

UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). We are NOT saved by the obedience of works but we are saved by the obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5, 16; 15:18; 16:25-26). At the moment of saving faith, when we put our faith in Christ and Lord and Savior – at that very moment we cross over from spiritual death to spiritual life (Jn. 5:24).

As believers in Christ our faith is then demonstrated in a walk of obedience. John the apostle goes so far as to say...

1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But believers are a work in progress (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6). We all stumble in many things (Ja. 3:2). When the believer disobeys the command of God, in that act he is involved in a sin of UNBELIEF. The believer will never lose their salvation, but they can misstep into UNBELIEF which greatly offends God and results in serious discipline. Moses and Aaron are examples of this.

In Numbers 20 the children of Israel were lacking water and they contended with Moses and Aaron complaining about having been brought there from Egypt. God told Moses to SPEAK to the rock and it would bring forth water. But in anger Moses struck the rock.

Numbers 20:12 (NKJV)

12 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

Great sin was involved here. This, in effect, was a sin unto death (cf. 1 Jn. 5:16); which is the sin of a believer, in which God takes them home “prematurely”.

1 John 5:16 (NKJV)

16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

Two inter-related things are mentioned in Numbers 20:12. Both Moses and Aaron are charged with **not believing** God; and in this, **not hallowing Him** in the eyes of children of Israel. The consequence of such was that neither of them would be allowed to go into the Promised Land.

In what sense did they not believe God? The Hebrew word for “**believe**” here is **aman**, (cf. Gen. 15:6 – **same word**) which is the root word for **Amen!** It affirms what God says. It expresses strong confirmation of what God has said. It “AMENS” what God says. It agrees with God.

In this case, the actions of Moses did not “Amen” what God said; but rather, contradicted it as he did his own thing. That is a form of UNBELIEF. Numbers 27:14 refers to this incident as “*rebellion*”.

Numbers 27:14 (NKJV)

14 For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes.” (These are the waters of Meribah, at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.)

Moses, in striking the Rock instead of speaking to it as God had instructed, was demonstrating a form of unbelief that involved rebellion and which showed a lack of reverence for God.

Faith takes God at His Word and responds accordingly!

This text in Numbers 20 speaks to the nature of God-honoring FAITH. It's not merely knowing about God but rather submits to the truth of God's Lordship authority. This is a matter of the WILL!

In this case, Moses and Aaron did not believe in the sense that they did not recognize God's Lordship authority and instead defiantly acted contrary to God's command.

Thus, we see God-honoring faith with the will submits to God and yields to His Lordship authority. This is the RIGHT KIND of faith! Across the board – in both salvation and sanctification without faith it is impossible to please God. We are saved by faith and then we are to walk by faith. And the nature of a God honoring faith is that it obeys God (Col. 2:6).

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.