

## Why Did Jesus Need to Learn Obedience?

**Hebrews 5:8:** *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered.*



Jesus is Lord. He sits at the right hand of the throne of God which is the position of highest power and authority in ALL of God's glorious creation. This position was not thoughtlessly given. It was awarded to Jesus because his loyalty to and reverence for the heavenly Father were and are without equal. This position of unfathomable power and glory was attained by Jesus as a result of his willing submission to a grueling test of loyalty. This test was not only unique, but it was also profoundly necessary for the good of God's angelic creation, as well as for the future of the entire human race. This test required Jesus to experience change, hardship and uncertainty. It required him to learn, adapt and grow while always being exactly on target with fulfilling God's will. So, how did he do this?

The events that took place surrounding the very beginning of humanity's experience clearly define the learning path of loyalty Jesus would be called upon to accomplish several thousand years later. By taking a brief look at Lucifer's fall from God's favor, we will see the beginnings of the learning experiences of Jesus as a man.

### Before Satan was Satan, he was a glorious being!

**Isaiah 14:12:** *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!*

**Isaiah 14:12: (KJV)** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

The King James Version uses the name *Lucifer* here instead of *star of the morning*, also calling him a *son of the morning*. Here in the New American Standard Version, he is referred to as a *star of the morning*, *son of the dawn*, implying he was bright and beautiful, like a light in heaven.

This gives us a glimpse of the glory Lucifer had before his fall, before he was known as Satan.

### When speaking to Job, God revealed others with great heavenly glory at the beginning, as well as Lucifer, this morning star:

**Job 38:4-7:** *4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5 who set its measurements?... 6 On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

*Morning stars* (plural)—there's more than one. In fact, we are only told of two.

**Jesus revealed himself as the *bright morning star*. He was also a glorious being!**

**Revelation 22:16:** *I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.*

*the root*—Jesus was involved in the creative process

*the descendant of David*—his earthly lineage

*the bright morning star*—his heavenly position

As a *morning star*, Lucifer was given the immense privilege of overseeing God's earthly family. He was protecting and guiding this new human creation on earth. Lucifer was chosen for this very specific responsibility.

**Here Lucifer is allegorically referred to as the *king of Tyre*:**

**Ezekiel 28:12–15:** *12 ...take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD, You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering:... On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.*

(Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik) By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned: Because Satan is spoken of here as the king of Tyre, God spoke of Satan's sins in the same terms as Tyre's sins. Tyre was a highly commercialized city-state focused only on winning a profit. Satan's abundance of trading was found in his competitive spirit, his desire to be exalted above his associates (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The dishonest business practices of the leaders of Tyre were a reflection of the dishonest, deceptive dealings of the spiritual power behind them. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

Obviously, the literal King of Tyre was never a protector in the Garden of Eden, so we know this is allegorical. He (Lucifer) is described as an *anointed cherub*; *anointed* in the sense of expansion; outstretched (i.e. as with outstretched wings).

God appointed Lucifer to “cover” Eden and protect it. We covered these texts extensively in Episode #1305: “How Do Satanic Demons Influence Our World?”

God gave the privilege of oversight of this brand-new, magnificent physical creation to one of His highest and most respected angels because it was so important. Yet Lucifer made a choice to enhance his own glory and splendor instead of God's!

**Lucifer made this terribly destructive choice after being given the responsibility for caring over the new creation:**

**Ezekiel 28:16–17:** *16 By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, o covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground;...*

*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty*—his dramatic fall from God’s favor began as a growing, festering and deadly thought process. Seeing this in Lucifer helps us to understand the magnitude of what Jesus would go through in keeping his loyalty to God.

Here is a summation of Lucifer’s deadly spread of sinful thought in his heart and mind in Isaiah 14:13-14:

- ❑ *You have said in your heart*—sinful desire always begins by entertaining dark thoughts in the heart.

Take note of the number of times Lucifer says “I...”



- ❑ *I will ascend into the heavens*—he had already been given the responsibility of being God’s earthly representative.
- ❑ *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God*—he was already one of those special stars of God, but it wasn’t high enough for his ambitions.
- ❑ *I will sit in the Mount of Congregation in the uttermost parts of the north*—where God abides.
- ❑ *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds*—above the influence of God’s presence with man.
- ❑ *I will make myself like the Most High*—not replacing, but rivaling the Most High. Lucifer had a pride problem!

Lucifer’s internal problem with pride is growing, festering and changing into darkness the goodness and glory he was originally given by God. This is never good!

