

# Obey God Rather Than Men

by Shane Idleman

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of obeying God rather than men, and highlights the significance of obedience in living a life for Christ.*

**Duration:** 47:54

**Scripture:** Joshua 24:15, Isaiah 40:8, John 14:15, Acts 3:19, Acts 5:29, Romans 8:14, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Timothy 3:15, Hebrews 5:9

**Topics:** "Obedience To God", "Holy Spirit"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of obeying God rather than men, highlighting the responsibility and duty believers have to follow God's moral obligations. It delves into the significance of repentance, belief in Jesus, and being filled with the Holy Spirit through obedience. The message challenges listeners to choose between obeying God or man, stressing the need for boldness, correct doctrine, and a transformed life through surrender to God.

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## Transcript

The title of the message is Obey God Rather Than Men. Obey God rather than men. And where that comes from is Acts 5. We're going to be in Acts chapter 5 verse 29.

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said we ought to obey God rather than men. So the context is interesting because we say that, now that sounds interesting, I mean I could say that, but these people are standing against the officials that could throw them in jail, technically could kill them. But he's standing in front of policemen, a modern-day policeman, and he's saying we're not going to obey you, we're going to obey God.

And that's the context. So I'm going to get into that in a minute. But when he says we ought to obey God, I want you to remember this, this is not, the word ought is not neutral here.

You know, we're saying hey you ought to go here, or you ought to consider this. It's not that type of ought, this is a responsibility. It means to be bound in duty by moral obligation.

So in the same way that a soldier is bound by duty to the armed forces, guess what you are bound to? God, to do what? To present the gospel, to go out and to make a difference. We are bound. It's not like you ought to do this.

The ought there means we are bound to do this. And if we think about, I was just thinking about those songs we were singing, It's Well With My Soul, and that little baby being born. If you picture that, I just hold a five-month-old yesterday, and just looking at that life, and that was born to die.

That was given for me to not die eternally. So I'm bound, it shouldn't be like I'm bound, I ought to do this. I have to do this for the person who bought me with the price.

So that's what the picture he's painting here. Jesus was obedient unto death, even death on a cross. We forget that, that he had to fulfill the will of God through obedience.

And while we're on this topic, obedience leads to the filling of the Spirit as well as knowing God's will. If you want to be filled with the Spirit, and you want to know God's will, guess what? We have to be obedient. And sometimes the church has made that into a bad word.

Like, oh, we got to obey, we got to do this. But really, it's allowing God to work through you, and being in a position of obedience is being filled with the Spirit. So now I can do the will of God.

I can speak boldly because of obedience. I can live my life for Christ. I have tremendous joy and peace because of that word, obedience.

So the disciples here said, obey God rather than men. That's what we need to do. So what does that look like? Well, let's get to it.

Acts 5 verse 22. The apostles are on trial again. But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported saying, Indeed, we found the prison shut securely and the guard standing outside before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.

So it's like prisoners here going to our local station being locked up in jail. You've got the LA County Sheriff sitting outside. There's no way they're getting out.

They go to get these prisoners because of their arraignment, and they're not there. Where did they go? They just vanished. They've disappeared.

So that's what's happening. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple, he was in charge of the temple guards, and the chief priest heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. I bet they did.

Here's their prisoners gone. And they're wondering, well, I don't know what's going to happen. So somebody came and told them saying, look, the men who you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.

So it's interesting. They were released from prison. What would most of us do? I'm getting as far away from, but they went back to the temple.

They went back to the temple. And this was so interesting today, this week, actually studying the sermon. The parallels sometimes are amazing, because I'll get Facebook messages.

What seminary did you go to? Who are you to say this and that? And what, you know, this and that. And we have to remember as believers, you don't go and talk to somebody because of your master's degree, you don't come with your PhD in your back pocket, you don't have to be a president of a Bible college, you

come in the authority of the Word of God, that's your authority. And the truth just stands.

So that's all they were doing. They were uneducated and untrained men, they're going how are these people uneducated and untrained men, but wait a minute, they'd been with Jesus three years. These men were filled with the Spirit of God.

So they came with the boldness and the authority of God's Word. That's all you had to do. That's it.

You don't have to worry about this and that. I'm not qualified. That's the enemy.

You're just a little child. A little child has more boldness than us. They'll boldly talk about Jesus Christ.

