Impossible Commands

November 21, 2020

Read chapter 3 –Ride the Waves

1. Memorize Proverbs 3:5-7.

1. Why is surfing such a good analogy to obedience.

Why does it sometimes feel like we miss the “wave of obedience”?

How can we overcome the cycle of excitement, frustration, failure, excitement, etc. that lead us to want to give up?

1. What does it mean to obey through resolve or determination?
2. What does it mean to obey with a defeatist attitude?
3. How do we get to the place of joyful obedience?

Discuss what the author means when he states that “learning to joyfully obey God’s commands is all about a relationship with the God who made us”.

Discuss the four steps we need to take to experience joyful obedience. Include any Scripture passages to support your answers.

1. In step one we are to be honest with God. Why does the author suggest that we really don’t want to obey God? Discuss whether you agree with that statement.
2. Step two involves confession. How does that help in joyful obedience? It seems counterintuitive that if God is forgiving, why try to obey? See Romans 6:1-2.

Discuss the author’s question: “If I can’t obey God, then how can He hold me accountable? What verses suggest He can and will?

What suggestion is offered in Proverbs 3:5-7?

1. What does our joy depend on according to I John 1:9. How so?

What results from confession that gives us joy?

1. How are we like the Pharisees in Luke 11:46?
2. What resources has God given us to obey His commands?

Discuss this comment by the author: “The word of God is accompanied by the power of God to enable our obedience.” Cite Scripture to support you answer.

1. Discuss the seeming paradox between the idea that when it comes to obeying God, the author says “I can’t,” yet states in step four that there is some effort on our part.
2. Which step do you stumble over and why? How will you begin to work on it?

Next month: Impossible Commands – Chapter 4: Love God – December 19