

Outlandish Obedience



[AUDIO LINK](#)

Hi, this is Christine here. It is Sunday the 24th of November, and I have called this message “Outlandish Obedience”.

Now, ‘outlandish’ is a very old fashioned word, it isn’t used much these days, so probably a lot of people don’t know what it means. I have to use this word because last week I was minding my own business, sitting in a meeting just

worshipping, and this was the phrase that God spoke to me 'outlandish obedience', so I am going to explain to you what 'outlandish' means.

It means, '**Strange and unusual and difficult to accept or like.**' If something is outlandish, it's bizarre or unfamiliar, and far outside the boundaries of expected or normal behaviour. It is extremely different from what people expect one to do.

The word 'outlandish', let's just find out its history:

Etymology:

Old English *utlendisc*, meaning 'of a foreign country, not native'. Originally that is what it meant, but the meaning 'unfamiliar, strange, odd, uncouth, bizarre' began to be used in the 1590's, so that is its meaning.

So '**outlandish obedience**', God told me, **is what is going to be needed in this season ahead.** It is going to seem strange, foreign and abnormal behaviour to those around you. It is when you are led to do something very out of the ordinary, not what people expect of you. They will judge you, speak about you behind your back, avoid you and refuse to be associated with you.

God didn't say 'total obedience' or 'speedy obedience' or 'wholehearted obedience.' He specifically said, 'outlandish obedience.' It is the kind of obedience that causes you to lose your reputation among your peers, experience rejection by family and friends and be branded as delusional. It is the kind of obedience that will result in you being mocked and scorned and laughed at. Yet God is saying, this is exactly the kind of obedience that is going to be needed in the next season.

Why would God expect this of you? Because He has some undercover operations that require you operate completely outside the box which people have put you in. You have been pretty predictable up to now but God is going to require the kind of obedience that shocks your normal circle, even amongst Believers. They are going to say, "now she has lost it, she's listening to voices", or "he is having a

breakdown"... are you ready for that kind of obedience, that kind of rejection? It requires you walk completely in the fear of God, obeying His still small voice, even though no-one else can hear it and they judge you for believing it is God who told you to do whatever it is He has sent you to do.

Let's look at some examples of outlandish obedience... I have already spoken of Esther who went in to a pagan king's harem, ate pagan food and gave no outward sign she was a Jew, until the time God had instructed her to reveal it. That's an undercover agent. The genius idea for the double banquet came straight from heaven's war room. Her cousin didn't suggest it, and he was the only one at the palace gate who knew her nationality. Only God could have crafted such a brilliant way to expose Haman for who he was without putting the king's back up. So, Esther was required to practise outlandish obedience in order for the dangerous plan to be successful.

What God asked her to do was bizarre or unfamiliar, far outside the boundaries of expected or normal behaviour. She first approached the king - which was unprecedented and ran the risk of death because no-one approached the king unless he called for them by name. If people had known what she was going to do, they would have advised her against it. Notice she didn't tell the king she was Jewish then – even though Haman's diabolical plan had already been declared. She carefully followed the blueprint God gave her during her fast, not running ahead or falling behind. It was a slow dance where He took the lead for every step.

This is the kind of bonds slave obedience God is looking for in the season ahead. We are entering dangerous days and your welfare depends upon implicit obedience, not leaning on your own understanding but following His mysterious instructions - **outlandish obedience is what is required!**

Think of Joseph, when the angel appeared to him in the night, or in a dream, I can't remember which it was, and said, "Take the child and his mother and go to Egypt", and he rose and immediately did so. Now that is not normal behaviour. Normally someone would go back to sleep, wake up in the morning, discuss the

dream with Mary, and maybe get some advice from some elders in the village, and then start packing. But Joseph practiced outlandish obedience, and by doing so, he saved the lives of his family, and the Son of God.

Then let's look at Elijah. Firstly, God told him to decree that no rain would fall for 3 years. That must have earned him some criticism. The fulfilling of his decree meant that people in the nation suffered. Crops died, there was famine, animals died of thirst, children went hungry. If Elijah had walked in the fear of man, he would never have been able to be outrageously and completely obedient, no matter the personal consequences to his social life. I bet as time went by and more and more suffering unfolded, there were many who cursed Elijah under their breaths.

However, he didn't hear them because he was busy with more outlandish obedience. He trekked off to the brook Cherith, in the desert, under God's instruction, a place where there was no food supply and stayed there for a considerable length of time. If he had told people his plans, some would have tried to dissuade him from such a foolish 'notion'. It was bizarre or unfamiliar behaviour, outlandish, far outside the boundaries of expected or normal behaviour.

