

## **HEAR AND OBEY!**

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I touched on something last week ... in passing ... that I want to develop further today.

There were a couple of scriptures where we read about the “Fear of The Lord” — and I said we’re probably better to understand the phrase as “hear and obey” — or “hear and do”. For most of us ... it has more impact.

### **Proverbs 1:7**

**7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,**  
**But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Fear of the Lord = Beginning of knowledge. What is this “fear of the Lord”?

### **Proverbs 9:10-11**

**10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,**  
**And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

**11 For by me your days will be multiplied,**  
**And years of life will be added to you.**

Fear of the Lord = Beginning of wisdom ... leading to many days ... and years of life added to us.

But what does it really mean the phrase “Fear the Lord”? How? Holy reverence?

### **Proverbs 14:26-27**

**26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence,**  
And His children will have a place of refuge. (*a Place of Safety*)

**27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,**  
To turn one away from the snares of death.

Fear of the Lord = strong confidence and fountain of life ... many days ... many years added to us. Many reasons to pursue the “fear of the Lord”.

It sounds like having the fear of the Lord is going to really add value to our lives?

Since the fear of the Lord can be a little bit vague ... I've found it helpful to replace with "hear and obey" — "hear and do".

Let's look at a few examples.

### **Deuteronomy 5:28-33**

28 "Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: **'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.**

29 **Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me (hear me and obey me) and always keep all My commandments,** that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (God wants the best for His people)

30 Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

31 But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'

32 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

33 **You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.**

Fear can be the wrong type of fear. We would pull back — avoid. Godly fear is different.

What God wants is an attitude — that will "listen" attentively (hear) ... and then "do" — obey. This passage also shows what is in God's heart for His people — A GOOD LIFE!

### **Deuteronomy 8:1-20**

1 "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.

2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.**

3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.

6 **“Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. (Hear and obey)**

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you. **(Are we grateful ... are we thankful?)**

11 **“Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes** which I command you today,

12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; **(when your life is really good)**

14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—

17 then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’

18 “**And you shall remember the Lord your God**, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

19 Then it shall be, **if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.**

20 As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, **so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.** (*You forgot where your blessings came from*)

Forget not — don’t forget to “hear and do”. Fear Him.

When life is comfortable and life is easy ... we tend to forget about God. We can think that we are “doing” this by our own ability and strength.

Dwight Moody: “We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity, for IN PROSPERITY WE FORGET GOD”. (Think of David’s sin with Bathsheba).

### **Deuteronomy 31:10-13**

10 And Moses commanded them, saying: “**At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,**

11 **when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.**

12 Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, **that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,**

13 **and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God** as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess.”

Read the law at the Feast. Hear and obey!

Note there are two parts. It is important to hear ... but hearing alone is not sufficient. We need to obey too.

### **1 Samuel 15:1-3**

1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. **Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.** (KJV:Hearken) (PAY ATTENTION!)

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now **go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'** "

If you fear the Lord ... you will hear and respond ... hear and do!

### **1 Samuel 15:7-9**

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 **But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them.** But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

Partial obedience? Which equals ... disobedience!! He didn't hear and obey. He didn't think it was that important at the end of the day.

### **1 Samuel 15:10-23**

10 Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying,

11 **"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."** And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. (GOD IS SORRY THAT HE HAS CHOSEN SAUL AS KING)

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, **"Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."** (Pride)

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night."

And he said to him, "Speak on."

17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, (*humble*) were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?"

18 Now **the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'**

19 **Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?"** (*No fear of the Lord from Saul*)

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

22 So Samuel said:

**"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, (*in some religious ceremony?*)**

**As in obeying the voice of the Lord?**

**Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,**

**And to heed than the fat of rams.**

23 For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,**

**And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.**

**Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,**

**He also has rejected you from being king."**

**To hear and obey is better than "religious worship".**

Saul heard the words ... but didn't attach enough weight to them. He didn't respect the Word of The Lord.

HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T OBEY! He was stubborn and rebellious.

We've got to be careful **how we hear.**

### **Ezekiel 33:27-33**

27 “Say thus to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “As I live, surely those who are in the ruins shall fall by the sword, and the one who is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and caves shall die of the pestilence. *(Basically ... you’re finished!)*”

28 For I will make the land most desolate, her arrogant strength shall cease, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that no one will pass through.

29 Then they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land most desolate **because of all their abominations which they have committed.**” ’

30 “As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, **‘Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.’**

31 **So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.**

32 Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for **they hear your words, but they do not do them.**

33 And when this comes to pass—surely it will come—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

The people enjoy hearing God’s Word. Fascinating! Inspiring! BUT — NO ACTION!! NO DOING!

### **Mark 8:14-21**

14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.

15 Then He charged them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have no bread.”

17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”

18 **Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?**

19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?”

They said to Him, "Twelve."

20 "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?"

And they said, "Seven."

21 So He said to them, "**How is it you do not understand?**"

The disciples HAD EYES — BUT DIDN'T SEE. HAD EARS — BUT DIDN'T HEAR!

Jesus was upset ... disappointed. And these were His disciples!

We have to really hear — hear carefully. To listen attentively.

### **Hebrews 3:7-19**

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

**"Today, if you will hear His voice,**

8 **Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,**

In the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,

And saw My works forty years.

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation,

And said, 'They always go astray in their heart,

And they have not known My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath,

'They shall not enter My rest.' "

12 **Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;**

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

15 while it is said:

**"Today, if you will hear His voice,**

**Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."**

16 **For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?**

17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 **And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?**

19 **So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

If you (brethren!) will hear. Israel “heard” but not actively. They didn’t respect and honour the Word.

### **Hebrews 4:1-2**

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, **let us (believers) fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.**

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; **but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.**

They heard ... but had no faith (no corresponding actions).

Whether ancient Israel — or us now — or people in the Millennium — we must all learn to hear and obey.

### **James 1:18-25**

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

19 So then, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;**

20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

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

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

Be swift to hear and BE DOERS!

### **Luke 6:46-49**

46 **“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”**

47 **Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them**, I will show you whom he is like:

48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

1. COMES TO JESUS
2. HEARS JESUS
3. AND DOES WHAT JESUS SAYS

### **Proverbs 15:31-33**

31 **The ear that hears the rebukes of life**

Will abide among the wise.

32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul,

But **he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.**

33 **The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom,**

And before honor is humility. (*Being humble is being obedient*)

The ear that hears reproof. Don't disdain the instruction — disrespect God's Word.

“Humility makes adjustments; pride makes excuses”.

### **Proverbs 22:17-21**

17 **Incline your ear and hear the words** of the wise,

And **apply your heart to my knowledge;**

18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you;

Let them all be fixed upon your lips,

19 So that your trust may be in the Lord;

I have instructed you today, even you.

20 **Have I not written to you excellent things**

**Of counsels and knowledge,**

21 **That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth,**

That you may answer words of truth

To those who send to you?

Incline your ear — apply your heart.

We've received "excellent things" ... from the wisest Being in the Universe.

Fear — hear (carefully) — then do!

### **Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**

9 And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth.

11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. (Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh).

13 **Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:**

**Fear God and keep His commandments,**

For this is man's all. (*Which is — hear and obey*)

14 For God will bring every work into judgment,

Including every secret thing,

Whether good or evil.

**The summary of all wisdom: The "Last Word".**

**FEAR GOD: HEAR AND OBEY.**

Good advice?

It shouldn't be too hard for us to know if we really "Fear God"?

An easy test — do we hear and obey?

If we want to grow in knowledge and wisdom and enjoy a long life —hear and obey the Lord!