

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“...By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son,”

—Hebrews 11:17

**Servants during April:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (5), Larry (12), Dwight (19), Stanley (26)

**Reading:** Mike

**Announcements:** Stanley

**Table:** Larry, Mike, Marty

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (1), Stanley (8), Kris (15), Larry (22), Stanley (29)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry (5), Marty (12), Kris (19), Stanley (26)

**Area Meetings:**

**Market Street,** 12-15, Leon Mauldin;  
**Jordan Park,** 19-22, Joe Greer

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road  
 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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## Abraham's Obedience

By Paul Earnhart

Have you considered what God said to Abraham and how Abraham responded? God told Abraham to leave his native land and to go to a land that God would show him. Abraham obeyed, Gen 12:1-9; Heb 11:8. God told him to look in all directions in that land and to walk in it through its length and width, “for”, He said, “I give it to you.” Abraham believed what God told him, and he built altars to the Lord in the places where he sojourned, Gen 13:14-18; 12:7,8. God told Abraham that his descendants would be as the stars of heaven in number. Abraham “believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness,” Gen 15:1-3. Abraham was childless and growing old, yet he believed in the promises of the Lord. God even gave Abraham a sign to assure His promise of Abraham’s possessing the land, Gen 15:7-21, a promise that would not be realized until the fourth generation.


God repeated His promises and made a covenant with Abraham with this condition: “Walk before Me and be

blameless,” Gen 17:1-9. Circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, and Abraham and all his males were circumcised that very day, Gen 17:23-27. God had confidence in Abraham’s continued obedience—the basis of the covenant. “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him,” Gen 18:19.

A great test of Abraham’s faith was given in command to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering, Gen 22:1, 2. Abraham rose early in the morning and set out to do as he was commanded. He did not falter, even though all human reasoning would cry out against his taking the life of his heir. He believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead, if necessary, Heb 11:17-19. Now hear God’s word to Abraham: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this

thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven... In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice,” Gen 22:16-18.

Do you see how faith worked with his works, and by his works his faith was made complete, Jas 2:21-24?

Hence, Abraham was justified when he by faith obeyed God. What is your state before God? 

# Love, Service, and Obedience

*By Doy Moyer*

We serve what we love, and we obey what we serve.

What does that mean? It’s possible to be coerced into obedience, but this is not love. However, when we love something or someone, we serve, and in serving, we obey. I believe the word “obey” and its cognates say more than what we sometimes indicate. Obedience is not just about strict adherence to commandments. While we will adhere to whatever commandments are given, obedience, as a concept, is bigger than this.

The term translated “obey” (ὕπακούω) is used variously. It can mean to obey instructions, to follow, be subject to, to listen and grant a request, and even to answer a door (e.g., Acts 12:13). In choosing to obey, we are committing ourselves to the life that serves the calling (cf. Eph 4:1). Yet we know that we won’t commit unless we truly love what we are serving.

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jn 14:15. If we are not keeping His commandments, we cannot claim to love Him. Yet there is more to loving Him. It’s possible that one obeys commandments ritualistically and

yet still not love Him. This was a problem that many Israelites had (e.g., Isaiah 1:10-18). They technically offered sacrifice, but they did not love God.

Obedying, serving, and submitting are related ideas, and I believe their relationship is helpful in how we see ourselves as disciples of Christ. Let’s think further:

First, what we serve reveals where our heart is, and where our heart is reveals what we love. Jesus taught that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” Mt 6:19-21. Then, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money,” Mt 6:24. Notice that Jesus ties together what we love with what we serve. We cannot serve these two masters, because we cannot love them both. If we lay-up treasures on earth, we show that’s where our heart is, and that’s what we will serve because it’s what we love.

Second, when we give ourselves over to something, we are obeying it. Paul argues in Romans 6 that Christians are to consider themselves to be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, v11.


“Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace,” v12-14. By letting sin reign in our mortal body, we are obeying its passions—its desire for us. We obey what we have given ourselves over to, whether to sin or to God.

Next read verses 15-18. We are the servants of what we obey. If we are serving sin, then we are obeying it, even though sin is not listing off technical commandments. Rather, we give ourselves over to it so that it is ruling our lives. That’s obedience. The same is true in serving God. By submitting to His will, we become obedient from the heart to that standard of teaching to which we are committed. Obedience, here, is about what we are committed to and the purposes we are serving.

Third, everyone obeys something. Everyone serves something or someone. Terms like “obey” and “submit” are considered too authoritarian for today’s culture, but everyone obeys and submits to something. When we see that this is not just technically carrying out commands but involves a deeper sense of

commitment and way of life, of opening the door to, of welcoming, and serving something—then perhaps the point is more obvious. We might live in submission and obedience to politics, recreation, or any number of cultural causes to which we are freely giving ourselves. In doing this, we seek the advantage of the cause and are willing to sacrifice ourselves for it. We are doing more than obeying commands; we are subjecting ourselves to the ideals and commitments that the cause entails. We do so gladly when we love something. This is why John could say, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,” 1 Jn 5:3.

Think, then, how this fits the greatest commands to love God and to love neighbor, Mt 22:36-40. If we love God, then we are committed to Him, His cause (Kingdom), His way and His will. This is a life of obedience based on love. If we love neighbor we are submitting ourselves to them and seeking to meet their needs. This, too, is a form of obedience. In fact, we can draw out how this works in any number of relationships (marriage, parenting, etc.). When we love, we commit and serve. We obey as a way of living for that cause.

To what, then, are we giving ourselves? Where is our heart? What are we serving and loving? 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Please continue to pray for **Betty; Carolyn; Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard; Pam, Kaylee, Julie and Violet**. There is a great deal going on in the world, particularly in the Middle East at this time. Pray for **the president and his advisors** that they may

be granted wisdom and safety; those in **the legislature and judiciary** for the same; **brethren** throughout the world for strength and boldness; and God’s continued patience, that perhaps **those that don’t know Christ** would come to an obedient faith. 