

THE ROCK OF OFFENSE

"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

—1 PETER 2:6-8

[Read chapter 9.]

TODAY THE MEANING OF THE WORD BELIEVE HAS BEEN WEAKENED. In the eyes of most it has become a mere acknowledgment of a certain fact. To many it has nothing to do with obedience. But in the passage above, the words *believe* and *disobedient* are represented as opposites.

The Scriptures exhort "that whoever believes in Him [Jesus Christ] should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

As a result of the way we view the word *believe*, many think that all they are required to do is believe that Jesus existed and died on Calvary to be in good standing with God. If this were the only requirement, the demons would be in good standing with Him, for the Scriptures also say, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" (James 2:19). Yet, there is no salvation for them.

Complete these sentences:

For me, faith is Believing in God + His word!
PROMISES

*not doubting GOD's word. Lean on his word.
standing not on our own*

For me, obedience is *distinction + obeying the word of
GOD*

*and if he tells me to do something = I
shall obey + do it knowing he is directing me.*

If I say I believe and do not obey, then *I am sinning +
robbing myself of my own BLESSINGS.*

The word *believe* has more meaning in the Scriptures than that of merely acknowledging the existence of or mentally assenting to a fact. Remaining true to the context of the verse above, we can say that the main element of believing is obedience. We could read it this way: "Therefore, to you who obey, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,' and 'a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.'"

Love is the bottom line in our relationship with the Lord—not love of principles or teachings, but love for the Person of Jesus Christ.

It is not difficult to obey when you know the character and love of the one to whom you are submitting. Love is the bottom line in our relationship with the Lord—not love of principles or teachings, but love for the Person of Jesus Christ. If that love is not firmly in place, we are susceptible to offense and to stumbling.

When you live in obedience to the will of God, you will not fulfill the desires of men. As a result, you will suffer in the flesh. Jesus suffered His greatest opposition from the religious leaders. Religious people believe God operates only within the confines of their parameters. If the Master offended religious people as He was led by the Spirit two thousand years ago, those who follow Him today will surely offend them also.

Remember, your response determines your future. Complete this sentence:

Luke 16:13

Choose one master. No one can serve two.
For he will love one & hate the other, or he will be loyal to one and despise the other.

Luke 22:26

We should all serve. For the ones being served shall be despised and the ones serving shall be despised.

John 12:26

Who ever serves Jesus let him follow him where ever there is his servant. If you serve Jesus, you & the Father will honor you.

Romans 7:6

We are delivered from our old selves that held us down. So we are now able to serve in our newness of the spirit.

Galatians 5:13

To use the liberty God has given us to serve one another by love & not by occasional liberty of the flesh.

Philippians 2:5-11

Were to have the same mindset as Christ. Christ was humble & served. He did not put himself above others. Were to do the same.

Notice that Paul emphasizes in Galatians 5:13 that we have been given the privilege or the opportunity to serve one another. We are not to use our liberty or privileges as children of the living God to serve ourselves. Liberty is to be used to serve others. There is freedom in serving but bondage in slavery. A slave is one who has to serve, while a servant is one who lives to serve.

is wonder
kind of
I
nicking me.
4
INGS.

When others are offended with me living for Christ, I will pray
for them to take no offense & maintain a positive
attitude. DAY 17 *

Paul wrote: "The fact that the cross is the only way to salvation
offends people, but that is the truth, and there's no way I'm going to
preach anything else!" (See Galatians 5:11.)
If anyone challenges the truth of the gospel, it is time to be offen-
sive without apology. We must determine in our hearts that we will
obey the Spirit of God no matter the cost.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Telling Christ that you will trust, love, and obey Him.

Jesus Christ I will trust, love and obey
you. Thank you for all you have done
for me & my kids I love.

Amen ♡

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

I have seen many Christians serve with a resentful attitude. They give grudgingly and complain as they pay their taxes. They still live as slaves to a law from which they have been set free. They remain slaves in their hearts.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Renouncing slavery to the world and surrendering yourself to be Christ's servant.

Help me Lord to renounce slavery to the world and may I surrender myself to be Christ's servant. I thank you in advance. Amen

[Read the
"Laying

O
d
tear de
ourself
offend
Chris
then
to wi

Ma
wil

I h