

Going **Forward**

## A Second Key to Growth is OBEDIENCE

It is by knowing and following Jesus' directions that we come to deepen our understanding and relationship with Him.

**Jesus said:**

Whoever loves me will obey my teachings. My Father (God) will love him and my Father and I will come to him and live with him.

— John 14:23

It is as we walk honestly through life with Jesus and respond to His direction that we truly come to know Him. Obeying Jesus is our proof of loyalty to Jesus and trust in Him. If we truly trust Him as our Savior, we will trust His direction to us. The Bible will be our source for most of God's guidance to us.

### Is There a Doctor in the House?

**I** imagine if you went to a doctor to help you overcome a deadly disease and become healthy. The doctor could not help you unless you completely trusted him and followed all his directions—not just the ones that were easy.

The doctor could not save you if you picked and chose which of his directions to obey and which directions to ignore. He could not cure you unless you take the medicine he prescribes.

In the same way Jesus cannot bring His salvation and blessing into our life unless we completely follow His loving and wise direction over our life. We must know His teachings and commandments and then follow them. **When people don't know or follow God's Word, they fail.**



My people are destroyed by refusing to obey.

— Hosea 4:6 (CEV)