

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
010 - LESSON – Tuesday – September 2, 2025

POWER TO OBEY

Ezekiel 36:26-28 (NKJV) “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (28) Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

How does obedience take place in our lives?

On three occasions, the Israelites fervently declared that they would obey God.

- 1. Exodus 19:8 (NKJV) “Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.”**
- 2. Exodus 24:3 (NKJV) “So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has said we will do.””**
- 3. Exodus 24:7 (NKJV) “Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.””**

Obedience is important, even if the Bible teaches that we humans are weak, broken, fragile, and sinful. This sad truth has been revealed not only through the history of ancient Israel, but through the history of all His people.

How, then, are we enabled to follow God faithfully?

It is His work. In the core of his theological summary in **Ezekiel 36:26, 27**, the prophet Ezekiel makes this point very clear. Only God can perform a heart transplant, and He does so by removing our heart of stone and replacing it with a sensitive heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NKJV) “(26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

- 1. POINT:** The prophet Ezekiel makes this point very clear. Only God can perform a heart transplant, and He does so by removing our heart of stone and replacing it with a sensitive heart of flesh.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

We are incapable in our own strength to serve the Lord:

Joshua 24:19 (NKJV) “But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.”

We can decide to follow God; that is our role. We have to make the choice, the moment-by-moment choice to surrender to Him. And that is because we do not have the power to fulfill even our conscious choice to serve Him. But when we give our weakness to God, He will make us strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV) “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Notice the divine “I” in **Ezekiel 36:24–30**: God gathers, cleanses, removes, gives, puts, and moves you to carefully keep His law. What He is doing, you will do. He identifies with you, and if you associate closely with Him, His doing will be your doing. The unity between God and you will be dynamic, powerful, and lively.

The power to Obey comes from God’s implanted Holy Spirit:

Ezekiel 36:24-30 (NKJV) “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. (25) Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (28) Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. (29) I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. (30) And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.”

Again, the emphasis in this passage is on God’s doing. The New King James Version reads: “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them”

God not only puts His Spirit in us, He gives us power to “walk the walk”

God will give up power to obey:

Ezekiel 36:27 (NKJV) “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

Obedience is more acceptable than compromise:

1 Samuel 15:22 (NKJV) “So Samuel said: “Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.”

Blessings are the result of obedience:

Genesis 22:18 (NKJV) “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Obedience is the catalyst to divine exaltation:

Exodus 19:5 (NKJV) “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine.”