



WALK IN OBEDIENCE

Step by Step | 6.8.25

Libin Abraham

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Libin Abraham 0:00

One of the things that I love about our church family is that, yes, we take Jesus very seriously, but we don't often take ourselves all that seriously. We like to have fun. Case in point, last Christmas, last at the end of last December, Caleb, who leads an amazing team of worship and arts volunteer in stock, OMA, let's give it up our give it up for our incredible team that led us to worship today. But not just what you see here, but in the back and on upstairs, there's video booths and cameras, all that we have a massive team of volunteers and some staff as well that lead our creative arts and worship and Arts team. And so last Christmas, Caleb said, Hey, I'm gonna make a video from Libin to say thank you to our worship and Arts team, but he used AI to make a video from me. So here's my message to thank them at the end of the year in 2024 just listen to the audio of this message.

Speaker 1 0:48

Hey, Ben, through worship God's volunteer team, Libin here, Caleb asked me to come in person, and I wish I could, but I didn't want to, so I shot this completely legitimate and not deep faked by AI video instead to share my gratitude for you, thanks for trying your best this year. It's not a lot, but it's probably the most we can expect for completely free labor because of how well you served, we got to baptize half a person this year. Maybe if we can have a bigger lighting rental package for next Christmas Eve, we'll get to have even more baptisms. Also shout out to bin tree worship. I've been listening to you guys non stop on my ad supported version of Pandora. Anyways, love you guys. Hope to see you soon, maybe in person one day.

Libin Abraham 1:33

Okay, isn't that pretty funny? All right, the only thing that's true about that video is that I do like my ad supported Pandora. I am holding onto that free version as long as I can. That's how cheap I am. Come on. Amen. All these subscriptions you gotta have in the world of AI, it is difficult sometimes to decipher what is true and what is fake. It's becoming harder and harder to discern what's authentic and genuine. Like you literally have to take a double take when you see a photo or a video, is that real or is that made up? We live in a world where, when you listen to a sermon, you gotta ask yourself, does this come from the heart of our pastor or from the heart of chatgpt? Which one is it right? Becoming increasingly difficult to discern what is true and authentic. And so social media companies and even government entities, they've created ways of verifying through check marks or other seals. Hey, this is true, and this is not well the first century. We're a few decades from the ascension of Jesus into heaven from Pentecost, from the resurrection, and already, by now, false teachers have come into the church. The apostles preached the true gospel of Jesus, who came in the flesh and died on a cross, rose from the grave and invited them to repentance and salvation through Jesus. But now these false teachers are presenting an artificial view of Jesus, not the true Jesus, but one that has been curated by man according to their own imagination and preference. This will be a group of people later called the Gnostics. Gnostics comes from the word to know, and so what they're saying is a few different things. They're saying, Look, Jesus didn't actually have a human body, because they believed that matter was evil, anything you can touch and feel was evil, only the spirit is good. So God who was spirit would not have taken on a human body. So this man we call Jesus, he was just a man who appeared to be God, or was God who appeared to have a body. Well, if you go down that way of thinking, then there is no cross and no resurrection where God dies for humanity, which means there's got to be some other way of salvation if the cross didn't happen and the resurrection didn't bodily happen. So they also say, Well, yeah, so Jesus wasn't a human being, like an actual physical human being, or that God didn't become man, so you got to keep trying to reach some level of secret knowledge to be saved. So they promoted these mystical experiences, or these unique enlightenment moments that were only available for a few and they said the way to really know God is to

