

Proverbs 3:5



*Words to Find:
"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."*

A Child's Song

Author Unknown

A child's Sunday school song teaches an important truth:

Obedience is the very best way, to show that you believe.

Doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it happily.

Action is the key — do it immediately, joy you will receive.

Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

We want to live pure; we want to live clean.

We want to do our best. Sweetly submitting to authority, leaving to God the rest.

Walking in the light, keep our attitudes right, On the narrow way.

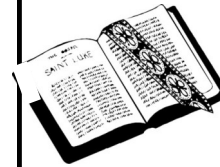
For if you believe the Word you receive, You always will obey!



When I built it, I knew I was using the wrong materials. I knew that termites would appear out of nowhere and gobble the structure, but I just did not want to spend the money at the time to buy the right timber and build it right. The future of the plants was not important at the time. The little creatures did find a meal, and it took a wind to emphasize the damage they had done.

As I looked at the jumbled mess, I thought, "I should have done it right the first time. I ended up spending the money

The Bible View



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I Should've Done It Right the First Time

Bill Brinkworth

The strong winds of a rainstorm pushed over a large 10' by 10' entrance-way to my garden. On it hung the foliage of two seedless grape plants. The growth was massive totaling at least 300 pounds. There it lay, after the storm, a tangled mess of plant and split oak posts.

anyway." People go through life making similar discoveries. They learn the biblical way to live when they are younger. They hear testimony after testimony of how people learn about life the hard way, making bad decisions that make their life not come out the way they wanted it. When hearing the testimonies, the young listeners vow to not mess up their lives the same way. They purpose to be a good Christian, follow God's commandments as closely as they can, and stay far away from sin.

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A Better Work

C. H. Spurgeon

"The ship is on fire!" someone screamed. The bales of cotton were pouring forth a black, horrible smoke. Safety is in question.

Passengers and crew are in extreme danger, but a capable captain is in command, and he says to those around him, "If you will behave yourselves, I think I shall be able to affect the escape

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I Should've Done It ...

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Often when they go through the teenage years, they too fall for similar distractions in life, and soon find their lives in a tangled mess. With multiple marriages in their past, a habit of smoking, broken relations with families, legal problems, wrong decisions after wrong decisions, or other damage done by involvement in sin, they one day come to the realization that they should have done their lives right the first time. They should have lived the way God commanded in His Word, because any other way does not work!

After purchasing pressure-treated lumber and rebuilding the arbor correctly, my next task was sorting out the mangled vines to salvage as much developing fruit as possible. Patiently, I went through each strand, and to my surprise learned something else. I learned that the plants were mostly vine and little fruit. I cut away much of the unproductive vines, disturbing one little toad, and one by one cut away what did not have any fruit and put what was left on its new support. What now remained was at least one third of what originally had been growing.

After getting to a point that one wants to start all over again with his life and live the way

**DO NOT PRAY TO GIVE
GOD INSTRUCTIONS —
JUST REPORT FOR DUTY!**

God says to in His Word, he too, may learn a similar lesson. He will learn what he did before living God's way was also unproductive. The things that were dumped for scriptural living are often later seen as not very important and hardly worth the priority we gave them. That new car we just had to have, and the second job we needed to pay for it, were not worth the time we missed in seeing our children grow up. A fine house was a "must" and it forced both parents to work, forcing the children to be raised by someone else with standards that were not the parents. The church services that could have helped us were missed because of sports games that we placed at a higher value. Now we cannot even remember who played who, or where the games were. All those things and other vain activities are now seen as a waste of the time we had, and in the long run, did not satisfy or help us at all.

Learn the lesson I learned from my collapsed grape arbor. We only have one life, and it needs to be lived the right way as we live it. The world has no clue what is the right way. They try to fill their spiritual emptiness with activity and things. Those things are a temporary cover-up of our real needs. We are created to serve God, and His leadership is the only way we will ever have joy and fulfillment. Live your life in accordance with the way His Word

guides. God has raised billions of children, and when they have done it His way, they do it the right way the first time around.

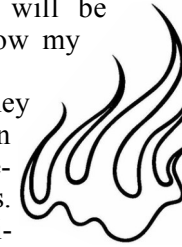
A Better Work

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of you all. All will be safe, if you follow my instructions!"

Now, if they trust in the captain they will do precisely as he orders. No sailor or engineer will refuse to work the pumps, or to prepare the boats, neither will any passenger disobey any rule. In proportion to their confidence in their leader, they will obey him at once. They believe his orders to be wise, and so they keep to them. Neither their fear, nor their rashness, will lead them to rush to and fro contrary to his bidding if they have a firm trust in him. When the boats are lowered, and are brought one by one to the ship's side, those who are to fill them wait their turns, in firm reliance upon the captain's impartiality and prudence. They will get into the boats, or they will wait on board; for they consider that his orders are dictated by a better judgment than their own. Each man and each woman firmly believes in the superior officer. Discipline will be maintained.

Obedience is the necessary outcome of true and real faith, and there is no trust where there is no obedience. Some of you



**"Following God's
directions is the only
way to get safely home."**

fancy that you trust Christ, but then do what you like. You believe a lie, for such is not the teaching of God's Word. The faith which saves is a faith which obeys.

Obey God

Author Unknown

Implicit obedience is our first duty to God, and one for which nothing else will compensate.

If a child at school is told to solve a math problem, and copies an answer instead, the effort of his cheating will not increase his mathematical ability. We must obey, whether we see the reason or not. God knows best.

A guide through an unknown country must be followed without question, or his followers will be lost. A captain commanding the direction of a vessel up a river must be obeyed by the pilot, or the ship will run aground. A soldier in battle must fight when and where he is ordered. When the conflict is over, he may see how following his commander's orders got their side a victory. The farmer must obey God's natural laws of the seasons, if he wants to have a bountiful harvest. We must all obey God's spiritual laws, if we want to reap happiness here and hereafter.