

## OBEY THE GOSPEL: does not include works

I once read straight through the New Testament looking only for verses about eternal life, salvation, born again, justification, regeneration, everlasting life, etc.

I found 220 times which clearly indicate belief or faith was the only element in the verse. None included obedience.

see [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)  
220 X, Belief or Faith,  
 reproduced here on page #3

Now notice the following biblical statements:

- . . .great company of the priests were obedient to the faith
- . . .the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him
- . . .to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed
- . . .made known to all nations for the obedience of faith
- . . .that obey not the gospel of our Lord

context: eternal life

Most of the following 11 verses use the Greek word *hupakouo* (obey) or *apeithounton* (disobey)

Acts 6:7 . . .the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 5:32 We are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Rom 1:5 . . .by whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.

Rom 2:8 . . .unto [unsaved]. . .do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness

Rom 6:17 God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Rom 15:18 . . .to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed

Rom 16:26 . . .according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith

2 Thes 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Heb 5:9 He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him

1 Pet 1:2 . . .elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Pet 4:17 (believers contrasted with). . .them that obey not the Gospel of God

It is clear from the above verses that to obey the Gospel saves a sinner.

- None explicitly states which of the hundreds of rules we must keep.
- None explain how consistent we have to be.
- None tells us what to do if we don't obey at a 100% obedience level.

Now let us look at 200+ verses which seem to indicate that **the definition of "obey the Gospel" is synonymous with the words "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!"** (page #3)

At first glance the list on page #1 seems to demand obedience to a lot of good works as a condition for salvation. Jesus spoke against greed, laziness, selfishness, adultery, pride, and a dozen more crimes of the heart. He was angry with sin. Do those verses above demand obedience to all of Jesus' commands as well as the 600 rules in the OT or the 600 rules in the NT? (*love, forgive, encourage, pray, give, abstain, witness, honor, esteem, exhort, be sober, be pure, be honest, and on, and on, and on.*)

Of course a believer is expected to do a lot of obeying! He has many rules, commandments, guidelines, and expectations about living a life of good works after he is saved, but the message of salvation without works is abundantly clear.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by His mercy He saved us.” Tit 3.5

If we force the “obedience list” to define our means of salvation we run counter to the exceedingly plain language of Jesus.

“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” and 200 other verses.

Belief is enough. Trust in His payment for my dirty, rotten, lousy, filthy sin is enough. I'm a wicked man. Jesus didn't die for good people who obey. He died for sinners like me. There is a whole sermon to be preached about God's stern chastening for seriously sinning saints, but belief is the means by which we have our sins erased, not obedience. Here are two blogs you might enjoy reading.

see [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)  
[Lots of Good Works!](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com) (75 passages)

see [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)  
[Easy-Believe-ism, you betcha!](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)

Here is the Bible student's personal task. Compare those dozen unclear, or a least debatable passages on page #1 with the 220 passages on pages #3 and ask yourself:

- What specifically must an unbeliever obey to have eternal life?
- What is the face value of this comparison of the two groups of verses?
- How should “obey the Gospel” be understood and explained in the light of your observations?
- If good works are necessary for salvation, how consistently must an unbeliever obey biblical laws in order to be sure of his salvation?
- What is the consequence of partial obedience?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,” is a command! We are commanded to obey it.

Then said they unto him, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”

Jesus answered and said unto them, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”  
 John 6:28,29

## The Conclusion

To “obey the Gospel” is synonymous with the words  
 “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!”

**Salvation by Faith Alone, call, trust, depend**  
220 times in the New Testament

God's two  
favorite words  
are  
**FAITH**  
(#4102, pistis)  
&  
**BELIEVING**  
(#4100, pisteuo)

**LEGEND**

F: FAITH 220 - sometimes they are simply called believers [or unbelievers]  
 F ⇨ S: FAITH 69 times - faith produces SALVATION: heaven, justification, redemption, eternal life, et al  
 F - W/W: FAITH WITHOUT WORKS 14 times - faith without good works can save (several omit "belief")  
 No F: NO FAITH 31 times - unsaved identified simply as those who don't have faith in Christ

