Part 3 Enemies of Faith

Day 31 Disobedience

**Discussion Questions**

1. The first paragraph of this chapter speaks volumes. Have you ever been “rendered nearly immobile” in your relationship with God and your ability to have faith when you pray by the fear that you had “committed some unpardonable sin” or that God would not answer your prayers because you were falling short in some way? Briefly share this experience, if you’d like.
2. Why is it that a born-again Christians WANTS to obey God?
3. Read the third paragraph out loud.
4. Why is it that as Christians our sins do **not** separate us from God? Discuss how this false belief (that our sins do separate us from God) is an enemy of faith?
5. What is the Biblical understanding of “willful sin”? Discuss not only what it is but also what it is not. Except for the truly “willful sin”, why is the idea that some sins are willful and others are not willful ridiculous?
6. To what commandment was Jesus referring when He said, “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you”?
7. Why is a relationship based only on “obedience” an unstable relationship? Do you or have you had a relationship like this in your life in which someone turns his/her back on you if you don’t “behave”? **(Please don’t name this person publicly.)** Do you remember a time, perhaps, when you yourself based your friendship with others on them complying (agreeing) with you? This can hit particularly close to home, especially in marriage and family. Do you, as a spouse, base your affection for your wife/husband on whether or not they “obey” you? Do you shun them when they don’t comply? How about your children? Do you give them the impression that you don’t love them when they aren’t perfect? (I’m not speaking of discipline, but of shunning them personally.) This can occur in friendships, employer-employer relationships, and in the classroom. (**Remember not to discuss the faults of others publicly, but feel free to discuss your own challenges in this area.)** Also, discuss the difference unconditional friendship can make. How does loving one another as He loved us improve our perspectives on how we deal with each other?
8. Discuss the more likely interpretation given in this chapter of 1 Peter 3:7 and the power of unity in marriage when we pray.
9. In what ways is loving one another a direct expression of our love for God? (See “If You Love Me”.)
10. According to 1 John 3:21-23, what two things does God command us to do? What is the glorious promise connected with these commands?
11. “True love is giving ourselves for the benefit of another.” If Jesus DIED to demonstrate His love for us, how might we lay our lives down for each other?
12. After reading Day 31, what is a more accurate perspective of “obedience” when it comes to our relationship with God and others? Did you learn something that set you free from misconceptions you might have had about what our obedience actually is? How does this information give us faith when we pray? How does not understand this topic hinder our faith?