Then God said He would get the ravens to feed him and he was to eat what they brought. Now Elijah was Jewish and ravens were explicitly described in the Torah as unclean birds. Yet here was God telling him to eat whatever was brought from their beaks. No-one in his circle would have advised him to do that. In fact, they would have warned him that he would be entering into disobedience by doing so. Did you follow that? What God was telling him to do would look like disobedience to the written Word of God when observed by any other observant Jew! It would be seen as unfamiliar, strange, odd, uncouth, bizarre by anyone in his family or friendship circle. No wonder God took him to a place where no-one he knew could see him.

Then on top of that, the Word tells us that the ravens brought him bread. However, ravens are carrion, they are birds of prey, and they tear carcasses to

get their protein. How about if I tell you that the word for bread in Hebrew, *lechem*, also means 'meat or fruit'!

1 Kings 17:4, let's read, "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." ⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. "

Twice a day, the ravens brought bread, *lechem*, which could mean 'meat' and flesh. That word 'flesh' is *Bâśâr*, and it means flesh of the body of humans or of animals.

So these ravens were doing what ravens do, finding a dead animal and tearing off chunks of meat – and delivering them raw to Elijah! Bear in mind that Jews were instructed to only eat meat from which the blood had been drained, and to eat meat from carcasses, and to cook it before eating it! Now there is no record that Elijah had any ability or apparatus to cook this 'flesh' that was delivered morning and evening to him. He may very well have had to eat it raw unless he could start a fire from a spark & tinder... so here was more outlandish obedience that clashed with his own natural understanding. This obedience would have had him chucked out of the synagogue by the Rabbis if he had been discovered doing such an unclean thing. He would have been put outside the camp and told to cleanse himself for 7 days, and then present himself to the Rabbi.

Then the brook dries up and God sends him to Zarephath – a pagan city. He doesn't send him to a Jewish widow who could make him a nice unleavened bread. No, God tells him to go to a pagan widow who is basically dying of starvation and God says move in with her for the remainder of the famine time! First of all, there is no record Elijah was married. So God tells him to live under the same roof as a pagan widow. Outlandish obedience was required. God could have done the miracle of the flour and oil for her without requiring Elijah to stay with her but He didn't. Imagine the gossips in Zarephath – "That widow is entertaining a Jewish single man in her house. How shameful!!" But Elijah practised outlandish obedience and everyone under that roof was fed and sheltered for the rest of the famine time.

Sometime during that period God reveals the next part of the blueprint for wiping out the prophets of Baal. It is an elaborate scheme, one designed to wake the people out of their idolatrous slumber to recognize the true God. It is a whole day spectacle and Elijah must be outlandishly obedient again, allowing the false prophets to parade around for most of the day. Then he rebuilds the altar and prepares the sacrifice. Next he does something totally outlandish – he has the servants pour bucketloads of water on the wood and the sacrifice. What strange, odd and bizarre behaviour! But Elijah was outlandishly obedient, even though he looked like he was sabotaging his own sacrifice.

Beloved, God is going to ask you to do things in the next season that may not make any sense to your natural mind or your own understanding and it may clash with some of your doctrines, and of course, no one around you will understand why you are doing what you are doing. Once you have ascertained that you have heard that still small Voice correctly, you are going to have to become deaf to the critics, the mockers, and the pharisees who are watching you. You have to live for an audience of one, knowing that you and God are executing one of heaven's secret blueprints.

God may explain to you why you must do as He says, but He may not. Do not let that put you off. He sees and knows everything, and if He does not tell you the inner workings of the plan, you are going to have to trust Him and be outlandishly obedient anyway. You want to hear Him say, "well done good and faithful servant".

Consider the prophet who stretched himself out on a dead boy – this child wasn't a relative, so him touching the dead body would have rendered him unclean. He did it anyway. Why? Because he was being outlandishly obedient to the still small Voice which governed his every move.

This is how we must live, Beloved - **Outlandish obedience!** In every instance I have shared with you, the result was an outpouring of the impossible, fire from heaven, unceasing flour and oil, the enemy of god's people unmasked and

destroyed. **If you want to witness heaven's glory in the earth realm, you have to be outlandishly obedient.**

I want to suggest you do something outlandish. Write on a piece of paper the words 'my reputation amongst men'. Then go outside and dig a hole, put the piece of paper in it and cover it with soil. Have a funeral for your reputation amongst men, so that the fear of man will not rob you from witnessing the power of God in action.

Of course, there are times you will be outlandishly obedient and not witness any results. That does not mean nothing is going to happen. It just means the plan that God is executing involves more than just you. You have completed one step of the blueprint and He may use someone else to complete it. Do not judge your ability to hear God correctly by the results you see immediately. I am going to say that again; **do not judge your ability to hear God correctly by the results you see immediately.**

Consider the disciple who was invited to a Roman centurion's house. That made no sense to his Jewish mind, but God gave him the dream of the animals in the sheet descending from heaven. Let's read that whole story, it in Acts 10, from verse 9.