MATTHEW [5X] 9.2 F 18.3,6 F 21.25 No F 21.32 No F 27.42 No F  MARK [4X] 1.15 F 2.5 F⇨S 9.42 F 11.31 No F  LUKE [6X] 5.20 F⇨S 7.50 F⇨S 8.12 No F 18.8 F 18.42 F 22.67 No F  JOHN [59X] 1.7 F 1.12 F⇨S 2.11 F 2.22,23 F 3.12 No F 3.15 F⇨S 3.16 F⇨S 3.18 No F " " F 3.36 F⇨S 4.21 F 4.39 F 4.41,42 F 4.53 F 5.24 F⇨S 5.38 No F 5.46,47 F 6.28,29 F⇨S 6.35 F 6.36 No F 6.40 F⇨S 6.47 F⇨S 6.64 No F 6.69 F 7.5 No F 7.31 F 7.38 F 7.39 F⇨S 7.48 No F 8.24 No F 8.30 F 8.31 F 8.45 No F 8.46 No F	9.35 F 9.36 F 9.38 F 10.26 No F 10.28 F 10.37 No F 10.42 F 11.15 F 11.25 F 11.26 F⇨S 11.27 F 11.40 F⇨S 11.45 F 11.48 No F 12.36 F⇨S 13.19 F 14.1 F 17.20 F 19.35 F 20.29,31 F⇨S  ACTS [37X] 2.21 F⇨S 2.41 F 3.16 F 4.4 F 4.32 F 8.12 F 8.37 F 9.42 F 10.43 F⇨S 10.45 F 11.17 F 11.21 F 13.12 F 13.39 F—W/W 13.48 F⇨S 14.1 F 14.23 F 14.27 F 15.7,9 F⇨S 15.11 F⇨S 16.31 F⇨S 17.4 F 17.12 F 17.34 F 18.8 F 18.27 F 19.2 F 19.4 F 19.18 F 20.21 F 21.20 F 22.19 F 24.24 F 26.18 F⇨S	28.24 No F  ROMANS [38X] 1.16 F 1.17 F⇨S 3.20 F—W/W 3.22 F⇨S 3.25 F⇨S 3.26 F⇨S 3.27 F—W/W 3.28 F—W/W 3.30 F⇨S 4.3 F⇨S 4.5 F—W/W 4.6 F—W/W 4.9 F⇨S 4.11 F⇨S 4.12 F 4.13 F⇨S 4.16 F 4.17 F 4.18 F 4.24 F⇨S 5.1 F⇨S 5.2 F 9.30 F⇨S 9.32 No F 9.33 F⇨S 10.4 F⇨S 10.6 F⇨S 10.9 F⇨S 10.10 F⇨S 10.13 F⇨S 11.6 F—W/W 11.20 F 11.20 No F 11.30,31 No F 15.13 F  I CORINTHIANS [3X] 1.21 F 3.5 F 15.2 No F  II CORINTHIANS [3X] 4.13 F 6.15 F " " No F  GALATIANS [17X] 2.16 F—W/W 2.21 F—W/W 3.2 F⇨S 3.5 F⇨S 3.6 F⇨S	3.7 F⇨S 3.8 F⇨S 3.9 F 3.11 F—W/W 3.14 F⇨S 3.21 F—W/W 3.22 F⇨S 3.23 F 3.24 F⇨S 3.25 F 3.26 F⇨S 5.5 F⇨S  EPHESIANS [6X] 1.12 F⇨S 1.13 F⇨S 1.15 F 1.19 F 2.8,9 F—W/W 3.17 F  PHILIPPIANS [2X] 1.29 F 3.9 F—W/W  COLOSSIANS [2x] 1.4 F 2.12 F⇨S  I Thessalonians [4X] 1.7 F 2.10 F 2.13 F 4.14 F  II THESS [3X] 1.10 F 2.12 F⇨S 2.13 F⇨S  I TIMOTHY [6X] 1.16 F⇨S 3.16 F 4.3 F 4.10 F⇨S 5.16 F 6.2 F  II TIMOTHY [4X] 1.5 F 1.9 F⇨S 1.12 F 3.15 F⇨S TITUS [2X] 3.5 F—W/W	3.8 F  PHILEMON  HEBREWS [5X] 4.2 No F 4.3 F 6.1 F 10.38 F⇨S 10.39 F⇨S 11.6 F  JAMES [1X] 2.23 F⇨S  I PETER [6X] 1.5 F⇨S 1.8 F 1.9 F⇨S 1.21 F 2.6 F 2.7 F  II PETER  I JOHN [5X] 3.23 F 5.1 F⇨S 5.5 F 5.10 No F 5.11-13 F⇨S  II JOHN  III JOHN  JUDE [1X] 5 No F  THE REVELATION  220 places  @ Phil Myers, PhD, 1986, [rev] 2022
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Note carefully: God has two favorite words to describe the process of salvation [passing from death to life].

**FAITH** [pistis] & **BELIEF** [pisteuo]

They are not "white as snow," "let Jesus into your heart," "give your life to God," or even "pray to receive Christ." God's favorite way to express it is "**Believe**" on the Lord Jesus Christ, "saved through **faith**." He repeats himself over 200 times! Even children can understand it. "Nuff said.

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