

<p>God’s holy, perfect, gracious, and merciful nature prompts Him to truly desire the Christian’s obedience (Psalms 85:15):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedience to the commandments of God is connected with God’s gracious offer to forgive man of their sins (Rom. 6:16-23). • God cannot give His grace to those who do not acknowledge, confess, and repent of their sins and remain just (cf. Rom. 3:5-8). • Please note that sin is the absence of obedience to God’s laws (I Jn. 3:4). The lawless are governed by methods other than divine revelation. • God, therefore, earnestly desires that I not only gain a faith (Heb. 11:6) but that I evidence that faith through acts of obedience (Heb. 11:1-5). 	<p style="text-align: center;">God’s Earnest Desire for the Christian</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Micah 6:8</p>	<p>God desires that His disciples would obey His commands because this is their earnest desire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God reveals much rebellion during the days of the divided kingdom due to the people’s lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). • A lack of knowledge existed due to the people’s lack of fear and interest in God (Jer. 5:22-24; 8:7; I Pet. 2:17). • Israel was often more concerned about keeping up with the surrounding nations in wealth and fashion than keeping God’s commandments (Lev. 20:23). • God’s earnest desire for His people was that they serve Him because this was truly something they desired to do (cf. Hos. 6:6; Joel 2:12-14; Matt. 22:37-38). • The Pharisees performed religious works for the wrong reasons (Matt. 23:5-7).
<p>God wants me to hear and heed to His call and in return call unto Him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s call of help comes through the gospel message (Acts 2:38-39; II Thess. 2:13-14). • God desires that I call unto Him for His divine favor (Joel 2:32; Acts 22:16). • To give Heed to God’s gospel message is to humbly submit myself to him in obedience as I recognize my utter dependence upon Him (cf. Matt. 18:1-5). • The Lord’s disciples are distinguished from the ungodly by their spirit of desire in serving Him (Matt. 13:10-18). 		
<p>God wants me to give some Effort in this Life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If my salvation is conditioned upon my obedience then God certainly desires my efforts in Bible study (II Tim. 2:15) and repentance (giving an earnest effort to not sin) (Acts 17:30). • The Hebrew Christians kept pressing forward in difficult days (Heb. 10:32-39). • Paul admonishes the Philippians to continue to give effort in life (Phil. 3:12-15). • The holiness of the Christian (Lev. 19:1-2; I Pet. 1:16) is dependant upon my attitude toward God’s desires for me. The Hebrew Christians stand as our example (cf. Heb. 10:32-39). 		