Peter's vision:

Act 10:9 the next day as they were still on their way and were approaching the town, Peter went up to the roof of the house to pray, about the sixth hour (noon). Act 10:10 but he became very hungry, and wanted something to eat; and while the meal was being prepared a trance came over him, Act 10:11 and he saw the sky opened and something like a great sheet lowered by the four corners, descending to the earth. Act 10:12 it contained all kinds of four-footed animals and wild beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the air. Act 10:13 and there came a voice to him, saying, rise up, Peter, kill and eat. Act 10:14 but Peter said, No, by no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common and unhallowed or [ceremonially] unclean. Act 10:15 and the voice came to him again a second time, what God has cleansed and pronounced clean, do not you defile and profane by regarding and calling common and unhallowed

or unclean. Act 10:16 this occurred three times; then immediately the sheet was taken up to heaven.

Act 10:17 Now Peter was still inwardly perplexed and doubted as to what the vision which he had seen could mean, when [just then] behold the messengers that were sent by Cornelius, who had made inquiry for Simon's house, stopped and stood before the gate. Act 10:18 and they called out to inquire whether Simon who was surnamed Peter was staying there. Act 10:19 and while Peter was earnestly revolving the vision in his mind and meditating on it, the [Holy] Spirit said to him, behold, three men are looking for you! Act 10:20 Get up and go below and accompany them without any doubt [about its legality] or any discrimination or hesitation, for I have sent them.

Act 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men and said, I am the man you seek; what is the purpose of your coming? Act 10:22 And they said, Cornelius, a centurion (captain) who is just and upright and in right standing with God, being God-fearing and obedient and well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, has been instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house; and he has received in answer [to prayer] a warning to listen to and act upon what you have to say. Act 10:23 So Peter invited them in to be his guests [for the night]. The next day he arose and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. Act 10:24 and on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for and expecting them, and he had invited together his relatives and his intimate friends. Act 10:25 As Peter arrived, Cornelius met him, and falling down at his feet he made obeisance and paid worshipful reverence to him. Act 10:26 but Peter raised him up, saying, get up; I myself am also a man...

Act 10:27 and as [Peter] spoke with him, he entered the house and found a large group of persons assembled; Act 10:28 and he said to them, you yourselves are aware how it is not lawful or permissible for a Jew to keep company with or to visit or [even] to come near or to speak first to anyone of another nationality, but God has shown and taught me by His words that I should not call any human being common or unhallowed or [ceremonially] unclean.

Act 10:29 Therefore when I was sent for, I came without hesitation or objection or misgivings. So now I ask for what reason you sent for me. Act 10:30 and Cornelius said, this is now the fourth day since about this time I was observing the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon) of prayer in my lodging place; [suddenly] a man stood before me in dazzling apparel, Act 10:31 and he said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and harkened to, and your donations to the poor have been known and preserved before God [so that he heeds and is about to help you]. Act 10:32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is surnamed Peter; he is staying in the house of Simon the tanner by the seaside. Act 10:33 So at once I sent for you, and you [being a Jew] have done a kind and courteous thing in coming. Now then, we are all present in the sight of God to listen to all that you have been instructed by the Lord to say. ...” What an amazing man! Can you believe this?

Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message. Act 10:45 and the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the gentiles. Act 10:46 for they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked, Act 10:47 can anyone forbid or refuse water for baptizing these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?

Act 10:48 and he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (the messiah). Then they begged him to stay on there for some days. “

What an amazing story, brothers and sisters, of outlandish obedience and astonishing results of the outpouring of power from heaven! We have got exciting days ahead in 2025 and beyond, as we practice this kind of obedience.

Now I just want to relate to you two instances where I had to do something that was really outside my comfort zone, and not normal behaviour for me at all. Both of them I didn't see the results of straight away after I did them.

I used to work on night duty as a carer for an old lady who had had a brain injury and couldn't see properly; a very wealthy woman, and I used to go and sleep

overnight with her in her house, cook her supper, keep company with her, and generally do whatever she needed. She had a brother who was a doctor, who in his youth had been an incredible playboy, a very flirty man. He was old, old as the hills, in his mid-70's – I hope I'm not offending anyone – and he was still an old rogue. Both of them were completely unsaved.

The first time I was introduced to him, I was in the kitchen cooking supper, because she had invited her brother for supper, and her daughter and boyfriend also came, and this old brother introduced them to me, and announced to them that I was his fiancée - and I had met him about 5 minutes previously! So that was the kind of person he was.

