

Introduction

1. “And Samuel said, Hath 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 hearken than the fat of rams.” ([1 Sam. 15:22](#))
2. God has always delighted in obedience
 - a. Enoch ([Gen. 5:24](#); [Heb. 11:5](#))
 - b. It is impossible to please God without faith ([Heb. 11:6](#))
 - c. Faith obeys ([Heb. 11:7-8](#))
3. God means what He says

A Good Start

1. The man of God had a good start in obeying God ([1 Kgs. 13:1-10](#))
 - a. He obeyed God in crying against the altar ([1 Kgs. 13:1-2](#))
 - i. His message was validated with a sign ([1 Kgs. 13:3-5](#))
 - ii. The Bible was validated (confirmed) with signs, wonders, and miracles ([Heb. 2:1-4](#); [Mk. 16:20](#); cf. [Acts 2:22](#))
 - b. When tested by king Jeroboam, the man of God passed ([1 Kgs. 13:7-10](#))
 - i. Observe that material things did not supersede the obedience of God’s Word ([1 Kgs. 13:8](#))
 - ii. Material things must not be allowed to cause us to disobey ([1 Tim. 6:17-19](#))

Partial Obedience is Disobedience

1. An old prophet hears of the works (deeds; labor) of the man of God, finds him, and invites him to dine ([1 Kgs. 13:11-15](#))
 - a. God’s charge is still in effect as acknowledged by the man of God ([1 Kgs. 13:16-17](#))
 - i. The man of God understood the charge thus he was not ignorant
2. The old prophet lies to the man of God ([1 Kgs. 13:18](#))
 - a. No marvel for even Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light ([2 Cor. 11:13-15](#))

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- b. We must always be on our guard for deception (cf. [Jm. 1:16](#); [1 Cor. 15:33](#); [Gal. 6:7](#); [1 Cor. 6:9](#); [2 Cor. 11:3](#); [1 Jn. 4:1](#); [1 Tim. 4:1-3](#); [2 Tim. 3:13](#))
3. The man of God believes the lie and dines with the old prophet ([1 Kgs. 13:19](#))
 - a. This resulted in disobedience ([1 Kgs. 13:20-22](#))
 - b. The penalty was death ([1 Kgs. 13:23-24](#); cf. [Jm. 1:14-15](#); [Rm. 6:23](#))
 - c. It was the judgment of God ([1 Kgs. 13:25](#), [28](#))

Listen to the LORD

1. God means what He says as shown by this account
 - a. The Bible warns of those who will attempt to bring a different message ([Gal. 1:6-10](#))
 - b. The faith has been delivered once for all time ([Jude 3](#); cf. [Gal. 1:11](#), [23](#))
 - i. Only one faith ([Eph. 4:5](#))
 - ii. No new revelation as we have the perfect Law of liberty ([1 Cor. 13:8-12](#); [Jm. 1:25](#); [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#); [2 Pt. 1:3](#))
2. Our compliance to the will of God is a salvation issue ([Mt. 7:21-23](#))
 - a. Illustrated by the wise man and foolish man ([Mt. 7:24-27](#))
 - b. “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” ([Lk. 6:46](#))
 - c. We will either obey God or sin ([Rm. 6:16](#))

Conclusion

1. The man of God had a good start in obeying God
 - a. He remained faithful when tested by king Jeroboam
2. Sadly, through the lie of the old prophet, the man of God disobeyed God
 - a. Though he was obedient before, his partial obedience was called disobedience by God and the old prophet ([1 Kgs. 13:21](#), [26](#))
 - b. We must resolve to remain steadfast to God’s Word (cf. [1 Cor. 15:58](#))
3. God means what He says so let us listen to the LORD
 - a. Our attitude must be that nothing will move us away from obeying God
 - b. Our love for God is based upon our obedience ([Jn. 14:15](#); cf. [Jn. 14:21](#), [23-24](#))