

A TEMPTATION IN THE SECRET PLACE

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²²But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **James 1:22 (NLT)**

1. **Obedience demonstrates our LOVE for GOD.**

²³Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say..."
John 14:23a (NLT)

2. **Obedience clears our CONSCIENCE with GOD and enables us to come to him with FAITH and CONFIDENCE.**

²⁰Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²²And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.
1 John 3:-24 (NLT)

3. **Obedience is the application of GUIDANCE from GOD.**

²³I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course.
Jeremiah 10:23 (NLT)

Note: God's Word (direction) may produce a whole range of feelings in us:

¹⁶The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.
Mark 4:16-17 (NLT)

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray."

³⁷He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed.

³⁸He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Matthew 26:36-39 (NLT)

One temptation in the secret place is to believe that being there relieves us of the accountability of **OBEDIENCE**.

The **BLESSING** is always on the **OTHER SIDE** of **OBEDIENCE**.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

²We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.
Hebrews 12:1-4 (NLT)

The practical application of this principle: **PRAY** and **OBEY**.



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