Contrasting between Lucifer’s gifts and privileges with his fall:

1. Lucifer was given extraordinary privilege and dominion over God’s earthly creation.
2. He made that privilege about himself and reached for that which was beyond what God permitted.
3. These actions resulted in him being stripped of his freedoms as God’s representative.

Lucifer was handed this extraordinary privilege and dominion. He was trusted with the sacredness of this sensitive new creation, but he made the whole situation about himself.

**Isaiah 14:15:** *Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol (the grave), to the recesses of the pit.*

The end result would be destruction. Such pride will always yield this result in the end.

It was the exact opposite of Jesus' thoughts and actions in his pre-human existence as the *Logos (the Word)*. He wasn't wrestling with pride.

**John 1:14:** *The Word (Logos) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father...*

**He was loyal and working with his Father:**

**Proverbs 8:30:** *Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.*


Think about the camaraderie, joy and productivity from such unity. Jesus was God's *master workman*. Whatever God set Jesus to do, he went out and did with enthusiasm, *daily His delight*. We can feel the beauty of fellowship and strength in their work of creation (**Colossians 1:15,16**). Jesus as the Logos honored God's will in every detail.

**Let's look at the New Testament description of this period of time:**

**John 1:3-5:** *3 All things came into being through him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

What a stark comparison with the two morning stars. In Episode 1328: "How Can We Become Influencers? (Part I)" we looked at a comparison between the two greatest influencers our world has ever seen: Satan (Lucifer) and Jesus (the Logos). Jesus' "why" was to honor God fully and eternally. Satan's "why" was personal glory and power. We can see by this comparison that Jesus' obedience was in place in the eons of time before he came to earth. Jesus was already obedient!

**The Power of Learning and the Power of Experience:**



Before his earthly existence, Jesus as the Logos had mastered loyalty, reverence and service to God.

Lucifer had the same opportunities within the scope of his responsibilities and chose self over service and darkness over light. His decisions and actions would present dysfunction, disloyalty and destruction to all of God's harmonious creation.

All of that dysfunction, disloyalty and destruction came from one of God's most trusted lights! It is stunning how Satan could turn his back on his high position with God.

Even before Jesus came to redeem humanity, the depth of his devotion to God was in dramatic contrast to Lucifer's pride!



**The contrast between the Logos and Lucifer is dramatic.  
How does this help us understand Jesus' need to learn obedience?**

The work of redeeming humanity from sin and death would be difficult and would have to be done perfectly and selflessly. We know through the prophet Isaiah that the Logos stepped forward to handle this task. Even though he had already proven loyal, becoming human would be a completely new experience. He would be learning all over again.

That's a huge consideration. Being human is completely different from being a spirit being. We could probably liken it to comparing the capacities and abilities of a human to that of a frog or maybe even a mosquito or a single-celled organism. There is a vast difference between the natures. And with no previous experience, Jesus had to learn from scratch.

To help us better understand the challenges Jesus would face, let's review the fall of humanity and Lucifer from God's favor.

<i>Adam</i>	<i>Lucifer</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
Adam was created and given a perfect home in Eden. This home provided all he needed both to live, and to prove his obedience to God.	Lucifer was given great privilege and a place as the covering cherub of Eden. He also could live and prove his obedience to God.	Jesus would be given a human life which would provide all that he needed to live while proving his obedience to God. He had the gift of life plus opportunity.

In all three cases, God gave as a baseline the gift of life plus the opportunity to prove obedience. Everything needed was supplied. This is a beautiful lesson that helps us see how Jesus learned from the bottom up.

**There were two specific trees placed in the middle of the Garden of Eden:**



**Genesis 2:9: Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

The word for *midst* here means in the center or in the middle. We assume the *tree of life* and the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil* were in close proximity to each other.

We imagine it would have been difficult to be eating from the tree of life every day while looking at the other one with its delicious-looking fruit and wondering if it tasted different.

**God plainly revealed the test of obedience that would determine man's direction:**

**Genesis 2:16–17:** *16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, from any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*

This was the proclamation requiring obedience.

<i>Adam</i>	<i>Lucifer</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
What a temptation! The tree Adam needed to sustain life was near the tree he needed to avoid, to maintain life. Isn't that the way temptation works, though? It's within our reach, but we have to step out of the line of righteousness to get to it.	The authority which was given to Lucifer to thrive in God's service eternally was right next to the pride of claiming that authority as his own, which was a choice that would lead to death.	Jesus would live according to God's (Jewish) Law while having no authority to step beyond God's limitations.

