

Reflecting the Principle through Self Evaluation
Life Principle #21
Obedience always brings blessing.

How would you describe a blessing in your life?

In what ways has God blessed you through your obedience?

In what ways have you been struggling to be obedient to God?

Do you recognize missed blessings from your disobedience?

Our environment (everyday life habits and routines) many times sets us up for being disobedient to God, how has your environment done this? Ponder ways you can change your environment so that you may be more productive and obedient to God?

Ask God to reveal to you ways of changing.

Suffering Before Blessing

Often, the first effect of obedience is not blessing, but suffering. Sometimes, what God requires of us will initially lead to pain and sadness. We shouldn't assume that difficulty means we've made a mistake or that He has abandoned us. Take into consideration Moses and Paul who both followed God and encountered suffering. However, they have been blessed by being recognized as important leaders. Paul recognized in his "fight" that his faith allowed him to "finish the race." (2 Tim. 4:7) .Certainly he was blessed to do so.

God's Purposes for Our Suffering

- To bring us to the end of ourselves so we rely on Him.
- To prevent pride.
- To remove idols from our lives.
- To deepen our understanding of His ways.
- To demonstrate His faithfulness to His children.

If you obey God, can you expect His blessings? Yes. But remember that His choice of blessing may be different from yours. Perhaps He will use suffering to draw you closer to Himself. Or He may use it to remove from your life those things that hinder fruitfulness for Him. No matter what, if you walk in His will, He will bless you in surprising ways.