

# Gathering

## OBEDIENCE

Obedience is not a popular subject in our society, not a welcomed topic in gatherings. It is spoken about less and less in our homes, schools, workplaces, and even churches. We are not excited about dealing with obedience as we engage in lectures, discussions, or sermons. Ironically, obedience is an essential discipline in a believer's life. As love is the beginning and the end in God's relationship with us, obedience is the beginning and the end in our relationship with God. Consider Jonah's case:

*"And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" (Jonah 4:4 NRSV)*

There are two things we need to think about when examining Jonah's anger. First, what made him angry with God was the merciful act of God toward the people of Nineveh. When God saw the Ninevites turning away from evil, His mercy brought them forgiveness instead of the punishment that He had originally planned. For Jonah, God's merciful action of forgiveness was not fair. Jonah's own judgement overrode God's grace. Second, Jonah's anger was not simply a state of emotional bitterness but an act of disobedience against God.

In Jonah 4:1-3, Jonah blamed God's character for his reluctance to obey, really? He justified his disobedience by arguing that he knew God's mercy and grace. Jonah then challenged God's authority over life and death by requesting his own death. Jonah's anger led him to justify his disobedience to God's command, and furthermore to his self-destruction. The responsibility for feeling angry and its consequences fell on Jonah. A lesson for us all.

**Jonah 4:4 NRSV**

We must reconcile our obedience to God with submission to His will so that we can grow spiritually as we cultivate God's perspective towards us all.

After reading scripture consider these questions.

- If God were to ask you this same question, what would your answer be and why?
- What would be the value or benefit of your anger in your relationship with God?
- In what ways does your own judgement lead you to disobedience against God? Any examples?
- How can you describe your understanding of obedience in your journey for holiness?

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*



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What would be the value or benefit of your **anger** in your relationship with **God**?

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In what ways does your own judgement lead you to **disobedience** against God? Any examples?

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How can you describe your understanding of **obedience** in your journey for holiness?



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Jonah 4:4 NRSV

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The world considers obedience as weakness and inferiority. This worldly view does not help believers to live a life of obedience for God. In our faith walk, the

opposite is truth: obedience is strength and courage to participate in God's fulfillment of His will. To understand what obedience means and what it does in your life, explore the following:

### 1 SAMUEL 15:22

"...To obey is better than sacrifice..." Saul did not understand what this meant. Read the full passage and reflect it in your own circumstances. Is there anything pleasing to you that you want to justify before God as pleasing to Him?

### JOHN 15:10

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love...". Read the full passage and find what Jesus' command is and what it means to remaining in Jesus' love by obeying his command.

### PSALM 119:60

"I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands". Read the full passage and examine what makes you hold back from your promise and commitment to obey without delay?



*Written by Captain Jae Im,  
SWONERY Division*



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