

Obedient to the Faith

I may notice... in close connection with the preceding particular, that *faith* is sometimes spoken of as *obedience*.—"They have not all *obeyed* the gospel; for Esaias saith, Lord, who hath *believed* our report?"—"A great company of the priests were *obedient* to the faith."

The mystery of the gospel, revealed through the apostles, "is made known to all nations for the *obedience* of faith." [Rom. x. 16; Acts vi. 7; Rom. xvi. 26.] I am aware that, in such passages, *obeying* includes more than believing.

Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Romans 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

It includes a giving up of the heart to the influence of the truth believed,—yielding to its holy power and tendencies,—not thinking only, but feeling and acting, according to it: "God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin; but ye have *obeyed from the heart* that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

But still, the "belief of the truth," yielding to the force of its evidence, and receiving it as from God, is without doubt the *first* thing expressed by such phraseology.

God is obeyed, when his testimony is believed; and all by whom it is refused are ranked among the disobedient.

(Man Responsible for his Belief: Two Sermons... by Ralph Wardlaw, Glasgow: Printed at the University Press, 1825, 34-35, e-book, Text and paragraph structure modified)