

# Grace Mail

As parents, it sometimes seems like our job is to repeat the same instructions over and over and over and over and over. Then there comes that beautiful day when our children do exactly what we've been telling them all this time. It's like the clouds part, the sun comes out, and the birds sing!

The joy and delight those moments bring are unparalleled. In our passage today, we learn what makes God have that same kind of delight. We are going to answer a vital question.

## **What Delights God? – 1 Samuel 15:22**

*“So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.’”*

This verse comes in the midst of a story about King Saul. Saul and the Israelite armies had defeated their enemies, and God had given specific commands about what they were to do next.

Saul didn't do what God commanded. Instead, he did the opposite, and when he was found out, he tried to pass the blame on to others.

It is after these events that we find our verse.

Samuel is very clear. What delights God is obedience.

This is a statement about the nature and character of God.

God is most interested in the condition of our heart. Doing great things for God or giving extravagantly to Him means nothing if we are not obedient.

Saul disobeyed. After he was confronted, he tried to say that he disobeyed so that he could do something great for God.

God, speaking through Samuel, says He delights in obedience.

Do we want to delight God? Do we want to bring Him joy? If that is our desire, we must obey.

God delights in obedience.

To obey God, we must know what He commands. This means we read the Bible. We learn what He says, and then we do it.

Delight the heart of God. Be obedient.