

6: THE DISCIPLE WHO FINDS STRENGTH BEYOND HIMSELF

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“If you love Me, keep My commands.” — John 14:15

Walking life’s trails eventually reveals what kind of walker you are. Your own determination, strength, and persistence do not guarantee you’ll reach the trail’s end safely. Some trails are wide and forgiving. Others narrow quickly and demand attention. In the same way, a disciple discovers early that hearing God’s Word is not the same as following it. Information alone won’t keep you on the right trail. An obedient heart is what turns belief into movement.

Jesus doesn’t separate love from obedience. He ties them together. Obedience is not about earning approval or proving devotion; it’s the natural response of a heart that trusts the

One giving direction. A disciple learns that God's commands are not obstacles in the trail, but markers meant to keep him from wandering into danger or getting lost.

APPLICATION

An obedient heart shows up in daily choices, often unnoticed. It's choosing truth when compromise would be easier. It's forgiving when pride wants the last word. It's obeying God's Word even when the outcome is unclear or uncomfortable. Obedience is rarely dramatic, but it is always decisive.

A disciple doesn't argue with the trail markers. He doesn't stop to negotiate which directions feel reasonable. When God's Word is clear, obedience becomes the next step. This kind of obedience requires humility—the willingness to admit that God sees further down the trail than we do.

Over time, obedience reshapes the way a disciple walks the trail. His decisions become steadier. His conscience becomes sharper. His faith becomes practical rather than guesswork. He begins to trust that God's commands are not restrictive, but protective—designed to form character, not control behavior.

LIVE IT OUT

Today, read God's Word with the intention to respond. God's not asking for your approval, He's asking for your obedience. Ask a simple question as you read: *What step of obedience is God asking me to take?* Don't wait for the perfect moment, clearer circumstances, or the audible voice that never seems to come. Take the step you already know is right.

When obedience feels costly, remember who is leading the trail. Choose faithfulness over comfort. Let obedience shape your schedule, your speech, and your reactions. Even small acts of obedience strengthen the heart to follow God more fully tomorrow.

Consider this: "Where has God already made His direction clear—but you've delayed taking the next step?"

An obedient heart doesn't just listen at the trailhead. It keeps walking when the path narrows, trusting that obedience keeps a disciple aligned with the One who leads the way.

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**Traits describe the man God desires—
Paths develop the man God uses.**

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