

# Obedience

*“Obedience to God is the pathway to the life you really want to live.”*

*~ Joyce Meyer*

Bible quotes “The fear of the lord is the beginning of the wisdom”. Obedience to God will always take us higher and higher. In English, there is a saying, “**Character is what you do, when you think no one is looking you.**” Yes, When we think that no one is looking us, we think of doing both good and bad things. But the fact is, when we are filled up with the fear of God that God is always watching us, we will never do wrong doings and sins.



## **OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS AND ELDERS: -**

To be obedient is to obey the orders of one's elders and superiors. There cannot be order unless there is obedience. One has to obey the laws of the country, otherwise the society cannot exist. The laws may be irksome, but, for the overall good of the law, one must obey them. For instance, the law to be obeyed on the road ensures road safety. The laws pertaining to property help society continue without hitches and hindrances. Even in our body our limbs obey the commands of the brains unless they are diseased. Obedience is essential for the enforcement of order.

Obedience includes obedience to one's parents and elders. Parents are the best well wishers of their children. From their experience, they know what is good for their children. They would never mean ill for them. For the sake of the well being of the children, parents insist on obedience. Obedient children grow into fine children. They are not only loved by their parents

but also by others connected with the household and by the neighbours. When children obey parents, they feel happy.

Circumstances as they may be, parents may set certain norms. Children may not understand their implications, but if they obey, very often they will steer of dangers. For instance, the parent may warn his son of bad company. If the son obeys, he will grow unscathed. The parents may insist on personal cleanliness, keeping things neat and tidy, being regular in studies and so on and so forth. If the boy or girl obeys the parents in such and other things, he or she will surely grow into a finer one.

Of course the parents' example may be forceful enough. If the parent shows how they are obedient, the son will naturally be obedient.

There cannot be a better story than Casabianca on the deck. The father had asked the boy not to leave the deck until the parent returned. The ship was on fire, the father was dead and other sailors asked Casabianca to leave the deck and escape for life. But the boy would not leave, for father had asked him not to. The fate of the boy could be conceived but Casabianca has become immortal because he obeyed his father.

Being obedient to parents and elders will have to be followed in life. An obedient servant is always liked and respected. But for the unquestioning obedience of servants big establishments cannot be run. Unless one knows the value of obedience and has been practicing it, suddenly he cannot become obedient. Servants who are obedient are preferred to clever ones.

One may argue that blind obedience won't do good. Where one can prove the other is wrong, strict obedience can be waived. This happened sometimes; a junior may have a brilliant idea and without infraction of obedience he may put up his idea in the appropriate manner.

Obedience, just like charity must begin at home. Parents have a duty in bringing up children to be obedient and loving.

## **A SMALL STORY ON OBEDIENCE: -**

Long ago in a small village, there lived a hindu priest(brahman) called Narhari. He was the priest of the local [temple](#). He was a devoted disciple of his [Guru](#) and used to do spiritual practice as instructed by his Guru. He had total faith in his Guru.

Unfortunately, one day Narhari fell ill with a grave skin disease. Due to this illness people avoided his company and asked him to leave the village. He then went to his Guru's hermitage and participated in [satseva](#) (service unto truth) of performing daily chores at the hermitage. Despite his suffering, Narhari's faith in the Guru was strong and he would spend days [chanting](#) (repeating the Lord's name) and joyfully serving his Guru.

One day, to test Narhari's faith, his Guru asked him to water a dried up twig of the holy fig tree (Audumbar). Narhari obeyed him without any questions. He watered the twig everyday. People would watch him water the dead twig and laugh at him. This did not affect Narhari at the least. This continued for four years. The Guru was pleased with Narhari's devotion and obedience, and blessed him. Not only was Narhari cured, but soon after the dried up twig too sprouted leaves!

Moral: The above story shows how faith and obedience to the Guru cured Narhari of a grave illness. Regular spiritual practice helps us to build this kind of faith and obedience.

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