have the secret special knowledge. The Gnostics also taught that because your body was always going to be evil, you couldn't do anything good, that there was actually no such thing as sin, that you couldn't do anything good with your body or bad. So whatever you did, it didn't matter, as long as your heart was good and your spirit was saved. Go on living in sin or living in disobedience to God or or living according to the desires of your flesh, in rebellion to God, you're fine. It doesn't count anyway. So go on and keep living as you want, as long as your heart was saved. It's amazing that 2000 years later, a lot of these similar ideas are resurfacing, even in our own day. So now you have the early church who are confused. There are some who are confused. Well, am I even saved? Because I don't have this so. Special knowledge. Is Jesus even real? Is it Jesus that Paul and Peter and John preached? Is he legitimate? Or is this the real Jesus? And you have others who are trying to attain some special experience to be saved. They're learning new things. They're trying new experiences, looking to the next best experience in hopes of salvation. And you have others in the early church who are like, what if our spirit's safe, we can go out sinning and doing whatever you want, because that doesn't matter anyway. You have a church divided with artificial intelligence about Jesus made up fake information about truth. So John, who started many of these searches, he begins to write letters to them. We call them First John, Second John and Third John, not that creative at all, just First John, and he's writing as a concerned pastor with a deep anguish for people he loves, for the people he saw that he left to Jesus, and he knew they believe in the gospel, but now they're beginning to disbelieve. And last week, we looked at John, first, John chapter one, where John begins with a clear statement on who is Jesus, because everything hangs in the balance of that question, who is Jesus? And John would say to us, he is divine and he is human. He is the eternal word of life. Who took on flesh guys. He wasn't just a ghost. He appeared in the flesh. He was made known to us. We touched him, we heard him. He was in the flesh. And we left off last week in first John two, where John says that Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for our sins, John's saying it's because he died and rose from the grave that we are forgiven. This is the only way that he is the one that makes us one with God. Today, in our passages, we're going to look at two other groups of people that John is addressing. First, he's going to speak to a group of people who are confused about their salvation, who aren't sure if they're truly saved. And he's going to speak to a group of people who claim to know Jesus, who claim to profess Christ, but yet their lives tell a whole different story. Their life has been unimpacted by the person of who Jesus is. I want you to first notice why John is writing this letter. He tells us, in First John, chapter five, he tells us, in verse 13, I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. So John is writing to Christians, those who have believed, and he's saying, Look, I'm writing to you who already believe, because I need you to know with certainty and assurance that you have eternal life. I want you to live with deep, abiding assurance that you are saved, that you have eternal life with God. You don't need to learn new things, try new stuff, experience more things to have eternal life. I want you to know that you already do have it. We live today in a very pluralistic society, with so many religions right around us. So every time I meet a Muslim imam or Hindu or Buddhist priest, I have a legitimate, genuine question, not a trick question, but a genuine one. And here's what I ask. I ask them, Do you know for sure that you are saved like do you know with absolute certainty that because of all that you are doing and have been doing many for their whole life. Do you know with certainty that you are saved? Every single person has given me the exact same answer, and here's what they've all said from all these different religious backgrounds. They said, I will never know so, but I can only hope so I'll never know, but I can only hope. So they live out their whole life as a mere hope, religion as a mere hope. So I talked to this one well respected Imam, who was so disturbed at the question and almost like welling up with tears. He said, limit, spend my whole life being devoted to Allah, trying to do what is right, but my greatest fear is that I would have spent my whole life doing this, but in my last breath, Allah could determine that I'm not worthy of Paradise. He said, That's my greatest fear. Christianity is the only faith in the whole world, but you can know for sure that you have eternal life. It is not a guessing game. It is not a hope. So, no, no, we are invited to absolute certainty to know. Know that we have salvation, that we have eternal life. Why? Because our salvation isn't based on our work or our performance. It's not based on me just trying to be 51% good. Just tip over the line. By the way, when do you know you're just over the line? It's not me following the eight pack folder or saying these special mantras. It is not based on our work. It's fully, completely based on Jesus' work on the cross, his performance on our behalf. That's why we're saved friends. That's why we can know for sure, because we believe it's not good people go to heaven. It's not religious people who are saved. It's forgiven people. And there's only one way of salvation, one way of forgiveness. It's the cross on the resurrection of Jesus. So we can't know with absolute certainty where we stand with God, and it's a position that does not change.