I've got my kids inviting everybody to the Christmas thing on the 18th, teachers and this and gymnastics instructors. I'm embarrassed. But that childlike faith.

And it's interesting. When I met with that priest on Friday, this is what makes them squirm in the seats. This is what they can't answer.

And it was getting a little upset, irritated. And I said, I told him, I said, with all due respect, if you have the truth, and I'm on my way to hell, why can't you sit and dialogue? I said, the reason is because truth invites scrutiny, error runs from it. You just bring the truth with the power of the Spirit.

See, I've heard people bring the truth. And it's just, you might as well just go sit at a cemetery. Because there's no power in it.

There's no, there's no spiritual unction. See, the Pharisees have the Word of God. Jesus said, Oh, do what they tell you to do.

But don't do what they do. They're blind leading the blind. There's no spiritual power.

The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. They're both together. You have to have the Word of God with the power of the Holy Spirit.

And it's like dynamite. It'll just knock them down because of that boldness. So here we are, the men are that were put in prison are standing back in the temple and teaching the people.

Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them saying, Did we not strictly command you not to teach in his name? And look, you have filled all of Jerusalem with this doctrine and you intend to bring this man's blood on us.

A couple things. Fear is the reason we don't share, isn't it? Me too. Oh, goodness gracious, yes.

Often it's fear because we don't share. Fear prevents us from sharing. But faith is the opposite of fear.

And as you spend time in God's Word, as you obey his principles, as you're filled with the Spirit, you have to share. It's a byproduct of being filled with the Spirit. So anytime we're very fearful, you have to wonder where that fear is coming from.

Often it's coming from because we're not spending time with God. See, the more time I spend with God, the fuller I become of his Spirit and you. That's one wonderful mark of obedience is being filled with the

Spirit.

Now wisdom is needed here because you have to be strategic. When you're witnessing to people, I talked about last week, I'm not sure about the shotgun approach. You know, you have people just putting Jesus in everybody's face all the time.

Now if God calls somebody to do that, that's wonderful. But often there's strategic times where God will bring somebody in your life, he'll bring a circumstance, a situation into your life, and giving you a platform to speak the truth to somebody. An open door here, a closed door here, he brings and there's there's a platform for you to speak.

And that's what they were given, a wonderful platform to present God's Word. A relationship was built sometimes with people and then you're able to speak boldly in God's with God's Word. Interesting, they said, the religious leader said, you have filled all of Jerusalem with your doctrine.

You have filled all of Jerusalem and immediately I thought of what we read months ago, Acts 1.8, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be what? Witnesses in Jerusalem, and Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Now this is interesting, because this is actually a good platform for missions. If you Jerusalem, you have Jerusalem here, the message is starting in Jerusalem, you have Judea underneath Jerusalem, a lot of Jews were there, but then you have Samaria up above, and that was what they would call half breeds, that Jewish people would marry into the people of the land there, the different religions, and they were not Jews, they didn't consider them Jews.

So Jesus is saying, go to Jerusalem, go to Judea, go to Samaria, and then go all throughout the ends of the earth. So you have to answer this question, are you involved somehow in getting the gospel out there? If you're not, you're missing one great commandment, to go and get it to Jerusalem, to get it locally, to get it out to the nations. That's what we're called to do, we miss that commission.

We miss that we're supposed to get this out. Filled Jerusalem with your doctrine. What is doctrine? Doctrine is a set of beliefs, so every religion has their doctrine.

So what we do, what you want to do is make sure you have the correct doctrine, correct? We don't want to have the wrong doctrine, the wrong teaching. And this is why the inerrancy of Scripture is so important, that we look to this as the final authority, because without this, you have no authority. Everything contradicts itself on every point.

So let me take this long rabbit trail here, and the reason I want to talk about meeting with that Catholic priest, actually for two reasons. Number one, I don't like to just sit and pick apart other religions and other things, and it's not my heart really. I mean, I asked my wife, believe it or not, I don't want to debate, I don't want to argue, I don't want to be in your face.

But God often calls us to boldly and confidently show the difference with Scripture and what they're teaching. Now, if I didn't have, if I didn't do that, if I just said, well, that's going to offend a lot of people, then I should just go get Sunday morning television, right? Where you're not offending too many people. And God calls us to show a difference.

And I'll talk about Mormonism or Jehovah Witness or different religions, and just all we're doing is showing what the Bible says and showing what this other group teaches. Now, how did this whole meeting come about? I did not really go out of my way to do this. I was asked to speak at a pastor's gathering in Santa

Clarita on the issue of abortion, and motivating pastors to take a bold stance.