All three were tested on the same principles of obedience:

- Adam stepped outside God's authority by walking a few feet to the other tree.
- Lucifer stepped outside God's authority by claiming more power and dominion for himself.
- Jesus always stayed within the limits of the authority God gave him, both in heaven as the Logos and on earth as a man.

All three were supplied with everything they needed to accomplish God's goals.

We can see from Adam and Lucifer that stepping outside their given authority was relatively easy. Like Jesus, we need to be focused on keeping our steps exactly in line with God's will in order to avoid temptation.

Adam and Eve lived in harmony with God in Eden. Soon the fall of Lucifer would be made plain to humanity. The ego-driven desire for glory that had taken place in his heart would now be transformed into actions seeking to grab God's glory as his own.

Satan presented a test to the humans. In doing this, he stepped beyond what was permissible. He had NO authority to test humanity!

### He did it because he wanted the glory:

**Genesis 3:1-5:** *1 ...And he (Satan) said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? 2 The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. 4 The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*

The best lies have an element of truth. Lucifer was correct; their eyes would be opened, and they would now have direct experience with good and evil. The trap had been set for Eve as she now considered the advantages of eating this fruit. She didn't question; she just ate it. She gave it to Adam, and he also chose to eat it.

Satan wanted dominion over mankind and the earth, and he tried to win Adam through the deception of Eve. Eve was Adam's weak spot.

*"Loneliness makes cowards of us all." – John Bowlby*

### The two were bound together and acting as one:

**Genesis 2:23-24:** *23...This is now bone of my bones. And flesh of my flesh... 24 ...and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

*Adam*  
The heart of man (Eve) was deceived, and man's thoughts and actions (Adam) followed.

*Lucifer*  
Lucifer's fall began in his heart, and he followed its evil direction and claimed God's glory for himself.

*Jesus*  
Jesus would be constantly faced with human examples of self-service as he continually glorified God.

- Deception finds a crack, the path of least resistance. Eve allowed herself to believe Satan, and Adam followed her actions.
- Lucifer decided that God's glory would be his. He didn't ask or discuss; he just took. He reached for something higher than his place in the universe.
- In contrast, Jesus lowered himself and became a man. He constantly faced examples of individuals defying the Law, doing as they willed, while Jesus followed the Law exactly and glorified God in all that he did.

As with Lucifer, Adam and Eve were given wonderful gifts:



- They were given extraordinary privilege, a beautiful environment and dominion over God's earthly creation. They were put in charge and given a commandment they did not follow!
- They made that privilege about themselves and reached for that which was beyond their permission! They received life, dominion, protection and food – yet they wanted the one thing they weren't given. When we step beyond God's permission, we step beyond the confines of His path.
- These actions resulted in a stripping of their freedoms as God's representatives. They were thrown out of the garden, removed from the tree of life, and they and all the generations to follow were held captive by sin and death.

The consequences were monstrous for sidestepping the path God laid out for Adam and Eve. The consequences were monstrous for Satan's fall from grace. If Jesus would have stepped outside the guidelines given, the consequences would have been even greater. What pressure!

Jesus would be tasked with the same challenges of privilege and dominion. He would be required to only do God's will in God's time. By remaining faithful to the clear and narrow path, he would cancel Adam's sin and ultimately destroy Satan, the usurper of authority.

**By being obedient, Jesus had within his power to right every wrong:**

**Romans 5:18–19:** *18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience <5218> of the one the many will be made righteous.*

**Obedience:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5218 *hupakoe*; attentive hearkening, i.e. (by implication) compliance or submission

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) obedience, compliance, submission; 2) obedience rendered to anyone's counsels

To "hearken" is an old-fashioned word for listening. Think of the Christmas carol, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," meaning listen to the angels who are bringing important news! "Attentive hearkening!"







### The Power of Learning and the Power of Experience:

Jesus' prehuman existence had been a powerful proving ground over ages beyond count. However, becoming Jesus the man was a whole new experience with a barrage of challenges and pitfalls that he never knew. His task was to "attentively hearken" to God's will and sacrifice every part of his perfect human will in the process.

Jesus had to learn obedience as a human being.

It is pretty amazing to see how the tests of loyalty in God's plan all work in similar ways. This really shows us what is important to God.

**Lucifer and Adam were tested in similar ways.  
Where and how did the true tests of obedience begin for Jesus?**

Jesus' experiences in learning obedience were pretty much immediate. As soon as he was baptized, he went to the wilderness for 40 days to seek out and understand his Father's will. As his time for fasting and praying was coming to an end, Satan appeared on the scene. Why? To challenge him, of course! He is the usurper; he wants to keep the authority! He did not want Jesus to interfere. Satan's need to dominate and Jesus' need for absolute loyalty to God would collide.