Libin Abraham 10:57

So John says in First John, chapter five, verse one, everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, not some, not the elite. No, no. Every single person who believes that Jesus is the Christ. Do you believe he was sent from heaven, sent from God? He is Lord. He is Messiah, that his finished work worked. Any person who believes that Jesus is the

Christ has been born of God, not could be or maybe or will be one day. No, no, the moment you believe you already have been born of God. Jesus said in John Five, Verse four, truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment, but has already, in the past tense, has passed from death to life. I think this is amazing, because I see so many Christians who are waiting for heaven to get their verdict on where they stand, you're waiting for that day a little bit with fear and trembling, wondering, what's God going to think me but Jesus's own words, who said, If you believe in me, you've already passed from death to life, and there's no Going back, because your judgment was placed on Jesus, so that transfer into His eternal kingdom has already happened, and you don't have to wait for that day. You can know with certainty where you stand, that you are alive in Jesus, and that'll never change. Isn't that good news? To know this deep assurance of where we stand, you've already passed from death to life. So worry no more if you are in Christ. There's a second group that John specifically in chapter two addresses, so not just those who are wondering if they're saved. He says to be saved is to believe in Jesus. It's not believing plus good works, believing plus church attendance or giving money, no no to believe in Jesus is enough to be saved. But then there are those in first century like today, who would say, Well, I believe in Jesus, but nothing about their life is different. So we'll walk down an aisle, fill out a decision card profess faith in Christ, but there is no real evidence that's actually a dangerous place to be, because, according to New Testament, genuine faith leads to a different kind of living. Genuine faith impacts who you are. You can't just say you believe in Jesus, and nothing about your affection changes, nothing about your decision making changes, nothing about the way you view the world, or you treat people you treat yourself. Belief in Jesus actually changes us for the better. It does something to us. Look at the words of Jesus in John 17, verse three, this is Jesus saying, This is eternal life that they may know you. You're gonna see the word know all over John, in the gospel and in the epistles, Jesus is saying, This is eternal life that they may know You, the true God, the only true God, and the one you have sent Jesus Christ. So eternal life isn't just knowing about God, it's knowing God. There's a world of difference between the two. Eternal life isn't just subscribing to a set of theological facts and beliefs. Okay, check, check, check, I believe that no, no. Eternal life is about a relationship with the Father and with the son. So hear me, faith may start it as a decision, but it's not ending there. Faith in Jesus is more than a decision that changes nothing. In fact, it's not a decision that changes nothing. Faith is a relationship that changes everything. Faith isn't a decision that has no impact on your life, no. Change in your life. No, no. Faith is a relationship with the Living God, where you're in fellowship with God and you know him. You know him personally. You know him intimately, because you're united with the God of the universe, and that is a different reality that you live in So John in first John two begins to describe, what does this kind of faith lead to? What is the evidence of knowing God, being in community, being in fellowship with the living God? Again, not a decision that changes nothing, but a relationship that changes everything. So notice what he says in First John, chapter two, verse three, John says, This is how we know that we know him, okay. In the Greek, the 10 says, This is how we know presently, that we have come to know him past, okay. So this is how we know now that we have come to know Him. Meaning he's not saying, This is how we know him. Okay, follow me, because John is very careful with the wording here. John's not saying, here's how you know God, because that will be the cause of knowing God. Rather, he's saying, here's how you know that you have come to know Him, meaning this is the result of knowing him. Okay, you following me. What he's about to say is not the cause of our salvation. That's only belief in Jesus. What he's about to say is the proof of our salvation. It is the fruit of our salvation. It's the evidence of knowing him. So here's how you know that you have already come to know him. What is it if we keep His commands? Here's how you know daily that you have come to know Him, that you've accepted Him as Lord and Savior, that we keep His commands. John is saying the evidence of saving faith is obedience to Jesus. We keep his commands. Now, I know when you hear the word obedience, sometimes our mind does go into like legalism or obeying the law, but that's not at all what New Covenant obedience is. Legalism is trying to obey as the means of your salvation. But New Covenant obedience is glad. Obedience as a response to salvation, as a result of salvation, we want to obey Him. You can circle the word keep here in First John, two, three. It's a key way to understand what John is saying when he says, here's how we know. We have come to know Him if we keep His commands. In the English language, when we say the word keep commands, we do kind of think of a checklist. Let me get all the commands out and see how well I'm keeping the commands. But it's a very different picture. In the Greek, the word for keep there in first John two is a word that means to guard or watch over something as a treasure that's deeply precious to you. The idea of keeping guard or watching over has been I see this thing, and this is beautiful. This is right, this is good for me. I delight in this. So I'm going to protect it. I'm going to guard over it. I'm going to watch over it and treasure it. So keeping the commands of God is not some begrudging performing the commands of God. It is not going through a checklist individually. I did that, did that, didn't do that. Oh, I messed up. Did that? No, no. This is much deeper than that. This is talking about a heart posture about a life that actually delights in keeping commands, that wants to keep commands, that honors God's word, and now you cherish it, and you see that Jesus is good. He is trustworthy, and you're hanging on to every word from him, and you are guarding, keeping treasuring His commands, because you have come to realize this is for my good. He is

