

Prayer is an act of obedience

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7)

To abide means to continue in a place. It also means to accept without objection. When you are abiding in Christ, you are committing to staying in Christ’s presence and accepting whatever He has for you without objection. Jesus taught that answered prayer and obedience are intricately intertwined. Obedience to the Lord is essential if you want your prayers answered and prayer is the ultimate act of obedience.

Our obedience is a concrete expression of love which pleases God. Our obedience in prayer is an even greater expression of that love. In the hearts of obedient believers, Jesus and the Father make their “home” through the Holy Spirit. Obedience to Jesus’ commandments facilitates fellowship with all three members of the Trinity.

Abiding...resting and continuing in the presence of the Lord; it sounds so...easy! And in a very real sense, it should be and it is. Obedience then should be equally easy. Why then is it so difficult at times to commune with our Lord, in prayer, as He desires?

Oswald Chamber said “Prayer does not equip us for greater works— prayer is the greater work.” And work is indeed what it feels like at times. It does not feel easy even though it should be. It is our duty to pray. Not praying is being disobedient as we are not doing this greater work the Lord has for us.

Jesus said, *“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46)* If we are to be obedient, then Jesus truly is our Lord.

You will discover that in this prayer-obedience relationship, the Spirit of Christ will increase your understanding of the mind of Christ. He will help you learn to pray more frequently as Jesus always did; according to the will of our Father who is in Heaven. *“I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me” (John 5:30).*

PRAYER FOCUS: Obedience is a matter of the will. Paul wrote this, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, *Pray in the Spirit always with all kinds of prayer and supplication. To that end be alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)*

During this mission week especially, and also as the years go by, persevere for the saints. Do not forget those in service to the Lord on the mission field. Pray as Paul asked the Church at Colosse, *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word...” (Colossians 4:2 - 3a)*

PRAYER: Lord, You have a heart for the nations. It is Your desire for people from every tribe, nation and tongue to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. My desire is to abide in You. My desire is to be in Your will. My desire is have a heart that is pleasing to you. I want a heart for the nations as You do. Impart that desire to me! Use me in any way you desire, as I want to be obedient to whatever the call is You have on my life. Use this small band of believers known as Living Hope Church – Athens Georgia in your grand design and plan to see the nations worship You!!! It is only through the matchless name of our reigning Lord and King, Jesus we pray...Amen!