

# Wall, Work, Will

## Part # 3: The Obedience of Obligation

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Nehemiah was a person whose passion inspired him to do mighty things for God and for the nation of Israel. He was an unlikely leader who set an example of determination and problem solving for generations to emulate. His faith and trust in God was crucial in overcoming the obstacles in rebuilding the broken wall of Jerusalem.

The process of effectively dealing with life's challenges is seen as being primarily **temporary**.

The biggest reward comes when we allow our solutions to become part of a lifelong **strategy**.

The most effective lifelong strategy is centered upon **obedience** to God's Will.

## Central Point . . .

### The Challenge of Obedience

4 simple truths:

1. Obedience rarely fits our **moods**.
2. Obedience isn't **convenient**.
3. Obedience is **costly**.
4. Obedience can be **embarrassing**.

A misconception about obedience is that we consider it to involve personal **restrictions**.

The Bible however, defines obedience as **freedom**.

We can experience true freedom in our lives when we **obligate** ourselves to obey God's **commands**.

**Nehemiah 10:28-29** *The rest of the people took an oath. They were the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, Temple servants, all those who separated themselves from foreigners to keep the Teachings of God, and also their wives and their sons and daughters who could understand.<sup>29</sup> They joined their fellow Israelites and their leading men in taking an oath, which was tied to a curse in case they broke the oath. They promised to follow the Teachings of God, which*

*they had been given through Moses the servant of God, and to obey all the commands, rules, and laws of the LORD our God.*

## Focal Point . . .

### Living Obligated Lives

Requires the right attitude:

**Romans 8:12-14** *Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.<sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

What are we obligated to do?

1. To obey **Scripture**.

Most of the questions that we have of God and His desire for our lives are found in His **written Word**.

2. To lead our **families**.

**Nehemiah 10:30** *"We promise not to let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, and not to let our sons marry their daughters."*

3. To fully **acknowledge** God in our dealings.

**Nehemiah 10:31** *"We also promise that if the people of the land should bring any merchandise or grain to be sold on the Sabbath or on any other holy day, we will refuse to buy it. Every seventh year we will let our land rest, and we will cancel all debts owed to us."*

4. To honor God with our **resources**.

**Nehemiah 10:35-39** *Each year we will bring to the temple the first part of our harvest of grain and fruit.<sup>36</sup> We will bring our first-born sons and the first-born males of our herds and flocks and offer them to the priests who serve in the temple, because this is what is written in God's Law.<sup>37</sup> To the priests in the temple of our God, we will bring the bread dough from the first harvest, together with our best fruit, and an offering of new wine and olive oil. We will bring ten percent of our grain harvest to those Levites who are responsible for collecting it in our towns.<sup>38</sup> A priest from the family of Aaron must be there when we give this to the Levites. Then the Levites will put one tenth of this part in the temple storeroom,<sup>39</sup> which is also the place for the sacred objects used by the priests, the temple guards, and the singers. Levites and everyone else must bring their gifts of grain, wine, and olive oil to this room. We will not neglect the temple of our God.*

## 5. To love **God**, and those He **loves**.

**1 John 4:19-21** *We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.*

<sup>20-21</sup>*If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.*

### *Turning Point . . .*

The changes that occur in our lives as a result of our response to challenges are more than **superficial** if they embrace God's Will.

A change of **mind** brings about a change of **will**.

### **Our challenge:**

#### **Philippians 2:4-5**

*5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

**Seekers – we can only genuinely be obligated to obey God when we respond to Him and His invitation for us to accept His gift of salvation. To invite Christ into your heart, simply pray,**

**To invite Christ into your heart, you can simply pray,**

*“Heavenly Father I **admit** that I have left you out of my life, but this morning, I **believe** that Christ is your Son and that He died for my sin of rejecting you and that you raised Him from the dead. I **confess** Him to be my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen*

**Believers – simply ask God,**

*Heavenly Father – Am I willing to be obligated to obey You?*