good, and whatever he commands is precious to me, so I'm not doing it begrudgingly or as a duty. No, I do it from the heart posture of man. I treasure this so much that I want to keep commands. John is saying, wholehearted OBEDIENCE to JESUS IS THE MOST response, the most appropriate response to grace. It's more than behavior modification. It is a heart transformation. It is a heart that used to not treasure God now treasuring him and his commands. Because what else are you going to do when you know Jesus, when You know the one who had it all, who reigned with supremacy and glory in heaven? But for you, He emptied Himself and He took on human flesh. He walked in our shoes. He died a criminal's death on a Roman cross. It was. Buried in the grave, and then rose to life and says to you, Just believe in me and you have eternal life. What else are you going to do with that Jesus, other than offer your whole life in devotion and obedience to Him. It's the only response to grace, to love Jesus, not only for your salvation, to trust Him, not only for salvation, but to trust Him every day, and to want to treasure and to want to keep and to want to obey and want to delight in what he says is good and beautiful and right. So here, this isn't just a reference to keeping individual commands. It is about the kind of people we are who delight in keeping his commands, whatever they are. John goes on in chapter two, verse four, and he says, The one who says, I have come to know Him,

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and yet doesn't keep, doesn't treasure, doesn't love his commands, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word truly in him, the love of God is made complete, according to John, according to Scripture, the primary motivation of keeping God's commands is not fear. It's actually love. Isn't that what he says? Whoever keeps his word His commands in that person, the love of God is being made complete in that person. Love is maturing. Love for God is maturing in the life of that person. If I told you I love my wife so much, but I never do anything. She asks of me. You think I'm crazy, or if I only did things that were convenient for me, that I wanted to do it do anyway that worked out in my favor. That's not love at all. Love sacrifices. Love does what is inconvenient because you trust that person, you have a deep affection and commitment to that person. So John is saying, the way that God's love poured out into our heart through the Spirit is made complete is now you treasure His commands, even if it's costly, even when it's painful, even if it leads you down a lonely path, you keep you treasure His commands out of love. I was thinking about that moment in First Samuel 15, where the prophet Samuel comes to Saul. Saul has built this altar of worship out of disobedience. He wants to worship God as that public sign of love for God, but he did it through disobedience. And here's what Samuel says, obedience is better than what sacrifice. Obedience is better than sacrifice. In that moment that sacrifice was a public display. Saul wanted everybody to think he loved God. Samuel says, actually, the litmus test of love towards God is obedience. So when we gather in a setting like this man, it's beautiful. We lift hands and worship, or we kneel and we sing. It's an amazing expression of love. But actually the greatest litmus test of love is what happens tomorrow, on Saturday, on Friday night, is your heart willing to obey Him? Love compels us. Love motivates us, not just to offer a pretend sacrifice to God, but to offer an obedient heart to Jesus. Tammy said, God, I don't even know what you need me to do, but my answer is yes, because I want to see your character and I see how trustworthy you are. I know this is for my joy and my abundant life, that I keep your word and I treasure your commands. God would rather have a heart of obedience than a sacrifice that pretends to love him. The words of Jesus in John 14 verse 15 16. Jesus said, If you love me, you will keep my commands. If you love me, this is natural to keep my commands. And notice this reference to the Holy Spirit that to me for a while, I was like, This is so out of the blue, like, Why would you bring in the Holy Spirit? And then he says, and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. I think it's because in the Old Testament, days before the Holy Spirit came to be in us, people loved God. They knew the commands, but they were incapable of keeping it. They had a hard time keeping it. And Jesus is speaking to a group of people who are wondering, but can I actually keep the commands? And he's saying, yes, why? Because I'm giving you the spirit, and he's going to embolden You from within. He's going to empower you from within. So don't tell yourself that you can't keep God's command, because