

# WHAT JESUS DEMANDS

## Part 12 of THE GOSPEL WAY

The Cornerstone Youth Group. May 6, 2026.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the one, holy, worldwide, Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

# WHAT JESUS DEMANDS

## Jesus was a teacher who made demands on his students

Jesus did three main things in his earthly ministry:

*Matthew 4:23 (CSB) Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*

- He preached about God's Kingdom being present.
- He taught about life as citizens of God's Kingdom.
- He healed and did miracles as signs of God's Kingdom.

The goal of Jesus' teaching was life-change. He wanted his followers to bring their lives into line with God's will and ways.

## What Jesus Demands

Here are just a few of at least 60 of his teachings found in the Gospels:

- Repent: Matthew 4:17.
- Love God and love neighbor: Matthew 22:37-38.
- Invite those who cannot repay you to dinner: Luke 14:12-14.
- Persist in prayer: Matthew 7:7-8.
- Do not worry about tomorrow: Matthew 6:34.
- Honor your father and mother: Matthew 15:4-6.

# How to obey Jesus

Obeying Jesus is hard. He asks us to do things that feel impossible. Even when we want to obey, it can be difficult knowing how to do it.

So, the following insights can help us:

## 1. Agree that obedience is not optional.

*John 14:15 (CSB) “If you love me, **you will keep my commands.**”*

Talk is cheap. If we say we love Jesus, but keep on doing our own thing, do we really love Jesus? No! The sign that we are a Jesus-follower is our obedience to Jesus.

## 2. Understand that obedience is the fruit, not the root.

*John 14:15 (CSB) “**If you love me**, you will keep my commands.”*

We don't obey Jesus to earn a relationship with Jesus. Rather, it is because we have a relationship with Jesus and love him that we choose to obey him. A relationship with Jesus is the root, and obedience is the fruit that grows out of that root. We are not saved **BY** obedience; we are saved **FOR** obedience

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (CSB) For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — 9 not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.*

### 3. Expect God's help to obey.

There is supernatural power to help us obey Jesus:

*John 14:15-17 (CSB) "If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth."*

The "another Counselor" is the Spirit of God. His Spirit energizes us to obey Jesus. First, he helps us want to obey; then he helps us obey.

*Philippians 2:13 (CSB) For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.*

When the apostle Paul went through a hard time and felt spiritually weak, he prayed for God's help. Here's what happened next:

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (CSB) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is perfected in weakness.**" Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. 10 So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

Christians say, "I can't, but he can." We expect supernatural help.

### Let's practice obeying Jesus:

Go to <https://www.famousgod.com/youth>. Scroll down to the Current Teaching section, and scroll to the red print: "**List: Commands of Jesus in the Gospels.**" Pick a hard demand. Discuss how to obey it.