

# REFLECTOR

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*"Holding Forth the Word of Life"*

February 2006

## THE BOTTOM LINE OF CHRISTIANITY IS OBEDIENCE.

### No increase in the price of prayer

Uncle Sam has increased the rate of postage and it costs more to write our friends. God has made no increase in the cost of communication with Heaven. Prepare your message sincerely; address it with care; seal it with faith; and it is sure to be properly delivered. Prayer brings us what God wants us to have. Pray hardest when it is hardest to pray. Secret prayer is the secret of prayer. Prayer is the gateway to spiritual power. Prayer is reporting to duty. Let's obey the Lord.



Sue Henry and Pastor Sheen in Korea

**"Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God, trust God, and he that trust God obeys God."**

Charles H. Spurgeon



### **Deliberate obedience**

**"Lord, You be the needle and I will be the thread. You go first and I will follow wherever You lead."**

**Congolese convert**

### What about an invitation?

I remember it as though it were yesterday. During my tenure as president of Northeastern Bible College, Radio Station WFME, South Orange NJ, invited me to speak each morning each August, Monday through Saturday. Word was that over twenty million could listen. My subject for each program was prayer. At the close, I answered telephone calls. The interest was so vast, according to the radio personnel, the phone kept ringing long after I was gone.

One caller informed me that he was an elder in his church and had been listening as he traveled for his business and had been blessed. He had stopped at a pay phone to call. He asked: "What would it take to get you to conduct a prayer seminar in my church?" My answer was simply, "How about an invitation?" A prayer seminar was scheduled and over the years I have returned to that church twice.

What would it take to get a prayer seminar in your church? The answer is unchanged, "How about an invitation?" **Do you want your church to pray more effectively?** If so, the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX, COLUMN ONE**

### VERSES FOR THE MONTH

**"To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22b)**

**"We will obey the voice of the Lord our God" (Jeremiah 42:6b).**

## Perspective

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice" (**Genesis 22:18**).

The bottom line of Christianity is obedience. True faith is always evidenced by obedience. God speaks out of His Word. Wise is the believer who hears the Word and then becomes a "doer of the Word" (**James 1:22**). Obedience is the word that characterized Noah. Abraham's obedience allowed God to bless all the nations of the earth through his seed.

As an aspect of my preparing my own heart for 2006, for several days I asked the Holy Spirit to impress upon me the thought that would make a difference in the new year. He did and the one word that He gave me was "obedience." I understand completely because, at this juncture of my life and the prayer seminar ministry, it is important to live and work in obedience to His will and way.

### "Yes, Lord!" attitude

A life of obedience is living with a "Yes, Lord!" attitude. A "Yes, Lord!" attitude is submission and obedience to do what He wants you to before you know what He wants; it makes no room for the veto power that is applied after He reveals His will. Abraham illustrates this type of living. When He heard God's voice to go to another land, he did not hold on to the veto power and demand that the Lord give him full details before he made the decision to obey. He did not even know the terminus of his journey; he simply headed in the right direction. The same was true of Noah when God told him to build an ark.

### Hearing and obeying

Actually, the word "obey," both in the Old Testament and the New Testament is a contextual rendering of the verb "to hear." The Hebrew word translated *hears* means "to listen" or "to obey." This important word appears over 1,100 times and implies that the listener is giving his or her total attention to the one who

is speaking. In some cases, the word connotes more than listening and indicates obedience to what has been said.

In our text, Abraham was blessed not only for hearing, but for obeying God's voice. Samuel listened to God's voice and was determined to obey it (**1 Samuel 3:10**). As a young man, he was an example of the kind of person God delights to use—one always ready to receive His Word and follow it in obedience. Obedience signifies active response to something one hears, rather than passive listening. To hear God's Word means to obey that Word.

### A choice

From the account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and throughout the pages of Scripture, it is clear that God did not make us robots. Sin became a possibility the moment God created a being who was not a mere mechanism without the latitude of will. For God to create a being who could love Him voluntarily there had to be the possibility for that creature not to love Him, and not to love Him would immediately be sin. The same thing is true of obedience. There can be no true obedience apart from the possibility of disobedience. The first creature to exercise his will contrary to God's was Satan (**Ezekiel 28:11-19**). He is the one who lead Eve into disobedience. Adam chose to disobey.

