

Your Best Year Ever

“To get something you’ve never had, you’ve got to do something you’ve never done.” Denzel Washington, 2011

● THE OBEDIENCE PRINCIPLE

The principle: Love for God equals obedience to God which results in blessing from God.

○ Jesus’ Standard

“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”
Matthew 28:20a (New Living Translation)

Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
Philippians 3:16 (English Standard Version)

○ What Obedience Demonstrates: Love for God.

“If you love me, obey my commandments.” John 14:15 (NLT)

Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²²*But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.* Matthew 19:21-22 (NLT)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3 (ESV)

○ One Primary Result of Obedience: God’s blessing.

But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
Luke 11:28 (ESV)

● THE TWO KEY ACTIONS THAT MAKE THE PRINCIPLE POSSIBLE

○ Trust God. Believing God and acting on that belief.

There is a clear connection in the Bible between trust and obedience.

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.
Hebrews 11:7-8 (NLT)

○ Change Your Direction.

● TWO KEY AREAS TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE

○ Obey God by Praying and Reading the Bible Regularly.

(Bible: Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 4:4; Ephesians 6:17; Colossians 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12. **Prayer:** Luke 11:1-10; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6-8; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 1:5-6; 5:16)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6 (New International Version)

○ Obey God by Paying the Tithe.

“ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.’ ” Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse . . . Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”
Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.
Matthew 23:23 (NLT, 1996)