And there was a priest in the audience there. And he was clearly touched. Like, you could see tears, he's wiping away tears.

He wanted to talk to me afterwards. He was so touching. I'm so motivated.

I'm like, what is going on here? This is interesting. I mean, you think he'd be, you know, just like, who's this guy? Obviously, I didn't get into the Reformation and Sola Scriptura and Catholic tradition, things like that. I just preached like I normally would.

And so that started the conversation. And then one of his parishioners came to me and asked, well, why can't you and Catholics just get along? Like, why can't we just put all of our differences aside? So well, where can I start? It was all very cordial, very nice. And I started with Mariology.

I started with Mary and Purgatory and all these things. And they said, well, that's, you know, she said, that's taught. You have to go to Purgatory to have your sins be purged of your sins, your guilt and your shame.

And I'm like, well, what was the point of the cross? Why do Jesus and something else? Because you have to remember something. The whole point in Galatians, when Paul says that if an angel or anything preaches any other gospel than what we have preached, let them be accursed. What was he talking about Galatian? He was saying who has bewitched you? Are you going to finish in this in the flesh what began in the Spirit? So the church in Galatia was adding these things to the gospel.

Yes, Jesus plus this. Yes, Jesus plus this. And anytime you do that, that's another gospel because the gospel is complete.

Christ is an all sufficient Savior, my debt has been paid in full and so is yours. There's no purging that needs to take place. So that's where that's where the conversation started.

And she said, Would you like to speak to can you speak to my priest about these issues? I'm like, Hmm, this will be interesting. Sure, I'd love to do that. Now, this next part, I've been praying about all week.

And I'm like, I don't know, I might offend some people, maybe not maybe like, oh, but I just need to share my heart and hopefully to help some people. But I was actually going to cancel this appointment. I'm like, I'm not going to waste my time.

What's the point? This is Morgan remember, I just was so excited. This one day, it's Thursday, I'm going to cancel or hoping they're canceling. God, can you just have them email me? This is a waste.

It's an hour away. He's got 5000 people like he's going to convert me and I'm going to convert him. I mean, it's, it's pointless.

But I was really going for the lady. But then right at that moment, I go, oh, that's right. I ran to my journal.

And a year ago, December 11, was today actually, right? 2015, I woke up at 2am and had a dream that I was preaching to a couple dozen priests, they begin to walk away, but other people begin to gather and you would see people being changed by the gospel. I wrote that in my journal. At two in the morning, I don't write stuff like that very often.

I can't believe this. I'm going tomorrow. I'm ready.

Now you're not going to a flat tire is not going to stop me. But that's on that point that we talked about dreams are different things. They never make you do anything.

You don't get weird by it. But it's great confirmation. I would have I've never dreamt anything like that in my life enough to wake me up, get up and write it down.

Because why am I this is the weirdest thing ever. But this is I could see this now playing out. And now we're going I'm going to meet with a different one down there later because of this interest and and that so that's how it came about.

Now the main point is this. The whole thing I started out is we cannot believe the Bible and the traditions of the church. In the same way I cannot believe the Bible and other books of other religions.

You can't believe both you can never you can't have both one is authoritative and the other must come underneath it when it comes underneath and you see it's an error, you throw it away. That's how Christianity was built. And they begin to chide me a little bit saying you know, I two of them there, the lady and him and and well, you just you're you've only been around since Martin Luther, the Protestant Reformation.

Oh, no, we can we go back 2000 years to Christ. He is our head. He is our king.

He is everything it are the church founded in whatever whatever day he founded the church, we don't have a correct day. But that's when the church was founded around 350 ad, the Roman government married the church and all the corruption began to come in Constantine would bring in different things. And if I had time, we could go through it's called Isis is that this Egyptian goddess was called Mother of Heaven.

But all these things that they attacked to marry came from that time period. So the church started to get really drifting away. So the Reformation, Protestant means protest.

So the Protestants were protesting yet, Martin Luther in Germany and your exwing Lee, Switzerland, John Calvin, and in Switzerland, you're exwing Lee was forget where he was at in the in a different area, Switzerland, that's right. And Geneva, John Calvin, and then John Knox, Scotland, you had John Husk, William Tyndale, even earlier than that. So they're all going, hold on back back to scripture back to scripture.

