYS TO
DONATE**

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Thank you
for partnering with us
to spread hope and
change lives.

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