you can. Why? Because his own spirit is inside of you. He's given you a counselor that came on Pentecost Sunday, so that he stirs up love in your heart for Jesus, thereby empowering. You to honor and keep his word. Notice what John says in First John first five, chapter five, verse three, he's kind of saying the same thing all over again. Okay, first John five, verse three, John says, For this is what love for God is. Here's what love for God is. To keep His commands and His commands, friends are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. I know you think your desires are going to conquer you. You can never overcome them. And John says, no, no, if you are born of God, you can overcome everything in the world, even everything in your own heart. This is the victory that has conquered the world. Our faith. For the first 20 years of my life, obeying Jesus felt more like a burden to me. It felt like an expectation of what I was supposed to do because I was a pastor's kid and I didn't want to disobey because I didn't want to make my dad look bad or be, you know, appear to be disobedient to others. So for 20 years, first 20 years of my life, obedience was a burden and a duty felt like a religious expectation, and it wore me out. But the next 17 the last 17 years, obedience to Jesus

has not been a burden, it's been a delight and a joy. And here's the only difference, the role of grace was different. For the first 20 years, I thought obedience was the requirement for grace, but for the next 17 I realized obedience is a response to grace. For the first 20 years, I thought obedience is what earns the love of God, what carries his favor. Then I spent He died for me while I was still a sinner, Jesus was chosen to be crucified before I could do one act of obedience for him, his love precedes, predates my obedience. For the first 20 years I had this order, obedience leads to identity that's religious. The gospel is your new identity in Jesus, given by grace, leads to obedience, and that's freeing, and that's liberty, amen. How many of you felt the freedom that comes from the grace of God? Obedience is not a requirement of grace. It's the response of Grace to Grace. Caleb was telling me this last week, they had this massive oak tree in their backyard. Here's a picture of it. Been there for many, many years, big, huge oak tree, and they started realizing that the limbs and the leaves of the oak tree were falling. It was not prompted by the winds or storm or rain or the ages, was starting to fall down. So it's like, Man, I think I got a wrong tree. I think this tree is bad. So he called an arborist, someone who knows a lot about trees. They came to give a diagnosis of what's happening to the tree. And here's what they said. They said, Yeah, your limbs are unhealthy, but your tree is good. They said, The problem is not in the tree, the problem is in the soil. The problem is not in the tree, the problem is in the soil. See, for massive oak streaks like this. What can happen is this soil is so compacted and depleted that it stops absorbing water. When it's not absorbing water, the root system of the tree can't feed the tree. So over time, because it's depleted of its nutrients from the soil, the tree lacks what it needs, and so limbs and leaves start falling off, not because the tree is bad, but the soil is bad. So if you want to save a tree, don't just prune the limbs. Treat the soil. Don't just treat the limbs and the leaves. No, no. Go beneath the surface and treat the soil. And this is what our spiritual life is like because the soil is our heart. The soil is our soul. The limbs are the external actions of our life. How people experience us, the outburst of anger, whatever it is, and sometimes we try to treat the limbs, but if you're finding yourself in sin or in disobedience, and if you're a Christian, you know that doesn't feel good, you know something is off. You have conviction around it. If you're finding yourself in a season or in a moment of disobedience, what you do is not just treat the limbs. You gotta treat the soil. And actually, this is what Jesus said in Matthew. When he said in Matthew, chapter 13, I'm sorry. Chapter 12. Matthew 12. Verse 33 Jesus says, either make the tree good and its fruit will be good, or make the tree bad and its fruit will be bad. For a tree is known by its fruit. Jesus is saying, I. Yeah, what happens to the food is based on something far deeper. Treat the soil, treat the tree, treat it at its most fundamental level. And when you treat the soil, when you treat what's inside of you, the fruit will come, the obedience will come. Treat what's on the inside, meaning, let your heart be soaking with the love of God. Let the Holy Spirit minister grace and mercy to you. On the inner being, experience the power of His forgiveness.