We have to come back to the scripture. We're getting way out there. The perpetual virginity of Mary means she was always a virgin.

Always. Immaculate conception means that she was conceived without sin. That she was so was her parents without sin.

So you got to follow this back and you realize that that you can't have two authorities. But the Catholic Church would say that the church is the pillar of the truth. Look at Shane, do your research.

Right? First Timothy 3:15, the church is the pillar and support of the truth. But what does a pillar do? The pillar holds up the truth. So the church is to hold up the truth, and everything else comes underneath it.

But the papacy, the Roman Catholic Church, and he said this, that you have to remove that the Bible is our only infallible rule of truth, you have to take it that we're only because decrees from the papacy are equal with scripture. So that's where it all starts. And you can throw in things like the Mary adoration and, and because and begin to elevate her and all these things that the Bible says, the complete opposite.

The Pope is preserved from the possibility of error when in the exercise of his office, as shepherd and teacher of all Christians in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole church. So that would actually in many cases supersede the scripture. So that's a dilemma with with pastors talking about this is because you see a group of people that are in a lot of air, a lot of air.

And actually it got to where he wouldn't let me get a word in edgewise. And I said, with all due respect, I just gave you 20 minutes, I'll give me 20 minutes to hear me out. And the saddest part of this whole thing is I said, when did you repent of your sin and believe in Jesus Christ? And he kind of wiggles Do you mean when I became a priest? Like no, when did you repent of your sin and believe in Jesus Christ? And kind of took a rabbit trail? And I'm like, Oh, my God, is it possible? Is it possible? Yes, it's possible.

Yes. Because that's what I mean by religion and not a relationship. Religion and not a relationship.

Do you know that they would they take when they take their vow, they take a vow of altar, Christus, another Christ. And during communion, when that body of Jesus is sacrificed, every single time they take communion, they are operating as altar Christus, another Christ, they are breaking the bread and the blood of Christ. They're putting him on the altar again, and again, and again.

That's why you'll see the Catholic Church, the whole service is surrounded by or surrounded on mass. But the Protestant churches or historical Christianity is really what I use is surrounded around the Word of God. So they elevate this to being his actual blood and body from John six, the Jesus said, unless you eat of my flesh and drink of my blood, you'll have no portion in me.

All you have to do is read a few verses earlier, when Jesus talks about the manna that comes down from heaven, whoever partakes of me believes in me has received me that it has nothing to do with the literal, the body and blood, and they put Christ on the altar again, he's being his blood being shed again, and they're operating as another priest putting Christ on the altar. Now you understand why they have to go to communion. Every week, I send this week, I got to get to communion, I send this week, I got to get communion, I send that none of that is scriptural, the finished work of the cross is done, it's complete.

So we take communion to remember the cross, not to put Christ back on it. So you look at tradition, you look at the Word of God, it's very simple. Christ is the only head of the church.

Christ is the only head of the church. And I asked about the priest being confession and confession and confession. I actually back up a little bit alter Christus, another Christ, I almost thought lightning bolt was we're going to come out of the ceiling, I was backing away, because I can't even believe.

And I said, how can I, this is borderline blasphemy, this is heretical. heresy means a self willed opinion that opposes the truth. So somebody has a self willed opinion that opposes the truth, it's heretical.

That's where the word comes from. There's nothing wrong with saying that. So ironically, I'm sitting there and they told Martin Luther in 1517, that he needs to recant.

And I'm thinking, No, no, you need to recant. You need to go back to the point of Scripture. And he said, but God is revealing through the Pope through the Holy Spirit truth on a consistent basis.

No, it's not it's been revealed already. There's no scriptural support for celibacy. The priests were actually supposed to marry in the Old Testament.

Do you have any maybe this is where something that perversion is coming from? I mean, this isn't the priest now that all these child abuse things are coming out. I don't say that to make fun. I say it because you're going against the Word of God and all sorts of perversions will prevail.

Did you plan that? Oh, my goodness. I knew this was going to be a tough one. And you have to understand because what I did not want to do is be another person that pokes fun at the Roman Catholic Church.

But when you have priests that aren't saved, when you have millions of people that aren't saved, we have an obligation whether it sticks or not to say have you considered? Have you considered that you might be caught in a false religious system? Yes, yes, you are caught. What about this is another sad part purge your purgatory is that you actually you have to go to purgatory and be purged of your sin. So if you but if you look at Scripture, all Scripture that we are set free because of the blood of Christ, he paid the price, he propitiation, he took the wrath of God, the scapegoat that's in the Old Testament, the sin and guilt.