I got to know him and began to pray for him as time went by. He then had a slight stroke in his own flat, and he took himself off to hospital. He recovered somewhat but then his sister insisted that he come and stay with her. She had like a little flatlet on the side of her house. She wanted him to stay there so we could look after him, until he was completely better. He was really quite a trial to my soul, because I am not a flirt by any measure and it was quite difficult to handle him, but the Lord gave me wisdom.

Every morning, I would take his coffee to him in bed, and he would toss back the covers and say, "Come in and join me", and I would say, "I'll get into that bed but all I am going to talk to you about is the condition of your soul", and he would quickly slap the covers of the bed shut, and say to me, "You are no fun whatsoever!" Anyway, I would always have my quiet time early in the morning, before I went down to do the breakfast. As time went by, after a few days of him staying there, the Lord started giving me messages for him. The Lord said to me, "go and tell him this", and He would tell me the message.

The one message was; he was a great rugby fan, and always watched the rugby games, and the Lord told me to tell him that he was in injury time, and that the results of a game can be completely overturned and turned around by the decisions and actions taken during injury time in the game. It was such an incredibly wise message from the Lord, because he understood exactly what was

being said, because he knew exactly what injury time was, and how often the team that was not winning before the injury time, managed to score a last goal and actually win in the end.

So, it was messages like that that God would give me, but every morning would be a different one, and I would go downstairs and say, “I have a message for you this morning”, and I would tell him. He would say to me, “Where are you getting these messages from? Are you reading them in a book?” And I said, “No, it’s fresh bread, hot out of heaven’s ovens for you, because God loves you and He doesn’t want you to be lost”.

So, I had to practice outlandish obedience in that case. He recovered and went home. I kept contact with him, ended up getting him a Bible and telling him to study for his final exams, and we had a lot of very interesting conversations about Christianity, and I was always very straight forward and bold with him concerning encouraging him to repent and turn from his sins. He did pass away a while later, and I actually said, “Lord, I don’t know if he ever made a decision for You, I don’t know, he never gave me any sign that I was getting through to him, or that his heart was turning”. Then the Lord said to me, “Go and speak to your neighbour and ask her what her baby’s name is”. The neighbours were a young couple who had just had a baby, so I called her from across the fence, and she came with her baby, and I said, “Please will you tell me what your baby’s name is”, and she said “Mia”. Mia means ‘mine’, and I knew the Lord was telling me, secretly telling me, that that old man that I had spent so much time giving hot bread from heaven to, was His, and was safely home with Him.

So outlandish obedience can have amazing results.

The other instance that I wanted to share with you was also in the house of that very rich old lady. She decided to buy a different house, and all the furniture had been moved, and it was the last night before the remaining goods were going to be taken to the new house, but she had already gone to sleep at the new house. I was instructed to stay in the old house, with the maid that lived there, and look after the remaining belongings, so that they could be moved the next day.

That night we had a burglary. The maid was in her bedroom and she heard voices and people climbing over the electric fence and she leopard-crawled all the way to me in the inner office and told me, and we managed to call the security company. They came and looked all over – I am giving you the short version of the story; they looked all over and couldn't find anything. They told us to just 'go back to sleep, it's fine', and they left. I thought my goodness, "Go back to sleep!?" (We were wide awake, adrenaline pumping), and you want us to just go back to sleep!"

Then the Lord said to me; (she had a very big garden with a brook and silver birch tree forests down at the bottom, and there was a lot of shrubbery), and the Lord said to me, "Those burglars are still on the property, they are hiding at the bottom of the garden". So, He said to me, "Go upstairs and stand on the balcony and sing loudly into the darkness". I said, "Oh Lord! Really? You don't want me to call the security company?" "No. Go outside and sing! Sing the song 'the Power of the Blood'".

So, the maid had gone back to her room, and I went upstairs and stood there in the darkness, I couldn't see a thing, there were no lights in the garden, and I opened my mouth and I sang, "Would you be free from your burden of sin, there is power in the Blood, there is power in the bBlood. Would you o'er evil a victory win, there is wonderful power in the Blood" And I sang that whole hymn into the darkness and then I went inside and went to bed, fell asleep and slept like a baby. I have no idea what effect it had on those burglars, but they did not come back and break in.

So Beloved, Elijah went and did according to the word of the Lord, so did Esther and so did Peter. The rest was God's department, after being obedient to that still small Voice. Let us do the same, even when it challenges the framework of our understanding of the word of God, of what normal Christian behaviour is considered to be.

Outlandish obedience will be the hallmark of the season ahead for the bondservants of Jesus. So, pray for boldness. Pray for courage. Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord and live for an audience of One!

Shalom