

Is Obedience Required for Salvation

If that were the case we would all be going to hell because none of us have perfectly obeyed His commandments. That is the essence of the gospel. Because through sin, we all condemned ourselves to hell and had no means by which to pay the penalty for sin, Jesus came to earth as a man to die on the cross and paid the price for us.

Eph 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

NKJV

Gal 3:19-25

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

NKJV

God understands that we as humans will sin - that's why He offers us grace. Of course none of us have perfectly obeyed his commands and God knows this and he tells us through Paul. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. If it were possible for us to live perfect lives there would be no need for Him to offer us grace. We are saved by grace, but grace is not the only thing that saves us as you seem to believe.

It does not mean that we are to take advantage of grace, not at all, because if we love God, we will seek to be obedient, but we will fail. Scripture shows that man fails through trying to obey the law. That is legalism. That is why Christ came to write the law on our hearts and why the Holy Spirit indwells us, so that we would not be tied to legalistic obedience to the law, but rather we would abide by the spirit of the law.

Does this mean we will do it perfectly? No! Does this mean we should strive to do it perfectly? Yes!

If we cannot do it perfectly, then our salvation is dependent upon His grace, not our obedience, or we would lose our salvation every time that we slipped.

Page 1 of 2

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1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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It is also important to note that prior to salvation, we are subject to the sin nature (desire to sin) and the one thing that we obey prior to that is to receive Jesus as Saviour.

Rom 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

NKJV

Prior that that, we do not have the helper, the Holy Spirit, who guides us and helps us to grow to be obedient to God by changing our desires to be consistent with the things of God.

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September 6, 2006

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