That's what the scapegoat was, they would put the sin and the guilt of the people and they would let that go go free showing that the guilt and shame has been removed. And I said, Well, we don't need this. He goes, But what do I do with all this guilt and shame I'm feeling? What does he do? The pre what you I don't know, you point 5000 people in the right direction.

Hopefully, you know. But I said, That's where the blood of Christ comes in, you repent of your sin, and you believe there's no additional purging, you don't need a mediator, you don't need to sit and confess to a priest, you need to go straight to the throne room of grace because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Listen, that blood is so powerful, that blood is so powerful, that demons have to flee demons that tremble in His presence, you can mention the every other name, but Jesus Christ, and you will upset, you will upset people.

Listen to God rather than men, salvation by works. Now this is an interesting one, because the Roman Catholic Church will, at least he said that they do not believe in salvation by works. But if you read, just go online and read Catholic doctrine.

If you die in a state before confession and communion, you've created certain sins, you will go to hell or you will be purged of those sins. And good works keep us in a state of justification. Okay, that's a big word, what's it mean? Justification means just as if I had never sinned.

Because Christ took that, paid that penalty, the blood of Christ, I am justified, you are justified, it's called imputed righteousness, you take on the righteousness of Christ. I don't deserve it, I don't understand it, I'm a sheer emotional mess when I think about it. But you can stand before Him, so our good works don't continue to justify us.

I gotta stay good works, have I been good enough that's gonna justify me someday? No, it's already been paid, I walk and stand before God justified. And because of that, I want to work, I want to do good things for the one who set me free and saved me. So works, the Bible says that you work out your own salvation

with fear and trembling, you don't work for it.

And you don't have to continue in it to sustain salvation. And I'm so glad I went because I never realized that the depth, because you hear things, right? I've never had the opportunity to sit down for two hours and just ask these questions. And this is huge, though, this is another gospel.

Like, well, not everybody believes in merry worship and different, well, you might want to take 14 of the statues down from the campus then. You might want to go in and take some of the things off of the website, such as the Council of Ephesus, Antipas of Bostra, a father in the Council of Ephesus said, He said, merry hell, you who acceptably intercede as mediator for mankind. This is another gospel.

This is another gospel. And I talk to people all the time, all the time, they say, I was Catholic, but are you Christian? I love Catholicism, but do you love Christ? You see what this is about? What it is, it's a man-made rules and regulations. I'm doing this.

I'm doing this. I've got to get here. I've got to do this.

I've got to do this. That's why there's no power with it. And I said, with all due respect, sir, I've never heard a priest preach a powerful sermon.

Why? Because they don't have the Spirit of God in them. You can quote Latin and say, Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. And that's a vain repetition.

There's no power in that. So you look at everything through the light of Scripture. And let that be the final authority.

Anybody, anybody, and obviously he's getting a little upset. And I didn't talk like this. I was a little softer, of course.

But I kept saying, but Scripture, but look at this, but powerful authority says this. But how can you have two authorities? And what I realized is they're not an equal playing field. They put the Word of God under here and make it convenient to fit their ideology and their theology.

So who are you going to listen to, God or man? Who are you going to listen to? Are you going to listen to God or man? Because who you listen to is who you obey, isn't it? Who you listen to is who you obey. And sometimes God will open that door and it's fear that stops us. It's fear that prevents us from sharing that wonderful good news.

Back to Acts 5.29. There it is. So they just asked him, what are you doing, Peter? What are you guys doing? You need to stop this. But Peter and the other apostles answered and said, Man, these guys wouldn't cut it today.

They'd be too hardcore. You got to soften it up a little bit, Shane. Don't be so, man.

No, that's what they did. And we are his witness to these things. Now back to what I was saying earlier.

And I thought about many years ago, some of you remember something, a movement out there that was called the Seeker Sensitive Movement. And I'm going to be careful because there's two sides of it and there's good men divided on it. But the point was, really the point was you've got to make church seeker

sensitive.

Boy, I wouldn't talk about half of what I just talked about if I'm trying to be sensitive. You have to be sensitive to those that are coming in. You don't want to step on that toe.

You don't want to step on that toe. You don't want to close that door. So what's there left to talk about? It's fluff.

