**So I’ve obeyed the Gospel…Now what?**

**Introduction**

1. The Bible teaches that in order to be saved one must:
   1. Hear the word of God – **Romans 10:17** (**cf. Romans 1:16** – power to salvation)
   2. Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God – **John 20:30-31; John 8:24**
   3. Repent of your sins – **Acts 2:38**
   4. Confess your faith in Christ before men – **Romans 10:9; Acts 8:27; Matthew 10:32-33**
   5. Be baptized – **Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16**
2. After these steps are completed, what is next for the individual who obeyed?
3. Is initial obedience to the gospel all that is required to get to heaven? No – **2 Peter 1:5, 8-11** – it is required that one ***“add to [their] faith”*** to gain entrance to heaven. To fail in doing so is to fall short.
4. Upon obedience to the gospel there must be a perpetual commitment in order to get to heaven.
5. Remain Committed to…
6. Hearing
   1. Hearing God’s word is an essential component to salvation which must be perpetual if salvation is to be secured.
   2. Hearing the word is God’s design for receiving salvation – **Romans 10:13-14**
      1. This is a continual matter. Attentiveness to God’s word is a perpetual need if we are to reach heaven.
      2. **Cf. 1 Timothy 4:16** – Timothy to be saved by giving a hearing ear to doctrine himself, and those who heard him would be saved by hearing the gospel.
   3. Be swift to hear – **James 1:19**
   4. Take heed how you hear – **Luke 8:18**
      1. Must be committed to wanting God’s word no matter what.
      2. Bereans – **Acts 17:11** – readiness – predisposition.
   5. **John 6:27, 68** – food for our souls which gives us spiritual life – words of Jesus.
   6. **Psalm 1:1-3** – this is a daily commitment that will firmly establish us.
7. Believing
   1. Faith is something which must grow from infancy to maturity, and requires constant effort. It isn’t simply a matter of having versus not having, but one of having, and progressing.
   2. **Romans 10:17** – if faith comes by hearing God’s word, and hearing is a constant necessity, then the growth of faith is a constant necessity.
   3. Faith is a commitment to God – **Hebrews 11:6** – diligently seeking.
   4. We must have humility, understanding our faith has room to grow, and showing the desire to have it grow:
      1. Apostles – **Luke 17:5**
      2. Man with son afflicted with mute spirit – **Mark 9:24**
   5. Biblical faith is more than simple belief. It is “faithfulness,” i.e. fidelity – **1 Corinthians 4:2** – our devotion, loyalty, and commitment to God must grow.
   6. **2 Peter 1:5** – add to your faith.
8. Repenting
   1. Repentance is a change of mind that yields to the will of God, giving up our own. Because we are ever growing in our faith, we are constantly changing our will and committing to God’s.
   2. True repentance involves a change of mind which is manifested outwardly in a change of action:
      1. Comes from godly sorrow – **2 Corinthians 7:10-11** – it seeks to be cleared in matters of sin. (Note: Godly – mindful of God)
      2. Bears fruit – **Matthew 3:7-10** – John the Baptist to the Sadducees and Pharisees – they needed to repent by ceasing to bear bad fruit, and bearing good fruit. (Ultimately by submitting to God’s will.)
   3. Repentance requires commitment to constant change:
      1. **2 Corinthians 4:16** – renewal day by day.
      2. **Colossians 3:10** – renewed in knowledge. (**cf. Ephesians 4:20-24** – learning Christ)
      3. **Romans 12:2** – ultimately manifest in a life being set apart from the world and being transformed by God’s will.
9. Confessing
   1. Confession of Christ is not a one-time verbal expression. It is a lifelong commitment to Him in the sight of all men.
   2. **Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 9:34-38** – Confession involves losing our lives for Christ’s sake. Anything less is showing shame in Christ, and He will likewise be ashamed of us.
   3. Paul’s instruction to Timothy was not deny, thus confess, by standing faithfully in the grace:
      1. **2 Timothy 2:1** – be strong in the grace.
         1. **2 Timothy 1:9-10, 13** – the grace is revealed in the gospel, and is the pattern of sound words.
         2. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** – such involves remaining faithful, i.e. not denying Him – can do so with our actions. (“Deny” is an antonym of “confess.”)
   4. Hold fast your confession – no wavering – **Hebrews 10:23** – involves enduring in faithfulness, and not drawing back **– Hebrews 10:35-38**
      1. Obedience to confession – **2 Corinthians 9:13**
10. Your Baptism
    1. Baptism marks an end of a past life, the beginning of a new life, and a devotion to the ways of the new life.
    2. Remember your baptism:
       1. If you were raised with Christ (in baptism) – **Colossians 3:1-4**
       2. But you were washed! – **1 Corinthians 6:11**
    3. The commitment of baptism to a new life lived for God – **Romans 6:1-14** – the one raised from the waters of baptism is dedicated to living for God.
       1. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – no longer life for self but for Christ.
    4. A graphic depiction of failing to be committed to the life born from baptism – **2 Peter 2:20-22** – DO NOT RETURN, BUT BE COMMITTED TO YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.
11. So I’ve obeyed the Gospel…Now what? – Stay Committed – **Luke 9:57-62** – the cost of discipleship is full commitment. Follow Jesus where He takes you, concern yourself with the matters of the kingdom of God, and don’t look back!

**Conclusion**

1. God wants those who have become His children by obedience to the gospel to continue growing the same way – by obedience to the gospel.
2. Paul said, ***“NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, OR AM ALREADY PERFECTED; BUT I PRESS ON” (Philippians 3:12).***
3. Conversion is merely a start of a new life that is committed fully to following God at all costs.