As a man, Jesus needed to learn "attentive hearkening" to God's will and way. This was his primary objective because his mission was to destroy Satan's reign of evil and to buy back the human race.

As we continue, we are going to look at what happens to men's hearts when Satan gets ahold of them. Satan can entice a heart that has even a hint of rebelliousness in it, a hint of selfishness, a hint of pride into being a copy of his selfish thinking. Compare this with what Jesus' heart produced in him.

#### *Satan*

The rebellious heart that Satan entices says: *My needs are central and must be met first.*

#### *Jesus*

Jesus' learned habits of obedience: His highest nourishment was feeding on God's word and will.

Satan preys on our desire to have everything—"It's all about me!"

We can imagine Jesus spent his time in the wilderness pouring over the prophecies that had been written of him. Now that he had received God's spirit—God's power and influence—he could see beyond what a simple human mind could comprehend. He was aware of his mission on earth and was preparing for his ministry ahead.

Satan showed up to disrupt and destroy. A spirit being is more powerful than a human being, and Jesus had been weakened by his fast. This is an unfair fight right from the start.

IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD,  
COMMAND THAT THESE  
STONES BECOME BREAD.



**This is the first temptation of Jesus in the wilderness:**

**Matthew 4:1–4:** *1 Then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the son of God, command that these stones become bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.*

Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy 8:3**, referencing the manna that fed the Israelites in the wilderness. Food is necessary, but it's just as important that we feed on God's word—to study and to obey it.

Satan was scanning for a weakness in Jesus. After all, this technique had worked for Satan throughout human history. Being really hungry can pull away our focus. But Jesus wasn't compromised. He did not even consider the offer.

There is no doubt he was hungry—he *then became hungry*. What matters is what he would do with how he felt.

Here's where the temptation really comes in: Jesus had been given God's spirit at his baptism, so he had the power to miraculously provide sustenance for himself. However, loyalty demanded he rely on God to provide what he needed without using miracles for himself. That would be an easy way out.

Easy to know, hard to do! It is one thing to know something but another to apply it.

**Let's look at another example in relation to this thought:**

**John 4:31–34:** *31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, Rabbi, eat. 32 But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, No one brought him anything to eat, did he? 34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.*

His hunger was not relevant. God's will always was THE primary need to fill. Nothing else mattered. Easy to know, hard to do!

As we set the context for the next temptation, let's look at what Satan was looking to accomplish:

*Satan*

The rebellious heart that Satan entices says: *I am defined by my self-appointed importance.*

*Jesus*

Jesus' learned habits of obedience: His highest self-definition was to be humble, godly and sacrificial.

We can easily start thinking WE are the most important. Be careful!

By being tempted, Jesus is able to identify with us sinners. There's an expression, "to walk a mile in my shoes," meaning you know through similar experiences how I'm feeling. Jesus showed us temptations can be overcome, and he showed us how to overcome them—with humility and decisiveness. We need to repel the temptation, not play with it.



### Let's look at the second temptation:

**Matthew 4:5-7:** *5 Then the devil took him into the holy city and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to him, If you are the son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU; and ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE. 7 Jesus said to him, On the other hand, it is written, YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.*

*If you are the son of God*—Satan knew exactly who Jesus was. This was a Scripture battle! Satan knows the Scriptures too, and he misquoted **Psalms 91:11-12**. Jesus fought back with **Deuteronomy 6:16** about not testing God.

Jesus knew it would be wrong to tempt God by selfishly expecting God to save him if he made such a foolish, risky and unnecessary choice.

Jesus DID have the protection of angels. He did NOT even consider putting that protection to the test in some grand attention-getting stunt! Easy to know; hard to do!

Satan was trivializing obedience and sacrifice—*It's not that important to hold to principle and not use some of this power for yourself. Let God take care of you. You know He will.*

Just like the temptation of using his power to feed himself, Satan tried to get Jesus to push aside his Father's will of obedience and sacrifice. Jesus was to learn obedience as a man, not make things easier for himself with the power of the holy spirit.

### **When speaking to his disciples of his coming death, people asked to talk to him. Take note of the emotion as he addresses both groups:**

**John 12:24, 26-28:** *24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. 27 Now my soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came out of heaven: I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

Jesus was facing trial and crucifixion head on. What does he say? *Now my soul has become troubled* because of the weight of responsibility. But he understands this is the reason he came and does not complain about it. *Father, glorify Your name.* Jesus is given encouragement from the Father to continue.