It's appealing. You know, it's everything. It's seeker sensitive.

Now, granted, do I want to be sensitive to the seeker? Of course. We don't want to blow them out of the water. We want to be sensitive to what they're going through, sensitive to how they were raised, sensitive to the single mom who's trying to raise three kids who needs to be encouraged.

And we want to be sensitive to these things. But when we design our whole church service and our sermon around being sensitive to those who are not believers, you miss the whole point of preaching. The whole point of preaching is to encourage when it's time to encourage, to discourage when it's time to discourage, to build up and to pull down.

Actually, when God called Jeremiah, He called him in his youth. He said, before I formed you in the womb, Jeremiah, I knew you and I called you to be a prophet from among the nations. Jeremiah said, I am just a youth.

I can't do this. He said, no, you will do it. You will go to who I sent you and you will say what I tell you to say.

You will pluck out and you will root up. You will build up and you will destroy. That's the call of preaching often.

So we're sensitive. We love you. Everybody's welcome, but you can't affirm every lifestyle.

You can't avoid difficult truths because the Word of God is supposed to go, oh, ow. I mean, that's how often a person is convicted. They're not convicted only by just saying nothing and hope.

Man, you might want to try to read this someday and hope they just stumble on page 1,200. The Word of God tells us to talk to people and tell them, do you know that this is true? Do you know that unless you repent of your sin, you are lost? And it's an ultimate shame that hurts. Yes, it hurts.

Of course it hurts. So does surgery to remove the cancer. That little baby you're holding, what did that feel like five months ago when you had that baby? It hurt.

So pain often propels us in the right direction. So never be scared to tell people the truth, but be very careful. Be sensitive, be loving, be understanding, be gracious.

And still you can hold your ground. This is interesting. This would be a whole sermon if I had time.

And we are witnesses to the things. And we are his witnesses. The apostles are saying we are his witnesses to these things.

We saw Jesus rise again. We saw Jesus visit us. He commissioned us.

We've seen signs and miracles. We are his witnesses. But then he says, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

Now the whole context here, we ought to obey God rather than men. And the whole context there is this law supersedes man's law. It used to be when the nation was founded that this was the foundation which every other law was built on.

So this law supersedes God's law. I mean God's law supersedes man's law. That's the context.

We have to obey God rather than men. So if we get pressure soon from the Supreme Court, should I start doing gay marriage weddings here on Saturdays? Why not, guys? That's not very loving. Come on now, what's wrong with all of you guys? I can't do it.

I can't do that. This has to. So the whole thing of civil disobedience, we don't recommend that.

It's not a good thing. We're actually supposed to submit to government and submit to the authorities. But when that authority tells you to do something that God has clearly told you to do, then that's where God's law supersedes.

And we see this in all areas of our lives, don't we, at work many times. And you want to be careful. You want to be sensitive.

You want to be led by the Holy Spirit. But that's the context. God's law is on top of everything else.

And the church actually is that pillar that supports that truth. Now here's a biggie. So also is the Holy Spirit God has given to those who obey Him.

Now unless I'm wrong here, and I could be, the context is that the Holy Spirit, once a person believes and is born again, the Holy Spirit resides within that person. They are given to that person. The Holy Spirit cries, Abba, Father.

The Holy Spirit bears witness that I am a child of God and that you are a child of God. So as that, the Holy Spirit, he's saying here, also bears witness that what is happening is true. So not only do you have the disciples bearing witness, you have the Holy Spirit bearing witness in this whole event here that is true.

So when a person believes in Jesus and the Holy Spirit comes and resides in them, that is the witness that these things are true. That's why you cannot argue a lot of these things with atheists or agnostics or different people. You're arguing because they don't have the Spirit of God.

Nothing bears witness. So that's one of the greatest arguments, apologetics for the Christian faith is a changed life. A radically changed life because now the Holy Spirit bears witness with God that I am a child of God.

And that Holy Spirit bearing witness with himself is confirmation. So that's what he's saying here. The Holy Spirit is bearing witness to this and he is given to those who obey God.

You have to rewind back a little bit. Acts 3, I believe it was 319, where Peter said, Repent and believe and you will experience times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. So the obedience is when you obey God by repenting and believing.

That's the key here to everything. Repent and believe. Repent, turn from our sin and believe that Christ is your sacrificial lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world.