Libin Abraham 30:36

Let him loosen up hard places in your heart, those wounds that have just taken a deep stronghold within you, let him begin to soften it and treat it with His grace and with His love. And when your heart has been softened by the grace of Jesus and you delight in Him, you love him, what happens is your savior becomes more appealing than your sin, a heart that's overflowing in delight of Jesus, loving Him, knowing him in this deep personal relationship, man, you find things to be a disdain that do not belong to Jesus. Why? Because your heart has been softened so obedience begins hear me, not with stronger limbs, but with softer soil. That's lasting obedience, not just stronger limbs, but softer soil. So how is the soil of your heart? Is it responsive to the Spirit's voice? It's guiding to the word to the Scriptures. Treat the soil. John goes on and says in chapter five, and we're almost done here, first some of my seven closings, verse five of first, John two, but whoever keeps His word truly in him, the love of God is made complete. Love is a motivator, and this is how we know we are in him. The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked, that word remain is one of John's other favorite words. It means to abide. Remember John 15. Jesus says, Man, Whoever remains in me, I remain in them. Whoever abides in Me, I remain in Him. Abide in me, and you will bear much fruit. John is saying the one who remains in Jesus, one who delights in this relationship with Jesus, who hears this word, who worships Him, who has a heart that delights in him, you will walk as He walked. So obedience to Jesus, it's so much more than just sin management. OBEDIENCE to JESUS is the very power that allows you to live his life here on the earth. Obedience to Jesus allows you to live like Jesus at your workplace, in your family, in your neighborhood. Obedience to Jesus frees you up to love others like he loved us, to live a life of power and righteousness and kindness and mercy. Let me tell you, there's a lot of confusion in the world when Christians don't walk like Jesus, it's hurting the church. And John says, Man, the one who remains in him, ought to it's not a it's not an optional thing. No, no, you must walk as Jesus walked. This is a life of devotion and obedience, as will you remain in Him, not on your own accord, but as your heart is overflowing and bounty with the grace and love of Jesus, this becomes your natural results. Hear me, religion is obedience without relationship, but discipleship is obedience because of relationship, not interested in you obeying God without a relationship. I'm interested in a church for whom obedience is because of our relationship, and I think about the people in our church, man, I'm just so inspired by the level of obedience, and obedience really is responding

