

ONE FROM THE HEART

Obedience and Hunger

We all want to get things right in life. There's a deep desire to know our lives have made a worthwhile difference.

As we grow older, what we want to get right shifts. The ultimate goal is to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" from the Lord.

What does "getting it right" look like for us as followers of Jesus?

(Can't Get No) Satisfaction

Following Jesus is straightforward: Love God and love others.

Matthew 22:37-40

John 13:34-35

This is the foundation. But what does obedience to this command really mean for us?

This Love

Add the Great Commission (Matthew 28): Love God, love others, and show the world His love. No place is off-limits.

Love is the starting point, but there's more—obedience leads us deeper into what God has for us.

Obedience in Scripture

Throughout the Bible, God calls people to step out in obedience, often in impossible situations:

- + Abraham and Isaac at the point of sacrifice
- + Moses and the burning bush

- + Jesus on the Cross
- + Paul's journeys
- + Stephen's martyrdom
- + Peter's vision of changing Jewish food laws

God asks for obedience even when we can't work it out. When we step out in faith, He meets us at the point of obedience.

This Modern Glitch

The Fruit of Obedience

Obedience to God is the starting point for deeper things with Him. It's not just about loving others—it's about stepping into the unknown with confidence that God will meet us there.

Our relationship with God grows through obedience, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to live this out.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Hunger for More

Obedience is one thing, but what God is looking for goes beyond simply doing the right thing when we're told.

God invites us into something more. Obedience leads to hunger—hunger for more of Him.

Ephesians 3:14-19

Hunger Moves God

When we are hungry for God, it changes the way we see the world. Hunger leads us to encounter God in deeper ways.

Faith moves God, but hunger also moves Him. The most powerful moments of encounter come when we are hungry for Him.

Never Going Back Again

The biggest danger to hunger is thinking we already have enough. When we believe we have it all, we stop seeking more of God.

Humility is key to maintaining hunger. We need to recognise that we always need more of God in our lives.

How to Cultivate Hunger

- 1. Lay Down Preferences and Offences:** Don't let your likes or dislikes stop you from engaging with God.
 - + Let go of what you don't like about the worship, the preacher, or the people around you. This is about God, not us.
 - + Offence can block what God wants to do in us. We must forgive others and lay down our offences as Jesus did for us.
- 2. Understand God's Power:** We need to recognise that God is bigger than we think.
 - + God doesn't need our permission to move in our lives. Sometimes we won't understand what He's doing, but we must trust Him.
- 3. Give God Permission:** Allow God to take control of your life.
 - + Don't hold back out of fear or concern about what others will think. Give God permission to work fully in your life.

Hunger and humility are essential to experiencing more of God. We must lay aside our preferences, prejudices, and pride to allow God to move.

Let's give God permission to fill us with passion and fire, so that we can live lives fully devoted to Him.

Here are five discussion questions and three action points based on the original document, designed for a small group setting:

Discussion Questions:

1. What does obedience to God look like in your own life?
Reflect on moments when you've had to step out in faith, even when you didn't fully understand what God was asking of you. How did God meet you in that place of obedience?

2. Why do you think hunger for God is so important in our walk with Him?
Share times when you've felt a deep hunger for God. How did that hunger change your relationship with Him or your perspective on life?

3. How can we cultivate humility in our lives, especially when it comes to seeking more of God?
Discuss how pride or thinking we "have enough" might block what God wants to do in us. How can we combat this in practical ways?

4. In what ways have preferences or offences stopped you from experiencing more of God?
Are there specific areas where your likes or dislikes, or even unresolved hurts, have prevented you from engaging fully with God?

5. How do you respond when God asks for obedience in situations that seem impossible?
Look at the examples of Abraham, Moses, or Peter. What can we learn from their obedience, and how can we apply this to our daily lives?

Action Points:

1. Lay Down Preferences and Prejudices:
This week, intentionally reflect on areas where your personal preferences, prejudices, or offence may be hindering your walk with God. Choose one specific area to surrender to Him in prayer.

2. Step Out in Faith:
Identify one area in your life where you feel God is calling you to step out in obedience, even if it feels uncomfortable or uncertain. Share this with the group and commit to taking one step of faith in the coming week.

3. Hunger for More of God:
Spend dedicated time this week praying for a renewed hunger for God. Ask Him to reveal areas where you've become complacent and invite the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh with passion and desire for more of Him. .