Jesus' obedience was being put to the test. He understood that to glorify God, he was called to be the sacrificial lamb needed to take away the sin of the world! It is easy to intellectually know but incredibly hard to stay on that path!

What was Satan looking to draw from Jesus with the third temptation?

### *Satan*

The rebellious heart that Satan entices says: *My power and authority must be attained by any means.*

### *Jesus*

Jesus' learned habits of obedience: His highest loyalty was to God and to serve God ONLY.

Satan will do whatever is necessary to get what he wants. He pushed Jesus to circumvent what Jesus needed to experience. Beware, as Satan is looking for us to give into this temptation as well.

Jesus' loyalty says, *I serve only God!* There is no discussion—no crack in his armor. There is no conversation or consideration. There is only godly loyalty.



### **The third temptation:**

**Matthew 4:8–11:** 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to him, All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. 10 Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, *YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.* 11 Then the devil left him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to him.

This is almost like a movie scenario! Satan metaphorically slaps Jesus on the back: *The two Morning Stars back together again! Think about what we could do together. Eventually, you will have all these kingdoms under your feet; just consider this a shortcut without all that unpleasant suffering and dying that has to go on.*

Satan is called *the god of this world* in **2 Corinthians 4:4**. Control of the kingdoms of the world was his to give. The glory of the world is a strong temptation for all of us in one way or another.

It would have been an especially strong temptation for Jesus because he came to take the world back from Satan. Satan says, *Here, I'll give it to you. Just worship me and we're good—you can have it with no suffering or dying involved.*

Obviously, this was a gross misrepresentation of what God had sent Jesus to do. We have to understand the character of Jesus—this answer, *YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY*, captures all that he would learn in the next three-and-a-half years.



Remember, this is the VERY BEGINNING of Jesus' ministry! He had not spoken to a single soul about his mission here on earth. His only conversation since his baptism had been with this powerful spirit being who was trying to crush him.

JESUS CAME TO DO ONE THING, FOR ONE PURPOSE.  
IT COULD ONLY BE DONE ONE WAY.



Then Jesus said, *Go Satan! Go away, I am done with you.* He essentially dismisses the higher, more powerful being, and the higher, more powerful being actually listens.


With each temptation, Jesus demonstrated 100 percent dependence on the Father and the Father alone. Jesus never went outside of his boundaries. God set up boundaries for Lucifer and for Adam, which they violated. Jesus stays within the boundaries set up for him. The mission of honoring his Father is the only thing that matters.

**Jesus was praying in the garden the night before his crucifixion. His same dedication was shining out as he desired to serve God:**

**Matthew 26:37–39:** *37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then he said to them, My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with me. 39 And he went a little beyond them, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as You will.*

He did not step outside the lines set for him. *This is heavy; I feel like this is breaking me—yet not as I will, but as You will.*

Being faithful until the end in every single painful and disheartening detail would yield the sacrifice that would redeem the world. This is what he came to accomplish. For us, that's easy to know but hard to do! This is the example Jesus set for us.



The Power of Learning and the Power of Experience:

Upon being given God's spirit, Jesus was immediately put to the test. Satan with his spiritual power and authority would go at him in his physical weakness to attempt to break his will.

Instead, Jesus solidified the fact that his will would only follow God's will. Through the rest of his ministry, he would fully mature into this faithfulness.

Jesus is a remarkable example of standing for God, regardless of any obstacle.

The intensity of the battle of wills between Jesus and Satan is palpable. How did Jesus overcome such a powerful spirit being? Through God's word!

**We know Jesus' faithfulness would bring the world back from death.  
How did this "attentive hearkening" to God's will change Jesus?**

We know Jesus was entirely faithful in every single challenge and experience God had put before him. This resulted in his being elevated to an even higher level than he had been for all those ages before he became a man. Why? His work would ultimately vanquish sin, reconcile the ransomed human race and destroy Satan and all disloyalty to God. It would do all those things. God recognized and rewarded Jesus' eternal loyalty.

What is Satan looking to do?

*Satan*  
The rebellious heart that Satan entices says: *Give the people what will serve my power and my authority.*

*Jesus*  
Jesus' learned habits of obedience: His highest objective was serving others while honoring God. Jesus served others without spiritual pride, or resentment or looking down on those he served.

Satan doesn't stop. He doesn't pause. He doesn't consider. He just stays on it, especially with Jesus.