Whether to obey (which is what God desires, even more than sacrifices) or disobey is our choice. A few years ago, I wrote in the margin of my Bible, as appropriate, the words "obedience" and "disobedience." I was amazed at how the word "disobedience" encapsulated the rebellion of Israel. God let the people know what He desired and what would please Him. "Obey Me, and I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead they followed the stubborn inclination of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward" (**Jeremiah 7:23-24 NIV**). When we really hear His voice and keep His commandments, we are His "special treasure" (**Exodus 19:5**).

## My choice

I am grateful for the Holy Spirit's leading me to think on "obedience" as a part of my heart preparation for a new year of living and ministry. My commitment in 2006 is to be what God wants me to be, go where He wants me to go, and do what He wants me to do as totally as I can. Partial obedience is disobedience. Where God guides, He provides. Obedience keeps our relationship with God open and free. Obedience, even with the small things, will lead to God's revealing the next steps He wants us to take.

Yours in Calvary love,

*J. Gordon Henry*

**"Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God, trusts God, and he that trusts God obeys God."**

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

## Touching lives

Dr. Henry, I'm sure you don't remember me but I attended one of your prayer seminars a few years ago at Grace Baptist Church, Gainesville GA, where my brother Jeff is pastor. I got to talk with you the last night and you spent a few moments with my wife and me. I just wanted you to know I will always remember the truths you taught. The "little prayer, little power and much prayer, much power" phrase has prompted me many times. The story about the Father's storehouse, and the resources He has for us when we ask in Jesus' name, is forever etched in my mind. Thank you, sir, for your ministry. I am now a full-time youth minister. My duties drive me to pray over issues that arise day by day. As I was praying and looking for refreshing today, I ran across one of your books. I just wanted you to know I appreciate all you do.

Because of Him,  
Greg Worley (GA)

Hi, Dr. Henry, I just finished reading the January '06 **Reflector**. You pour so much valuable ideas and teaching in each month's issue! Korea sounded fantastic for the Lord. It's such a privilege to know you (and the ministry) and have the opportunity to assist financially each year. Thank you for your influence on my journey. May you and Sue stay mightily blessed to continue your special assignment from God.

Doris Snyder, Doorkeeper (OH/FL)

## Disobedient Christian

***"Call upon Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).***

This is a command! When God gives a command, His children can do only one of two things—obey or disobey. Disobedience is both sin and rebellion. Even a cursory examination of Christian lifestyles today will verify that the vast majority of believers live in a constant state of disobedience and pray very little. Most who attend church services on Sunday morning enter the service in a state of rebellion and leave the same way. Let me show how easy it is to be in rebellion.

Jesus told His disciples that it was harvest time and to look around them to see that it was so, not four months later. They were to pray for laborers (**Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 10:2; John 4:35**). If we record every prayer prayed today and there is one for laborers, it would be surprising. Isn't this rebellion?

In spite of our rebellion, most Christians reflect the Little Jack Horner Syndrome. Do you know about Little Jack Horner? "Little Jack Horner sat in a corner, eating his Christmas pie. He put in a thumb and pulled out a plum and said 'What a good boy am I.'"

The sad reality is that most believers have such a superficial knowledge of the Word of God that they are totally unaware of their rebellion. It is interesting to note the absence of teaching about prayer in our Bible colleges, Christian liberal arts college, seminaries, and even in our churches.

It is time wake up to the fact that we will never win the war unless we know where the battle is being fought. According to **Ephesians 6:11**, God has provided armor to protect us from Satan's wiles, but doesn't put it on for us. We must put it on for ourselves. The armor is described in **vv 13-17**. The first activity mentioned (**v 18**) after the armor is on is prayer. Prayer is where the battle is fought. We need to obey His directive and go to battle. Obedience belongs to the Christian; results belong to God.

## Obedience to God's Word

"But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it" (**Deuteronomy 30:14**).