That's why, and you might go, what is he talking about? Well, there's always been from even Adam and Eve, when they sinned, that God made for them a covering. From what? The skin of animals. The shedding of blood provided the covering.

And now we work through the Old Testament that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. So the Old Testament would bring the lamb that was slaughtered. The blood was poured on the altar as a sacrifice for the people, sprinkled in the Holy of Holies once a year.

And now Christ comes as the final fulfillment, fulfills all of that on the cross. Done. It's over.

He is that final fulfillment. And the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey and believe and repent. So that's what happens.

A person repents of their sin and embraces God's wonderful sacrifice that he gave for us. And as a result, you are filled with the Spirit. Now what happens here, though, also is the Holy Spirit is also given in full measure in relation to obedience.

On this note of obedience, are you aware of that? The closer or actually the more you obey God, not out of ritualistic rules and I have to and I can't do this and I can't do that, but out of an obedient heart that wants to please the Father and be filled with the Spirit. The more you obey God, the more you're filled with the Spirit. Now, have you ever seen those big water tanks around town? You know why they're usually up on a hill, right? Gravity feeding that water with the pumps and stuff.

Those tanks fill thousands of homes and service thousands of homes. That's the imagery there, that being filled with the Spirit. Now some are those water tanks, but what are most? Just a little bit, just enough for me.

Can I take a drink? They're not filled with the Spirit of God. They're just a little bit, and obedience is why. They're not obeying God in certain areas.

I love people enough to tell them the truth. That obedience results in the filling of the Holy Spirit. The more I submit and obey God in these areas that we've already been talking about, the more I am filled with the Spirit.

So this actually can happen both ways. The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent and believe, but also the Holy Spirit is poured out on those who obey God. If we had time, we could look at the ways that we do obey God through our actions and through our thoughts.

We often forget that, don't we? We forget the thought thing, but we have actions. And actually obedience is, Lord, what has your word told me to do? Jesus says, if you love me, you will follow my commandments. He who says they love me but do not do my commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in them.

What kind of commandments? Lying, stealing, adultery, all these things. Lord, we don't want to do these things. We want to obey you in the thought life and taking thoughts captive and walking that and fighting that battle.

The more we obey God, the more we're filled with the Spirit. That's a deep theological truth. It's very simple.

The more you empty yourself, the more you're filled with God's Spirit. Who are you going to obey? God or man? We have to answer that question. I'll go back to what I said earlier.

Obedience. Obedience equals filled with the Spirit equals boldness. And I wasn't kidding about children's ministry, was I? Or kids? They are more bold than we are.

Why? Often. Because they have that love of God. They haven't been tarnished much from the world.

This little light of mine, remember that old song? I'm going to let it shine. Come on. That's not just me.

No, you don't have to sing it. But this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Put it under a bushel.

Oh, no. Oh, no. What am I going to do? I'm going to let it shine.

Let Satan blow it out? No. I'm going to let it shine. And you're inviting everybody to church, and they just want people to come.

And we've got to be filled again with that boldness and obedience because that is the most abundant life you will ever know. You were not designed. I just invited somebody to church this morning.

They said, oh, no. The NFL is on all day. What? What? And you wonder why you're depressed.

And you lack peace and joy. You don't know if God is this or God is that. Because you have that boldness.

What is your doctrine? What is your doctrine? We just talked about it. What is your doctrine? Do you truly know him? Do you truly know him? I love my faith, people say, but do you love Christ? I love my church, but do you love Christ? I'm a Baptist. I just heard that this week too.

But are you a Christian? Do you love Christ? I'm religious, but do you love Christ? I'm spiritual, Shane, but do you love Christ? You have to have correct doctrine. You have to. Well, Shane, how do you know that way is the only way, the only truth, the only life, that nobody comes to the Father except through Christ? How do you know that? How do you know that? Next week.

I don't even know if I'm talking about that next week, actually. But there's a couple reasons I know, because Christians don't check their brains at the door. I told you last week, me and Randy met with two atheists for lunch for two hours, and I said, one Scripture, just one Scripture, that's incorrect, that's wrong.

I mean, we missed it scientifically. Like the world's flat. Show me something.

Nothing. Archaeologically. You go to Jerusalem, you can see where these people lived, the tools they used, the kingdoms, the walls.

So you see scientifically. Actually, they're talking about, Isaiah said, he who sits on the circle of the earth. Thousands of years ago.