Jesus was Satan's greatest challenge at which Satan failed miserably. Thank God for Jesus' obedience despite the intensity with which Satan kept coming after him.

Because of this obedience, God appointed him as "high priest" of a spiritual priesthood to serve all of humanity in eventually bringing them back to God.

**This is a look at what God is doing behind the scenes in relation to Jesus' faithfulness and obedience:**

**Hebrews 5:5-7:** *5 So also Christ did not glorify himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to him, YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU; 6 just as He says also in another passage, YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK. 7 In the days of his flesh, he offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save him from death (meaning, out of death by resurrection), and he was heard because of his piety.*

We can easily see the comparison. Lucifer said in his heart, *I will be like the Most High*. On the other hand, Jesus waited until God Himself elevated him to this position of the eternal high priest along with all the "under priests" (his faithful followers)—although he would have accepted ANY position God offered him.

God set up this position and Jesus accepted it. He is eternally loyal and will work through this position to bring about the reconciliation of mankind that God has planned.

As with the Old Testament priesthood, this *royal priesthood* in the future will accept the offerings the people bring before God. They will teach, intercede and bring mankind God's blessings as well. This is all in the next stage of God's plan for mankind, when He sets up His kingdom with Jesus as the eternal high priest.

Jesus' faithfulness and obedience put that process into place. God didn't randomly choose Jesus. He chose Jesus because he proved his loyalty without question.

What is Satan trying to accomplish?

*Satan*  
The rebellious heart that Satan entices says: *Take the authority given to me and amplify it!*

*Jesus*  
Jesus' learned habits of obedience:  
His highest method was to humbly maximize God's glory through submission.

Satan is always outside the acceptable limits of godly authority. Jesus is the complete opposite.

**Hebrews 5:8–9:** *8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience <5218> (“attentive hearkening”) from the things which he suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*

Adam was created sinless, but he didn't have moral perfection. He did not have the maturity that comes with experience. His disobedience was voluntary, but it was due to immaturity as well.



**Why did Jesus need to learn obedience?**



It wasn't that he did not know what obedience was.

(Source: Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible) He was willing to “test” the power of obedience in sufferings; to become personally and practically acquainted with the nature of such obedience in the midst of protracted woes.

Jesus, as the Logos, was fully obedient to the Father under more favorable conditions in heaven. Once on earth, he learned what it meant to be obedient under the most adverse conditions. *He learned obedience from the things which he suffered.* He “hearkened attentively” to what it took to be obedient as a human being who was persecuted for his righteousness.

By these experiences, he was *made perfect*, meaning made complete in his understanding. He had gained the maturity necessary for God to be able to say, *You have done precisely what I needed you to do. Your next task to mediate for the entire world is entirely different and is without pain or suffering.* Jesus' example of victory brings his disciples hope that we can overcome our imperfections.

**We are imperfect and will fall every single day. But we have hope because of Jesus' incredible overcoming actions:**

**Hebrews 4:14–16:** *14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

We too are given every opportunity to follow righteousness. Jesus' example shows us we can still remain obedient even in the most difficult times. Based on what he went through, is there any doubt he can feel our sorrows, our loneliness and our mental and physical pain?

There is such comfort in this because we are broken. Knowing we are broken, we can go *with confidence to the throne of grace* because we know Jesus knows what we feel. We cannot get the spiritual healing, the spirit of guidance and direction to deal with the trials of our lives unless we go to that *throne of grace*, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in every time of need.

Jesus' human, sacrificial life is an example to us so we can walk more clearly, more firmly and more directly.

**As imperfect followers of Jesus, our responsibility is to actively deny ourselves as he denied himself:**

**2 Corinthians 10:3–5:** *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the **obedience** *<5218>* of Christ.*

Notice the hierarchy: Christ's obedience is to God. Christ is our head; we are the body. The body listens to the head, which tells it how to act. Because Jesus was faithful and obedient, we can confidently follow his directions.

**Because of his learning and applying this obedience, he fulfilled the precise requirements of God's justice. His reward would be remarkable!**

**Hebrews 10:10–12:** *10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but he, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.***

There is no place of greater power, greater honor, or greater authority than at the right hand of the living God!

What happens with all Satan has been trying to do?



### *Satan*

The rebellious heart that Satan entices conclusion: *Its end result is destruction as an enemy of righteousness.*

### *Jesus*

Jesus' learned habits of obedience: Its end result is being rewarded to a level most like the Most High. By God's grace and glory, Jesus earned what Lucifer desired so long ago.

