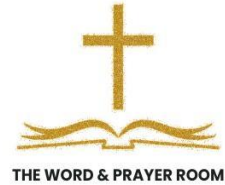


Give Us this Day ...



Day 6: ...The Courage to Obey When It Hurts

Because obedience doesn't always feel holy - sometimes it feels hard.

Key Scripture: Luke 5:5 (NIV)

"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.'"

Context: When Obedience Feels Pointless

Peter wasn't a preacher when Jesus called him, he was a fisherman who'd just finished failing. He'd worked through the night, caught nothing, and was now washing empty nets - the symbol of wasted effort. Then Jesus shows up and asks Peter to do the very thing that had already failed: "Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets again."

You can almost hear Peter's exhaustion in his reply: "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing." In other words, "I've tried that already, and it didn't work." That's the tension of obedience - when God asks you to try again in the very place that broke your confidence. Obedience sounds easy until it touches your pain, your pride, or your logic. It asks you to act without evidence, to trust without proof, and to believe before you see.

We like the kind of obedience that comes with clarity - the kind that makes sense. But real obedience is born in mystery when God's instruction collides with your understanding.

- When He says, "Forgive," and your feelings aren't ready.
- When He says, "Stay," and you'd rather run.
- When He says, "Give," and you're barely holding on.

That's the kind of obedience that costs - and that's the kind that transforms.

Because obedience isn't about outcome; it's about alignment with God's will. Jesus wasn't testing Peter's fishing skills, He was testing his faith posture. The boat wasn't just a workplace; it was a classroom. Jesus was showing Peter that obedience opens what effort can't.

Focus of the Day: Obedience Before Outcome

Faith without obedience is theory, as in belief without movement. Sometimes, God hides miracles behind instructions that don't make sense. He's not punishing you - He's positioning you.

In 2 Kings 5, we meet Naaman - a respected military commander, powerful, successful, and admired. But beneath the armour was a private reality he couldn't hide: leprosy. When the Prophet Elisha told him to wash seven times in the muddy waters of the Jordan, Naaman was insulted. He expected a grand miracle, not a humiliating command. He almost missed his healing because the instruction didn't match his expectation. But obedience isn't about understanding - it's about trust. Each dip into that muddy river looked meaningless - until the last one. And when he came up the seventh time, his skin was restored, and his pride was replaced with awe.

That's the rhythm of obedience: it rarely looks powerful while you're doing it. Each act feels ordinary, unnecessary, even foolish, until suddenly, it's the very thing that opens the door to your miracle. Obedience is rarely glamorous. It's usually quiet, hidden, and humbling. It doesn't always feel rewarding - but it's always worth it. And the proof is in the net-breaking catch of Peter and the skin-cleansing dip of Naaman - both born from simple acts of trust that defied logic.

Why we struggle with the Obedience

- Because logic feels safer than faith.
- Because obedience looks foolish before it looks fruitful.
- Because we mistake delay for denial.
- Because pain makes trust harder.
- Because we want clarity before commitment.

Verse Breakdown: Luke 5:5 (NIV)

- **“Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything...”**
Obedience often begins where exhaustion lives. God asks for action when you feel least capable because that's when surrender is purest.
- **“But because You say so, I will let down the nets.”** This is the heartbeat of obedience - **“because You say so.”** No argument, no logic, no evidence. Just trust that God's word still works, even when yours didn't.
- **Cross Reference – John 14:15 (NIV) “If you love Me, keep My commands.”**
True obedience isn't forced, it flows from love, not fear.

Key Themes

- Obedience is trust in motion.
- Miracles follow instructions, not intentions.
- Painful obedience produces powerful faith.

- God tests obedience to reveal alignment.
- Obedience is not about understanding - it's about trust.

Practical Application

- **Step 1: Identify Your “Net.”** What's the area where you've stopped trying because of disappointment? That's usually where God wants to work next.
- **Step 2: Choose “Because You Say So”** When God's instruction challenges logic, speak this line aloud: “Because You say so, I will.”
- **Step 3: Obey Without Outcome.** Do the right thing without checking for results. Faith is obedience before evidence.

💡 Did You Know?

In [neuroscience](#), repetition rewires confidence - meaning obedience in small steps strengthens your mental and emotional resilience. Spiritually, it's the same. Every act of obedience builds spiritual muscle memory, training your soul to trust faster next time.

Prayer

Father, give me the courage to obey You when it doesn't make sense. When I'm tired, when I've failed, when I've lost hope - help me to say, “Because You say so.” Teach me that obedience isn't about outcomes, but about trust. Let my actions be an echo of my faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

💫 Declaration

- I choose obedience over understanding.
- I trust God's word more than my own logic.
- I have the courage to obey even when it hurts.

📌 **Final Takeaway:** Obedience won't always feel good, but it will always do good. Your next miracle is waiting on the other side of “Because You say so.” So today, Lord, ***give us this day the courage to obey when it hurts.***