Circumcision. Circumcision. I knew it was going to be tongue-tied.

My goodness. You know what happens right after eight days, baby boy. But the Bible says after eight days.

Well, now, you know, doctors now know, now the eighth day, it's the best day because of the blood and the healing process and different things. Oh, wow. There we go.

I mean, I could sit here for the next three hours and show you where the Bible is talking about the heavens and the earth declare as handiwork. Creation, you look at creation, and you look at all the invisible attributes of God. So you look at scientifically, boy, this confirms everything.

This actually blew my mind. We were sitting there, Randy, you remember, with the atheists, and we were talking about fossils, and they said, they actually said it, that yeah, we see clearly a catastrophic event occurred. Have you heard of the flood? I mean, you see, there's proof that it's right here, it's right here, but spiritual blindness will hide you from even the facts.

Even the facts, they'll come in here, what a wonderful church. Somebody must have put this together, but you walk outside and nobody put that together. It's just chaos.

No, no, no, no, no. It's spiritual blindness. The enemy of this world has deceived scientifically, archeologically, prophetically, everything the Bible talked about prophetically.

Isaiah wrote 700 years before Jesus Christ, not a bone would be broken. They would cast lots for his, all these things are fulfilled. And now we read, and you look there, and everybody's like, oh, what's gonna happen with, are we gonna see the Antichrist and the one world order and the monetary system, and there's different division on all this? But I was talking to somebody yesterday, and I'm hoping we can talk about it more, where ISIS is actually making their own money, and you can't buy or trade without it.

And what happens if you don't bow to that system? What happens? Beheading. Antichrist will have a disdain for women. I mean, there's connections here that you can think, oh, this is interesting, let's see where it goes.

But you look at the Bible, it's fulfillment. Why is Jerusalem, it was causing all kinds of trouble 2,000 years ago, why is it still causing trouble? A nation that was destroyed, it was brought back in 1948, I believe it was. All these things you look, so I look at scientifically, I look at archeologically, I look at prophetically, and I look at historical, the historical aspect of the Bible.

Show me one place in history where it's off. Oh, he missed all, these pharaohs didn't exist. Yeah, they did, the kings, the areas, all these things, everything exists.

And then once you say, God, you are out there. God, I believe this message. I believe I'm having faith.

That's what faith is, it believes. It's a substance of things not seen, of things hoped for. God, I believe in you, but show me more.

I believe I'm repenting of my sin. And then the Holy Spirit fills your heart, and you now experience this cleansing and this freedom and this peace, and you can't shut your mouth. Where did that come from? Where did that come from? Well, cognitively this takes place and your brain function switches to the right brain.

No, no, no. That does not happen unless you are born again. That's what being born again is.

You die to self, you're filled with God's Spirit, and you're born again. But Shane, I know Christians that are doing this and this and this. Yeah, welcome to the world.

I love Christ, but my flesh doesn't. I love the Lord, but my flesh doesn't. And it's this constant battle until the day we die.

Paul said that we're never free from this conflict. We're always at war. And that's why you've got to take your thoughts captive.

You've got to take this seriously. You do not want to live your life with a question mark here. I mean, that's sometimes why I get passionate.

I love these kind of topics because I've got 45 minutes. I don't stay with that sometimes. But to basically put all this together, bring in life application, spiritual help, bring people to the Lord, fill them with the Spirit, make sure that God is leading, and never see some people again.

So you have to get right to the point. You have to ask, who are you going to beg? God or man? You have to choose this day whom you will serve. Just like Joshua, did you have to make a choice? And I'm throwing this out there to everybody.

A crowd this large, there are people here who don't know who Jesus Christ is. And a very good indication, as I often say, this message is very irritating. You're ready for lunch.

You're ready to hit that door as soon as you can. But God is calling you to full repentance and surrender. And there's other people here.

The church is full of people that have not fully surrendered their life. They're not filled with the Spirit of God. They don't know that fire of God.

They're fearful. They don't show their faith. How long has it been since you've shared your faith? Weeks, months, years? Is that God? That's not God.

Because the Holy Spirit, you couldn't put duct tape on your lips. You just have to rip it off and just share, because that's what the Holy Spirit does. And people are so afraid, oh, I don't want to do that, I don't want to give up this, I don't want to give up that.

You don't give up anything because God changes your heart. God changes your heart, and that's what happens.

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Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/3I-HGjsGqOY.mp4>

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