



INTRODUCTION

Roger Staubach who led the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl victories often struggled with not being allowed to run his own offense. Coach Landry always told Roger when to pass, when to run and only rarely allowed him to change the play. Yet Roger later admitted, "I faced up to the issue of obedience. Once I learned to obey, there was harmony, fulfillment and victory." As believers, we are called to be obedient to God in 1 John 2:1-6. Our natural tendency is to live life on our terms, often leading to the failures of sin. As Roger learned with his coach, we can learn obeying God rather than controlling our own lives will lead to ultimate peace and freedom. God will give us the power to be in harmony with Him and others and experience a life of victory.

DISCUSSION

Read **Ephesians 2:1-6**, and discuss how these verses relate to the following situations, which are examples of lives needing transformation through obedience. How you would approach each situation? What would you say or do to help that person experience being "alive with Christ"?

1. Jeremy is straight-laced. He's carefully maintained the strict rules he learned in childhood about how to live his Christian life. While he's checked off all of the "do-nots," he often comes off as judgmental to others. This week, he refused to join his Christian friends in a church activity at a local sports bar because he said it was "evil."
2. Your friend, Sandra, is most often described as "wild." As a young girl, she made a commitment to follow Christ and since then has attended church frequently. Yet, her Facebook page is testimony to a lifestyle that has become embarrassing to even her closest friends.
3. Pierce is the nicest guy you've ever met. He's always the first to help someone in need and volunteers once a week at the food bank. Pierce sponsors two Guatemalan children in an international charity program. While the two of you are having coffee this week, he tells you he knows he'll go to Heaven because he's "basically a good person."

THINK ABOUT IT

"To have Faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you." –C.S. Lewis

DO SOMETHING

1. Find a time in your daily routine this week to read the Bible for at least five minutes. Pray before you begin that God will show you what He has in store for your life. Practice listening to and obeying the quiet inner voice of the Holy Spirit.
2. Read Romans 12 at least once this week, and pick a verse that challenges you to obey God. Ask Him for strength to help you to apply that verse in your life this month, reading it occasionally to refresh the meaning. If you feel comfortable, share this verse with another believer, and explain how it relates to your spiritual walk.