Reading, memorizing, and meditating upon the Word of God are of no value without obedience to the Word of God. As we read and meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit writes it on our hearts and transforms us from within as we obey it (**2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 18**). To obey the Word of God, you do what the Word indicates should be done in any situation. Obedience to the Word of God is the only way a child of God can be pleasing to God in His daily walk. Obedience to God's Word results in being treasured by God (**Exodus 19:5**); blessedness/happiness in life and not being ashamed (**Psalms 119:4-6**); understanding (**v 100**); avoidance of evil (**v 101**); guidance for life (**v 105**); safety and freedom from anxiety (**Proverbs 1:33**); and being fruitful for God (**Matthew 23:23**). In order to know and serve the Lord your God, you must read, learn, and apply His Word (**Deuteronomy 31:9-13**). There are no shortcuts.

### Caleb, an obedient octogenarian

One of the most interesting men in the Bible is Caleb. He was faithful from the start. As one of the original twelve spies sent into the promised land, he saw great cities and giants, yet he knew by conviction that God wanted them to move straight ahead to possess the Promised Land—not delay. You will remember the strong stand He took in urging the children of Israel to void the majority report of the spies and to enter the Promised Land at Kadesh-Barnea (**Numbers 13:30-33**).

Four and one-half decades later (thirty-eight years in the wilderness plus seven years of conquest), he was still a man of faith and determination (**Joshua 14:6-14**). When he was eighty-five, he was still a man who "wholly followed Jehovah." He had gone through the wanderings and discipline of those who had not shared his faith. When Joshua, his friend, was

dividing the land, he asked for a possession in the land which would make stern demands upon him in order to make it his own. "Give me this mountain," he said. On that mountain the Anakim dwelt with great and fortified cities—just as had been true forty-five years before. The Anakites were a race of giants. Although he understood that, Caleb knew the Lord would help him conquer them. He asked for the privilege of demonstrating and vindicating faith by works. He did not minimize the problems—the giants and the fortified cities—but he magnified God.

Interestingly as an octogenarian, Caleb said he felt as strong and vigorous at 85 as he had at 40. At age 85, when he might have asked for a quiet, secluded place to spend his last days raising some vegetables or flowers, he instead requested that he be given the same section of land that had struck fear into the hearts of the ten spies. His faith in God's power and presence was unabated.

Three things concerning faith are illustrated in the life of Caleb. To him, God was greater than the biggest problem. Caleb had faith in the power of God. He believed God would be with him. He had faith in the presence of God. Faith sees and dares in the day of overwhelming difficulty. Faith waits patiently through delays caused by failure in others. Faith acts with courage in the day of opportunity.

Yes, the bottom line of Christianity is obedience. Like Caleb, we must be faithful to the Lord, not only from the start of our walk with Him, but throughout our entire lives. We must never allow ourselves to rest on our past accomplishments or our reputations. Caleb was faithful from the start, but he remained faithful. God honored him. God not only gives what He promises, but He gives more.

### No Fool

He is no fool who gives what He cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Jim Elliott

## The matter of obedience

*"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said 'We ought to obey God rather than men'" (Acts 5:29).*

God's commands for His children are revealed in the written Word of God. Obedience is when we hear a command and carry it out quickly and totally. Obedience is submission to His authority over our lives. Obedience is necessary for fellowship with God. Disobedience results in broken fellowship. Beyond that, the work of the Lord suffers drastically. Local churches become something other than an army against which the gates of hell cannot prevail. In fact, many churches become maintenance oriented with decisions made in the light of keeping the lights and the heat on as primary concerns.

The consequences of both obedience and disobedience mark many pages of the Word of God. Do you remember **Exodus 40:34**? *"And the glory of the Lord filled the temple."* When the tabernacle was finished and everything was in readiness, God declared His satisfaction by filling the tent with His glory. The **glory of the Lord** filled the **house of the Lord** because the **people of the Lord** carried out the **command of the Lord** with 100% compliance. When it comes to obedience, halfway measures will not do! Partial obedience is disobedience!

### Obedience

Read about the obedience! The entire tabernacle project, from start to finish, was done "just as the Lord had commanded Moses" (**Exodus 40:19**). The requirement was total obedience. It's like baking a cake. Follow the recipe to the letter and you get a delicious dessert; omit some ingredients and put in too much or too little and the result will be a culinary catastrophe. When it comes to obedience, halfway measures won't do.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Exemplar of complete obedience. His intention was to do the will of His Father completely and He was willing to pay the cost involved. He affirmed that He had come to do His Father's will and

had been successful in doing it.