to the living God as he speaks, not just in management, it is responding to him. So I know people in our body who sold their homes in Colorado, beautiful Colorado, and they moved here to Dallas. No one ever does that, but they felt God calling them to say, you need to be a part of this community of faith and serve here. I know people who have left lucrative promotions and jobs because they felt called to be more present at home. Came with a financial loss, but they obeyed God. People who have downgraded their life, simplified their life so they can have more margin to disciple others. Many of you, your act of obedience has led you in the harder path, in the more lonelier path, because you stood up for your faith in Jesus. I know people who have lost big business deals because they chose to obey God through integrity and being truthful, and it shocked their peers who. Why? Because this is obedience to Jesus, not just in church, but in our life. We're obeying Him wherever He calls us. Some of you have started small groups, and you're discipling people you've stepped out of what's comfortable. Why? Because you want to walk as Jesus walked. You want to respond to the living God. I know amazing people in our body who in spite of their same sex attractions, have chosen to obey Jesus, to be faithful to God's word and to cherish God's design for marriage and sexuality. So they've committed a celibacy because they've committed that their affection for Jesus is greater than any human desires that they have. So every day, they wake up choosing Jesus, loving Jesus, and allowing their affection for Jesus to be the greatest driver in their life. Obedience is inconvenient. Sometimes it costs sometimes, and it may look different for every one of us in this room, but when you know Jesus, you want to treasure you want to keep his word. You want to honor him with your whole life. I think this message, this passage in John, speaks to at least three groups of people today. First, it speaks to those who are conflicted, conflicted and you are conflicted. If you are wondering, Am I saved, and that's a legitimate question for you. You feel conflicted on the inside, like, if I was saved, maybe I wouldn't struggle with this anymore. If I was saved, I thought I'd be further along. And today, John is giving you an assurance. Have you believed in Jesus to be the Christ? Have you placed your faith in Him? Have you believed in what happened at the cross and in the empty tomb? If you believed in Jesus to be the Christ, you need not to wonder anymore. You are safe and secure in the hands of God, and that cannot change. You are alive with Him and for Him for all eternity. So you can rest in the conflict because you are secure in Jesus because of your belief in him. Second group of people. You don't have a conflicting thing, but you've become complacent. You've become complacent in disobedience, like maybe there's an area of your life that you have yet to trust Jesus with. Through obedience, you're holding onto it, maybe you lack the courage or the encouragement. And John would say to you, how's your heart? How's the soil? It's God's love brewing up inside of you, causing you to be empowered to obey him. Friend, I just got to tell you, the only response to grace is a life fully surrendered to the words of Jesus, to the commands of Jesus, to the way of Jesus, choose his way. Listen to his prompting. Above all else, even if it doesn't make sense, leave the consequences to him. You choose the path of obedience. There's the last group I think you're not conflicted, you're not complacent, but you may just be compliant. By compliant, I mean, like you do all the right stuff, you keep all the commands perfectly, but it's more so because you just desire to be good, and so you obey the commands begrudgingly, dutifully, religiously, not out of a zeal and a passion for Jesus, and it feels burdensome. You're checking the box, dotting your T, crossing your crossing your T, dotting your I. But God's invitation to you is to ignite in you a fresh zeal and passion, not just for his commands, but for him, to let love be the motivator, not fear or duty or performance, but to let love for him cause you to offer your heart in surrender. So where are you today? For me, I've been in each of these categories at some point in my life, sometimes I've been conflicted, other times complacent, other times compliant. But Grace invites us to a response, let's pray, Father, thank You that we are saved by grace alone, through faith in Jesus, no amount of work and no amount of obedience could save us. Thank you for the cross, our only hope for salvation and forgiveness, and now today, as a church God, we want to be a group of people who respond to grace with glad, wholehearted obedience, not because we just feel like we're supposed to, but because we treasure your commands. We delight in them. We find joy in them, and we believe it is for our good and for your glory. So wherever we are today, would you help us take the next step of joyful, glad obedience to walk in obedience to Jesus as a response to grace. We love you, we thank you. All this in the name of Jesus, we pray and that. Said together aloud, amen, amen, amen, come on. Aren't you thankful to be in God's presence today? He's good. His grace is good. Amen.

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