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# *A Year in the Word*

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## **A Year in the Word: Part 15**

### **Small Group Questions: To Obey Or Not Obey...That is the Question**

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#### **Read**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Romans 7:14-17; Acts 17:24-25; 1 John 4:16; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Hebrews 10:32-36

#### **Reflect**

What comes to mind when you think about the word “obedient?” Do you have a positive association with the word, or does it make you tense up, fold your arms, and raise an eyebrow? Most of us have a built-in resistance to obedience. Pastor Roy Jacques explains that we resist the idea of obedience because of our sin nature, our cultural DNA (our country was founded on resisting authority) and because we’ve all had a bad experience with someone we were supposed to obey. But we are all obedient to something, from our appetites, to cultural fads, and more. The question is not whether we will be obedient; the question is “who” or “what” is worth our obedience?

Pastor Roy teaches us why we can be obedient to God:

1. Because he can be trusted.
  - a. What happens when a leader or person in authority loses trust?
  - b. Why is trust such a crucial factor when it comes to obedience?
  - c. Is there anything keeping you from trusting in God? Why?
2. Because he is loving.
  - a. Why do you think we are more willing to obey people who love us?
  - b. 1 John 4:16 says that we put our trust in God’s love. When we think about obedience, how are trust and love connected? Can you have one without the other?
  - c. God wants our obedience because he loves us; have you ever considered obeying God as an act of love towards him?
3. Because his Word brings life.
  - a. Pastor Roy says that obeying God brings life. Why do you think that is?
  - b. Is there an example from your own life where obedience to God brought life?
  - c. Even knowing all these things about God, why is it still hard to obey him?
  - d. Is there an area in your life today where God is asking you to obey him? Share this with your group if you are comfortable doing so.

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?