### Disobedience

Adam and Eve disobeyed. Sorrow and heartache followed. Throughout the Bible, we see that personal tragedies fell on individuals and families as a result of disobedience and rebellion.

Unwillingness to obey until God provides a complete job description is reflective of many lives. The obedience that is based on a "Yes, Lord!" attitude is the kind that will make a difference.

The sad truth is that many believers (including leaders) are so cold and backslidden that they do not even recognize their level of disobedience. The result of disobedience is catastrophic in our personal lives, our homes, our churches, and our nation.

### Never fear the will of God

Someone has noted that the will of God will never lead us where the grace of God will not provide for us. This is true for each of us; we need never fear the will of God. We simply need to be ready, once we discern that will, to follow it wholeheartedly and completely. To be happy in Jesus, we must trust and obey.



Agape is the love that gives, expecting nothing in return. It is the love that is directed toward helping another person become what he is capable of becoming. Agape is best demonstrated by the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you're hungry to know that someone truly loves you, check our **Psalms 103**. God is that Someone! Note the benefits: (1) God's love is as high as the heavens (**v 11**); (2) It removes sin as far as the east is from the west (**v 12**); (3) It shows God's care and comfort for His own (**v 13**).

Ironic, isn't it, that in tennis "love" is nothing, but in life "love" is everything. God has that love you and I need—**AGAPE LOVE**. "Love one another" (**John 15:12**).



## Bible reads me

A missionary asked an African woman who was reading the Bible: "Do you understand what you are reading?" She responded: "Sir, I'm not reading this book. This book is reading me." Yes, the Bible is the mirror the Holy Spirit uses to show us how God sees us. It is then that we can make any needed moves to come into harmony with the will of God.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

### How about an invitation?

people need to understand the purpose and power of prayer. They need to learn what the Bible teaches about how to pray and how not to pray. **Plan for six hours of teaching** following a schedule that will meet your needs (e. g., Saturday, 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.; all-day Sunday; or several evenings). **Call or write providing three possible dates.** There is no set charge, since we depend on love offerings. We provide a prayer seminar workbook for each participant and ask a \$5 contribution be made, if possible.

**Dr. Henry wants to share the prayer seminar as often and as widely as possible. Will you be the hand in the glove for the Lord in scheduling a seminar in your area? Contact us for scheduling details.**

## Itinerary

*"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course."*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

### March

- 5-7 Prayer Revival  
First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon KY  
Eddie Christian, Pastor
  - 10-12 Course on Prayer (live)  
Harvest COGOP, Rock Hill SC  
Beacon University Institute of Ministry  
Mike Golden, Chancellor
  - 17-19 Beacon University: Institute of Ministry
    - (1) Community Christian Fellowship\*  
Wendell NC
    - (2) Abundant Life Fellowship\*  
Florence SC
- \* Video prayer seminar (10 hours)



## NOTES from my BIBLE

**Note 1006.** When we follow the path of disobedience, we are exhibiting spiritual immaturity.

**Note 1007.** Though there may be little you can do, do the little you can. When you add little to little, you will soon make a difference.

**Note 1008.** The road to God is marked with "ONE WAY" signs. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (**John 14:6**). Salvation is only through His name (**Acts 4:12**).

**Note 1009.** It is not what we know about God that counts; what counts is how we respond once we know.

**Note 1010.** Instead of telling God how big your storms are (which He already knows), tell your storms how big the God you serve is.

**Notes from my Bible**, featuring one thousand notes, along with tributes to our parents, and favorite poems I have used in sermons, is available for a contribution of \$7, which includes handling and shipping. To place an order, call (434) 239-8837 or E-mail us at [jghm84@aol.com](mailto:jghm84@aol.com).

## DOORKEEPER REPORT

December 17, 2005--January 17, 2006

	# Gifts	Amount
REGULAR	72	\$5,266



***Thanks, Doorkeepers!***

**JGHM IS A FAITH MINISTRY  
SUPPORTED BY GIFTS  
FROM FRIENDS.**

## **I'll Go—Maybe!**

I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord.  
Real service is what I desire.  
I'll sing a solo any time, dear Lord,  
But please don't ask me to sing in the choir.