In God's future kingdom, Satan's rebellious heart and the hearts of those he permanently influences will be destroyed. Their fate is everlasting termination. Unrighteousness has no place in God's plan.

This is the cautionary tale of two brilliant, glorious morning stars. One will end in permanent destruction, and the other is described by God as, *in whom I am well pleased* because of his complete and fully tested loyalty.

### **Jesus is the primary example of obedience for all of eternity:**

**Psalms 2:6-9:** *6 But as for me, I have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. 7 I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, You are My son, Today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, you shall shatter them like earthenware.*

Jesus will remove these flawed kingdoms (all of earth's unrighteous systems and governments) to build up God's kingdom. Jesus earned the right to do it.

**Daniel 2:44** tells us *...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed...; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.* All this is to set up the earth for the resurrection of all of mankind to righteousness and reconciliation with God. God's plan provides the opportunity because of the obedience of Jesus.

*As in Adam  
all die...*



*...So also in Christ,  
all will be made alive.*

THE  
RANSOM




Jesus' obedience brought the opportunity of a resurrection to righteousness and reconciliation with God.

**The Apostle Paul sums up the praiseworthy power of Jesus' learned obedience:**

**Philippians 2:8–11:** *8 Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Notice how great is the position Jesus now holds. His only objective from the beginning of his existence throughout eternity has been the *glory of God the Father*. Obedience brings glory to God the Father. Just ask Jesus. Follow his example.



The Power of Learning and the Power of Experience:

Jesus is THE example for the ages of one who was always loyal to God. He willingly emptied himself of his previous heavenly position to learn obedience on an entirely new and lower level of creation. Because of his learning and his profound overcoming, he has set in motion the full destruction of all evil influences as we look forward to God's promised kingdom for all humanity.

Jesus taught us to pray, *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. We can confidently pray these words because Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered, by what he experienced, so he could justly put away Satan, death and destruction. Once those are removed, he can help put God's kingdom exactly where God originally planned it to be. This is what the obedience of Jesus accomplished.

**So, why did Jesus need to learn obedience?  
For Rick, Jonathan, Julie and Christian Questions...  
...Think about it!**

*All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.*



## Next episode

Episode 1350: What Defines Moral Behavior? (Part I)



@christianquestionsministries



cq biblepodcast

**Text CQREWIND to 22828**  
to receive our Weekly Newsletter, Show Notes and Study Questions

### *Bonus Material and Study Questions*

#### **Recommended additional study:**

##### **Ep.1305: How Do Satanic Demons Influence Our World?**

*(Regarding King of Tyre and Ezekiel 28)*

*Establishing the origin, power and methods of dark spiritual beings*

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1305-demons/>

##### **Ep.1328 How Can We Become Influencers? (Part I)**

*(A look at a comparison between the two greatest influencers our world has ever seen)*

*Learning to appreciate as well as be wary of the power of influence*

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1328-influence-part-i/>

##### **Ep.1120: What Things Troubled Jesus?**

*Learning from three experiences that gave Jesus anxiety*

<https://christianquestions.com/inspiration/1120-anxiety-jesus/>

##### **Ep.1276: When Jesus Said, "It is Finished," What Did He Begin?**

*Absorbing the crucifixion through the eyes of bible prophecy*

<https://christianquestions.com/inspiration/1276-it-is-finished/>



Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube:

- **What does the Bible say about Satan?**  
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/facts-about-satan/>
- **Did Jesus ever do anything wrong? (three temptations)**  
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/video-cq-kids-did-jesus-ever-do-anything-wrong/>
- **Why didn't God stop Satan from tempting Eve?**  
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/satan-tempting-eve/>
- **What is obedience?**  
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/what-is-obedience/>
- **Will sin and death ever end?**  
<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/will-sin-and-death-ever-end/>

### A few other scriptures that show us the challenges Jesus went through as he accomplished the work that God gave him to do.

**Isaiah 53:2–12:** *2 For he grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; he has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to him. 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him. 4 Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him. 7 He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet he was with a rich man in his death, because he had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in his mouth. 10 But the LORD was pleased to crush him, putting him to grief; if he would render himself as a guilt offering, He will see his offspring, he will prolong his days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 As a result of the anguish of his soul, he will see it and be satisfied; by his knowledge the righteous one, my servant, will justify the many, as he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he will divide the booty with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.*

**Psalms 2:1–9:** *1 Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, 3 Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us! 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 But as for Me, I have installed My king upon Zion, My holy mountain. 7 I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, You are My son, today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, you shall shatter them like earthenware.*

### Word Study of all New Testament uses of the word for obedience in our theme text:

Many of our topics are compiled using a Word Study using several concordances and other Bible helps. We see how a particular word is used in both the Old and New Testaments. Understanding how the words are used not only tell us what they mean, but it gives us the nuances of the original Hebrew or Greek when comparing how the writers of the Bible use them in different contexts. We can also learn more by seeing the origins of a particular word, providing a depth of understanding just reading scriptures in English cannot provide.

