

Obedience: The Best Choice

John 15:10

It was the worst nuclear disaster in history. On April 26, 1986, reactor four at the Chernobyl power plant near Pripyat in the Soviet Union, exploded. This explosion led to several other blasts, releasing a plume of radioactive fallout 400 times greater than that of the Hiroshima bombing during World War II. The ultimate cost was incalculable: over 336,000 people were evacuated and ultimately relocated. The financial damage was estimated at \$200 billion. Worst of all was the cost in human health and life. It is estimated that thousands ultimately died of radiation-induced cancer. Many times that amount suffered a variety of physical problems as a result of the disaster.

It all began innocently enough. On April 25, plant operators had embarked on what would become a tragic experiment. They wanted to see how long the turbines could continue to produce power following the loss of main electrical power to the pumps cooling the reactor. This began an unwise series of decisions, even though operators knew reactors become extremely unstable in such situations. As the experiment progressed, the temperature within the reactor rose as the flow of coolant water decreased. By the time they realized the reaction was out of control, it was too late. The skyrocketing heat led to a series of explosions, destroying the reactor and releasing huge amounts of radiation into the atmosphere.

It was an accident that never should have happened. As the dangers mounted, automatic shutdown mechanisms within the reactor began to initiate. Warning after warning was sounded. And, one by one, safety devices and warning systems were disabled by the operators. Their failure to heed the alarms helped produce the worst man-made disaster in world history.

It's never wise to ignore warnings. The best choice is always to do the right thing—to obey commands that are intended for our own well-being. That's what Jesus meant in His instructions of John 15:10.

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love.

God has incredible plans for our lives, empowering us to experience joy and freedom found only in a relationship with Him. But such a life requires that we obey His instructions while rejecting actions and choices that will destroy His plans for us.

Don't let anything come between you and Christ—no addiction, no lifestyle, no misplaced priority, no destructive relationship. Jesus has mapped out a marvelous road for you to follow. As you live in obedience to Him, you will discover a life greater than you could have ever dreamed.

In what areas of life do you find obedience to God most difficult? How can you overcome the temptation toward bad choices and stay focused on obeying God's commands?

Why is it hard to overcome a destructive addiction, even when we know that's what God wants us to do?