I'll do what You want me to do, dear Lord.  
I like to see things come to pass.  
But don't ask me to teach, dear Lord,  
I'd just rather stay in my class.

I'll do what You want me to do, dear Lord.  
I long for Thy kingdom to thrive.  
I'll give you nickels and dimes, dear Lord,  
But please don't ask me to tithe.

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord.  
I'll say what You want me to say.  
I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord,  
I'll help you some other day.

--Selected

## **Prayer Support Needed**



Adam Nathanson, Venezuela



JGHM--SOUTHERN AFRICA BRANCH



South Africa Prayer Semnar Alumni

## **Blessings and Cursings**

After giving Israel the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20**), God gave a list of covenant stipulations stating what He wanted His people to do and not do (**Deuteronomy 21-26**). He then went on to tell them what would happen they failed to consider and do His will. Although we live under grace and not the law as did Israel, reading the consequences of obedience and disobedience (**CHAPTERS 27-28**) can be instructive and help us avoid disastrous mistakes in our own lives.

An annual ceremony was mandated that spelled out consequences of both obedience (from Mt. Gerizim) and disobedience (Mt. Ebal). God began with the blessings, but the major part of the address was given to the judgments. "If you fully obey" (**Deuteronomy 28:1-14**), blessings were promised that focused on security and prosperity within the Promised Land. Obedience would lift them higher (**vv 1, 13**), make them richer (**vv 3-6, 8**), and keep them safer (**v 7**). He promised to bless every area of their lives, including their political ventures (**vv 7, 13**), their agriculture (**vv 8, 11-12**) and their witness to the Gentiles (**vv 9-10**). From a spiritual point of view, Christians can claim these promises today.

Then God pointed out the curses that would occur "if you do not obey" (**Deuteronomy 28: 15-68**). If Israel disobeyed, the nation would experience poverty, not prosperity. Instead of security, the nation would live under constant threat of foreign invaders. Persistent disobedience would result in Israel being torn from their land and hurled among the nations. There God's people would find no rest but only an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. Sad to say, the people turned from God to idols, disobeyed the Word of God, and ended up serving the enemy with sadness.

Disobedience cannot thwart God's purposes. All that disobedience does is rob us of blessings we would otherwise have experienced. "Trust and obey, there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey." Let's determine to "serve the Lord with gladness" (**Psalms 100:2**).

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## PRAY FOR PAKISTANI PASTORS



IF REVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU--YOUR  
PRAYERS, YOUR FAITH, AND YOUR  
OBEDIENCE--WILL AMERICA  
EVER EXPERIENCE REVIVAL?

Del Fehsenfeld, Jr.  
(1947-1989)

## Check out our web site

[www.jgordonhenryministries.org](http://www.jgordonhenryministries.org)

God has entrusted us with a ministry to the body of Christ that some say is unique both in its content and in its delivery system. During a prayer seminar, concerted attention is given to major emphases of the Christian life—Bible study, Spirit-filled living, prayer, witnessing, and stewardship.

For the past twenty-five years, I have been going up and down the land and traveling to other nations sharing biblical truths through the prayer seminars. For the past few years, I have devoted considerable time to writing, as well. There is much to share and there appears to be limited time to share it.

Several years ago, **Lon Anderkin** (FL), my special friend since 1953, when, as a little boy, he sang with his mother and brother in many of our services during my college-day pastorates in Kentucky, worked with me in developing a web site. The Lord has gifted Lon with the ability to use words that penetrate even the hardest hearts as you will see if you check his web site <[www.javaforjesus.com](http://www.javaforjesus.com)>. Be sure to look at "The Crucifixion," which you will want to bookmark.

We are now updating our web site. The **Reflector** will be included each month. I have made a commitment in my own heart to share other things God is teaching me. Bookmark the web site, turn to it often, and tell others about its availability. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide me to include material that will build up the body of Christ and point unsaved people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Good advice

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can and as long as you can.

John Wesley

### The Bible is alive

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.

Martin Luther