

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

Psalm 32:8

Often when we think of obedience, we think of the big moments of life. We remember a time when we prayed about a job and God made it clear if we should take it or not. We recall the moment we were called into ministry or a time when we sought God about a major move. Most of us have testimonies of God guiding, providing, and speaking to us in these times of obedience.

We are also great at obeying God on the big moral issues. Anyone committed adultery or murdered anyone recently?

But our obedience to God is not merely forged in big moments.

Most of our moments of obedience happen when God prompts us quietly, asking us to do something small in our everyday life. Things like call a friend, clean up after a church service, or visit a neighbor.

As we create a habit of saying yes to these moments, we create a life fully surrendered to God. And a life that He can use in amazing ways.

When it comes to obedience, we need to ask ourselves three questions.

1. Do we hear?
2. Do we honor?
3. Do we act?

Do we hear Him when He speaks?

We live busy lives! Many of us travel, work long hours, and have lots of responsibilities. We also have busy digital lives that tempt us to spend hours scrolling, commenting, and posting.

When God prompts us in small things, do we even hear the prompting? Or are we too busy and distracted?

In Acts 9:10, God speaks to Ananias. And Ananias heard. He responded with, "Yes, Lord."

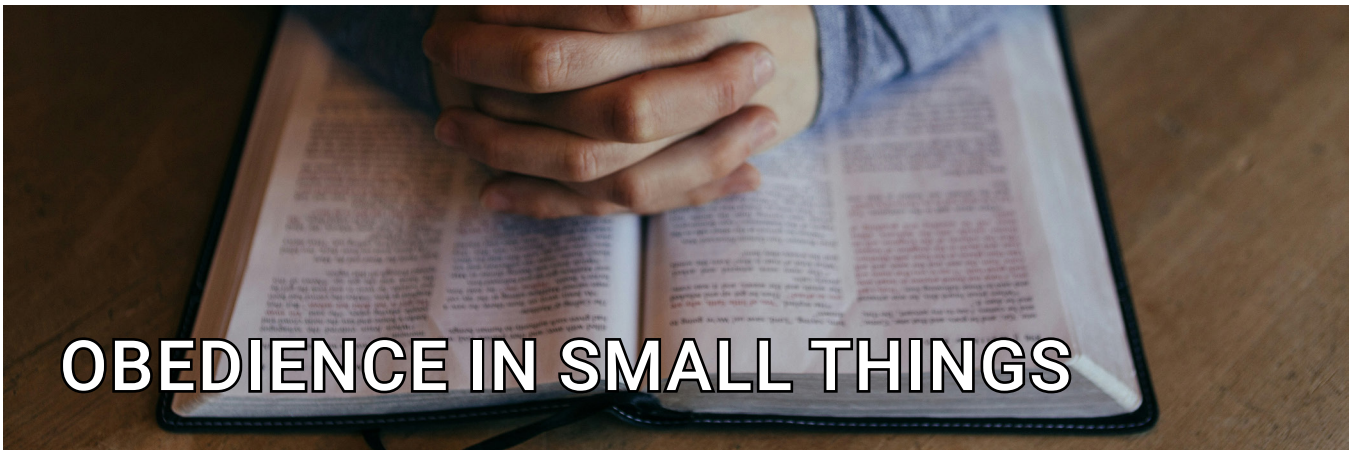
Do we honor the voice of God?

The things God asks us to do, often seem insignificant. A kind word to a stranger or a phone call to someone you haven't spoken to in years. It's easy to dismiss these things as unimportant.

Additionally, God often speaks to us in quiet ways - a thought, a sense of what we should do, an idea. Because his voice comes quietly, it's easy to convince ourselves that it is not God, especially if it's something we don't want to do.

This must have been tempting for Ananias. Go to the man who is murdering Christians?! Surely that's not God!

But Ananias honored the voice of God. We too need to trust that God is guiding us and take those promptings seriously.



OBEDIENCE IN SMALL THINGS

Do we act regardless of the cost?

Ananias could have said "No! That is too scary! Too uncomfortable. Too dangerous." But he did what God asked (Acts 9:17).

We too need to learn to say yes to whatever He asks. When it makes sense and when it doesn't. When it seems big and important and small and insignificant. When He speaks loudly and when He whispers.

Our daily acts of small obedience are what create a life God can use in big ways.

How does God guide us in similar ways?

4. Why do we so easily question or minimize God's quiet promptings?

What would change if we treated them as invitations from God instead of passing thoughts?

5. Read Proverbs 14:15, 16:9, 19:2. We want to be wise and discerning, but also want to act with immediate obedience when God speaks.

What's the difference between discernment and thinking we know best?

When is it the right thing to pause and make sure we are hearing God correctly? And when is the right thing to act immediately even if we are not 100% sure?