

**“The Secret to Abiding” John 14:15-23**  
**Obeying The Voice of God**  
**March 21, 2010**

**REVIEW:**

*The Secret to Abiding in Christ is hearing His voice.*

**MESSAGE:** *The secret to abiding in Christ is hearing and obeying His voice.*

**Question:** What keeps you from obeying God? What are your motives for obeying God?

**TEXT:** John 14:15-23; 16:13

**A. Obedience flows out of love for God.** (from inside out vs. outside in - external law)

**John 14:31** <sup>31</sup>*but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.*

**Levels of Obedience:**

1. **Law Based** – basic morality, external right & wrong, fear of punishment, no ownership in outcome, separated from higher purpose.
2. **Love Based**– advanced morality, spiritual / internal right & wrong, desire for relationship, shared ownership in the outcome, partnering in higher purpose.

*\* Human emphasis on obedience to rules is based in fear & leads to religious control.*

*\* God’s emphasis on obedience is based in love & leads to relational trust and submission.*

**B. Abiding means obeying the Spirit of Truth.**

**John 14:6** *“I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life.”*

**John 16:13** Spirit of Truth will guide you.

**John 13:17** *Now that you know these things, you will be **blessed** if you do them.*

**James 1:22-25** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup>But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—**he will be blessed in what he does.***

**“How to” - Samuel** - 1 Sam. 3

**“How not to” - King Saul** – 1 Samuel 10, 13, 15, & 28

**Hebrews 3:15** *As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”*

**Questions:** Will we OBEY the Spirit of TRUTH?

**Application:**

Pray: Lord, speak to me through your Word.

Speak to me through people, circumstances, etc.

Be alert and expect his voice in all of life.

Be ready to obey (act) immediately on his prompting.

*Love learns to listen...listening leads to Obedience leads to blessing...blessing leads to trust.*