

## The Obedience of Faith – The Faith of Obedience

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### **Rom.1:1-7**

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and defined as the Son of God in power according to the **Spirit of holiness**, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **unto obedience of faith** among all nations for His name, 6 among whom **you also are the called** of Jesus Christ; 7 to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, **called saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Believing / Obeying**

**Jn.3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave *His* only-born Son, in order that **everyone believing in Him may** not perish, but **may** have eternal life.

**Jn.3:18** The *one believing in Him* is not judged. But the *one not believing* has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name *of the only-born Son of God*. **(DLNT)**

The phrase "**believes in**" expresses an ongoing belief.

It is not a one time belief. The Greek word is present active continuous tense and clarifies a continuous trusting, remaining faith in Christ. The phrase "**does not believe**" nullifies the previous "**believes in**". In other words, if the believer does not continue in believing obedient faith, he stands condemned by God of himself.

**Jn.3:36** The *one believing in the Son* has eternal life. But the *one disobeying the Son* will not see life, but the **wrath of God remains** on him". **(DLNT)**

"The one who **keeps on believing** in the Son **keeps on having** eternal life; but the one who **keeps on being disobedient** (*apeithōn, or uncompliant*) *to the Son* will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him."

Thus disobedience is unbelief! And unbelief issues from a rebellious will.

In the New Testament, when belief is said to lead to eternal life, as is the case [**John 3:16,18,36,etc.**], the **tense expressing continuous action** is **always** used while the **tense expressing a single action** is **never** used.

The **stress** is thus placed on a **continuous faith** rather than on an **isolated moment** of faith. **Never** in these passages expressing belief in eternal life is one's eternal security said to be guaranteed by a **single, isolated act** of faith."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer touched the very essence of Christianity-initial and progressive. Hear this clear thinking disciple of Christ as he says: "...the following two propositions hold good and are equally true: **only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.**"

"In the one case **faith is the condition of obedience**, and in the other **obedience the condition of faith.**"

"Few comprehend the primary thought of 'belief.' It has a two-fold meaning, fraught with deep significance. In it are combined two old Anglo-Saxon words: '**be,** to live or exist; and '**lifan,** which conveys the thought of accordance.

Thus to believe means **literally 'to live in accordance with' anything.**

We are accustomed to consider 'belief' as simply **mental acquiescence** with some particular truth. But its **root leads us to action**; that which the **mind accepts, the will must obey. We do not truly believe, therefore, unless our conviction is manifested in our life.**"

When belief is said to lead to eternal life the **present tense of continuous action is always used**, and the **orist tense of a single or momentary action is never used.**

It is impossible to have **faith without obedience or obedience without faith**. Faith is an action word and the **action is obedience.**

**Disobedience - past experience for believers:**  
**Titus 3:3; Eph.5:5-8; Rom.2:6-11; Titus 1:15-16**

**Sin is disobedience is unbelief:**  
**Heb3:17-19; 4:6,11; 3:12-14; 5:8-9; Jn.8:51; 1Jn.2:3-4; Rom11:19-23; 1Pet.4:17-18**