**Obedience:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5218 *hupakoe*; attentive hearkening, i.e. (by implication) compliance or submission

Thayer's Greek Lexicon: 1) obedience, compliance, submission;  
2) obedience rendered to anyone's counsels, an obedience shown in observing the requirements of Christianity



**All uses in the King James Version:**

**Romans 1:5:** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for *obedience* <5218> to the faith among all nations, for his name.

**Romans 5:19:** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the *obedience* <5218> of one shall many be made righteous.

**Romans 6:16:** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to *obey* <5218>, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of *obedience* <5218> unto righteousness?

**Romans 15:18:** For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles *obedient* <5218>, by word and deed.

**Romans 16:19:** For your *obedience* <5218> is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

**Romans 16:26:** But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the *obedience* <5218> of faith.

**2 Corinthians 7:15:** And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the *obedience* <5218> of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

**2 Corinthians 10:5:** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the *obedience* <5218> of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 10:6:** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your *obedience* <5218> is fulfilled.

**Philemon 1:21:** Having confidence in thy *obedience* <5218> I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

**Hebrews 5:8:** Though he were a son, yet learned he *obedience* <5218> by the things which he suffered.

**1 Peter 1:2:** Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto *obedience* <5218> and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**1 Peter 1:14:** As *obedient* <5218> children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.

**1 Peter 1:22:** Seeing ye have purified your souls in *obeying* <5218> the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep.1349: Why Did Jesus Need to Learn Obedience? See:



<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1349-obedience/>

1. Who was Satan before he fell from God's grace? What do we know about the angels called "morning stars"? How does Revelation 22:16 reveal Jesus? (Isaiah 14:12, Job 38:4-7)
2. What job did God give Satan's former self here on earth? What is an "anointed cherub"? How did he handle the job? How does Isaiah 14:13-15 describe Satan's ambitions? What is his end? (Ezekiel 28:12-17)
3. Who was Jesus before he came to earth? Describe his existence. (John 1:3-5,14, Proverbs 8:30, Colossians 1:15,16)
4. Contrast Adam, Lucifer and Jesus:
  - a. Contrast the opportunities they were given to prove their obedience. (Genesis 2:9,16-17)  
How did each react to the temptations in their lives?
  - b. How did Satan step over the line? Why did he do it? (Genesis 3:1-5)
  - c. How did Satan convince Adam to follow Eve's disobedience? (Genesis 2:23-24)
  - d. How did Jesus meet the temptations he saw all around him in his earthly life? (Romans 5:18-19)
5. What was Satan's first temptation of Jesus in the wilderness? How did Jesus answer it? How did Jesus' focus help withstand the temptation? How does Satan's heart compare to that of Jesus? What is the lesson for us? (Matthew 4:1-4, John 4:31-34)
6. What was Satan's second temptation of Jesus in the wilderness? How did Jesus answer it? What was Satan's aim in this temptation? How did Satan's heart attitude compare to that of Jesus? How might we trivialize obedience and sacrifice in our own lives? (Matthew 4:5-7, John 12:24-28)
7. What was Satan's third temptation of Jesus in the wilderness? How did Jesus answer it? Why was this a particularly strong temptation for Jesus? What temptations are you facing along the lines of recognition by others and position in the world? How does Jesus manage to stay within the boundaries God set up to keep his mission on track throughout his earthly life? (Matthew 4:8-11, 26:37-39, 2 Corinthians 4:4)
8. To what position did God appoint Jesus after he demonstrated his obedience in full? What is the main objective or mission of this new job? Who will be serving under him in this capacity? (Hebrews 5:5-8)
9. Why did Jesus need to learn obedience? How does this comfort us? For what reason has "God highly exalted him"? (Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:8-9, 10:10-12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Philippians 2:8-11)
10. What does Jesus' supreme example of obedience bring to the earth? Why can we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"?
11. How does Jesus' example of obedience impact how you obey God in your own life? (Psalms 2:6-9, Daniel 2:44, 2 Corinthians 15:22)