

# Obedience

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## Introduction

### ***The Root Verb***

Thomas defines the root verb ὑπακούω [hupakouō] as a compound of *hupo* [under] and *akouō* [to hear, listen], meaning “to listen, attend to” [5219].

BDAG say it means “(1) to follow instructions, obey, follow, be subject to; (2) to grant one’s request, hear; (3) to answer a knock at the door, technically of the door-keeper, whose duty it is to listen for the signals of those who wish to enter, and to admit them if they are entitled to do so: open or answer (the door).”

Strong/Thayer say it means “(1) to listen, to harken; of one who on the knock at the door comes to listen who it is, (the duty of a porter); (2) to harken to a command, to obey, be obedient to, submit to” [5219].

Louw & Nida define it as “to obey on the basis of having paid attention to — ‘to obey, obedience. Terms expressing the concept of ‘obedience’ may frequently be rendered in some languages as ‘to do what one says’ or ‘to carry out someone’s orders’” [36.15].

This word occurs 21x in the NT (Matt. 8:27; Mark 1:27; 4:41; Luke 8:25; 17:6; Acts 6:7; 12:13; Rom. 6:12, 16, 17; 10:16; Eph. 6:1, 5; Phil. 2:12; Col. 3:20, 22; 2 Thess. 1:8; 3:14; Heb. 5:9; 11:8; 1 Pet. 3:6).

### ***The Related Noun***

Thomas defines the related noun ὑπακοή [hupakoē] as from *hupakouō* [to listen, attend to], meaning “obedience” [5218].

BDAG say it refers to “(1) a state of being in compliance, obedience (one listens and follows instructions); (a) generally, the obedience which every slave owes his master; (b) predominately of obedience to God and God’s commands; (2) reply made to a question, answer.”

Strong/Thayer define it as “(1) obedience, compliance, submission; (2) obedience rendered to anyone’s counsels, an obedience shown in observing the requirements of Christianity” [5218].

This word occurs 15x in the NT (Rom. 1:5; 5:19; 6:16 [2x]; 15:18; 16:19, 26; 2 Cor. 7:15; 10:5, 6; Phile. 21; Heb. 5:8; 1 Pet. 1:2, 14, 22).

## **Usage**

As Christ was obedient to the Father (Rom. 5:18-19; Heb. 5:8), we must also obey God in order to be saved (Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:1-2).

Even the natural realm, the winds and waves, submitted unto Christ Jesus (Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25; cf. also 17:6); similarly, unclean spirits also obeyed him (Mark 1:21-28).

Recognizing that sin and righteousness compete for man's obedience (Rom. 6:12-18), let us hear and heed the Word of God, i.e., the Gospel of Christ (Acts 6:7; Phil. 2:12-13).

In like manner, children must obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20), slaves, their masters (Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:22-24; cf. Acts 12:13), and wives, their husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-6).

## **Conclusion**

The consequences of rebellion are dire indeed (Rom. 10:16-21; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 3:14-15, cf. also vs. 6).

Genuine faith necessitates obedience (Rom. 1:1-6; 16:25-27; Heb. 11:8-10).

Following the example of those of old (Rom. 16:19; 2 Cor. 7:13-16; Phile. 21), will you not render full obedience to the gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:18-19; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; 1 Pet. 1:14-16, 22-23)?