

## What Does it Mean to be Obedient to God's Will for My Life?

God is love, so walking in love is walking in the essence of whom God is and is His will for our life. Walking in love means that the indelible stamp of God is on our life, in our character, and is manifested in our actions. Walking in love means that when people see our life, they should see the Jesus in us. Walking in His will is a lifelong pursuit and there will be moments when we don't shine like we should but the constant desire of our heart should be to be more like Him.

To be like Jesus we should walk in our lives in the manner that He did while He was on the Earth. A key reference to depict this walk is Luke 4:17-19 NLT: **The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."** We shall examine the five key attributes of His Mission:

**Preach Good News to the Poor:** A key element of the ministry of Jesus was taking the message of the Father's restoration to the poor and outcasts of society. Jesus was criticized for hanging out with prostitutes and drunkards. Jesus was caring the concern of the Father for the less fortunate. Jesus said in Matthew 5:3 NLT: **God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.** This was the message of hope that we are to carry to those that need it most.

**Release of the Captives:** Paul gives us instructions regarding ministering to the captives in 2 Timothy 2:25, 26 NLT: **Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.** Love requires loving our enemies so that they may have a chance to change their course and then join the family of God.

**The Blind Will See:** Besides healing the eyes of the physically blind, Jesus came to open our spiritual eyes as well, 2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT: **Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.** This is what is meant by Jesus when He said to make disciples of all men, Matthew 28:19, 20.

**Oppressed Set Free:** God had set up many instructions in the Torah of Israel to prevent the poor from being oppressed by others. Unfortunately, the people ignored these instructions and they took advantage of the poor. James speaks of this evil in James 2:6 NLT: **But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court?** Jesus said the score would be evened when the last would be first, and the first would be last, Matthew 20:16.

**Time of God's Favor:** God would pour his blessings upon the believers as they would walk out these acts of love, Philippians 1:7 NLT: **So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News.**

