



## Lesson # 5 - Obedience: The Fruit of Revival

### July 20, 2013

Read the memory text: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

This is a very familiar text for this class.  
Typically we read verse 3 along with it.

### SABBATH

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Obedience is the fruit of revival

- a. Obedience to what?
  - i. a church?
  - ii. the church?
  - iii. a set of doctrines or rules of behavior?
  - iv. The memory text says 'obedience to Christ'
    - i. What does that mean?
- b. The church I belong to has acceptable patterns of behavior:
  - i. why do the members perform certain acceptable behaviors and avoid other unacceptable behaviors?
    - i. if the rules weren't there, would the behavior be any different?
  - ii. What is the source of your behavior restrictions?
  - iii. Do rules or law have anything to do with it?

The title to the lesson says obedience is the fruit of revival.

- a. Metaphor: fruit of revival.
  - i. If you plant a fruit, what do you get?
  - ii. You do not get another fruit; you get a plant. (assuming the seed is in the fruit)
  - iii. If you plant a fruit (obedience), you will not get another fruit (salvation).
  - iv. If you plant the obedience without revival, you might get the **seeds** of rebellion or a **stone fruit**, a stony heart of rebellion.



- b. At the bottom of the second paragraph of Sabbath's lesson there is a statement about the result of Welsh miners coming to Christ.
- c. "This truly is the fruit of conversion"
- d. Revival in one's heart is different than revival of a nation or people.
  - i. One implies the return and rejuvenation of a previous conversion experience, whereas the other implies the conversion of new hearts and lives for God.
  - ii. Whatever the entity, there is behavior changes that accompany all hearts that are on fire for God.

## Obedience

- a. Definition of obedience [Miriam-Webster Online]
- b. Definition of OBEDIENT
  - i. submissive to the restraint or command of authority
  - ii. willing to obey
- c. obe·di·ent·ly [adverb]
- d. Examples of OBEDIENT
- e. Origin of OBEDIENT
  - i. Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin oboedient-, oboediens, from present participle of oboedire to obey
- f. First Known Use: 13th century
- g. Related to OBEDIENCE
- h. Synonyms: compliance, conformity, submission, subordination
- i. Antonyms: balkiness, contrariness, contumacy, defiance, disobedience, frowardness, insubordination, intractability, noncompliance, obstreperousness, rebelling, rebellion, rebelliousness, recalcitrance, refractoriness, self-will, unruliness, waywardness, willfulness
- j. Related Words: abidance, agreeability, amenability, teachableness, tractability, tractableness, trainability; acquiescence, capitulation, obeisance, obsequiousness, submissiveness, surrender, yielding; deference, docility, dutifulness, humility, meekness, modesty, servility, slavishness, subordinateness, subservience, subserviency; inhibition, repression, restraint, suppression; control, discipline, dutifulness, order
- k. Near Antonyms: noncooperation, recusancy; disrespect, impudence, insolence, rudeness; insurgence, insurgency, insurrection, mutiny, outbreak, revolt; hardheadedness, mulishness, mutinousness, obstinacy, obstinateness, perversity, pigheadedness, stubbornness; misbehavior, mischievousness, naughtiness; dissent, dissidence



What is your emotional reaction to the word Obedience?

- a. Why is obedience a "dirty" word?
- b. Currently it is a very uncommon word.
- c. Word History App or Google Ngram
  - i. peak about 1800 - 1830 as a fairly common word and decline to 1940 and continued to rare at present
- d. recent blogger about religion/Sunday School Teacher: "I don't like it" "my least favorite word"
- e. parents in my office: foreign concept for children to be taught to obey,
  - i. behavior is now controlled, but not obedience
  - ii. Obedience is not expected, especially for the male gender child

Obedience previously was to be included in the bride's wedding vows, but not the groom's vows

Obedience in dictionary and on internet search response

- a. Military (in response to authority)
- b. Religion (in response to creed or leaders)
- c. Animals (dog obedience schools)

Graham Maxwell in his book, "Servants or Friends" described three forms of obedience in relationship to God

- a. **Obedience Type 1:** "I do what I do because God has told me to, and he has the power to reward and destroy."
  - i. may not agree that it is a good idea
  - ii. may not act in that manner if God hadn't said to do so
  - iii. Is that the reason you do not murder or commit adultery, because God said you musn't? Are you saying that you might do it otherwise, but you can't afford to incur his displeasure?"
- b. **Obedience Type 2:** I love God and want to please Him, so I do what he says to do
  - i. again, there is no value to what He says, only that I want to make Him happy because I love Him
  - ii. Do we make Him happy when the only reason we do not kill our mother-in-law is that He said not to do so?
- c. **Obedience Type 3:** I obey because I agree with Him that it is a good counsel and appropriate behavior. "I have found it to be right and sensible to do so, and I have increasing admiration and reverence for the one who so advised and commanded me in the days of my ignorance and immaturity. And being my still somewhat ignorant and



immature, I am willing to trust and obey the one whose counsel has always proved to be so sensible, when he tells me to do something beyond my present understanding.” Servants or Friends? Another Look at God, Pineknoll Publications

- d. **He does not obey** “The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God.” – {COL 97.3}

## SUNDAY

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- a. Read the first two paragraphs
- i. “It results in a changed life.”
  - ii. “The results of revival are not necessarily positive feelings. They are a changed life. Our feelings are not the fruit of revival. Obedience is. This is evident in the lives of the disciples after Pentecost.”
  - iii. I would have to add the word “only”. Positive feelings are not the only result from revival, but it definitely has been present in my life when I have been influenced by the Holy Spirit. Both. Not either / or.

## MONDAY

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- a. Read the second paragraph
- i. “The infilling of the Holy Spirit. . . At times the spiritual warfare was fierce, . . .”
    - i. Read the memory text again.
    - ii. Is spiritual warfare visible?
    - iii. Is it external persecution or internal?
      1. See 2 Corinth 10:3 - 6
      2. (This discussion is similar to the one about the difference between Sin & sins.)
        - a. We often spend our energies fighting sins in our life, but instead should be fighting Sin, estrangement from God, and the sins will take care of themselves.



- ii. In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace. {Desire of Ages 330.3}
  - iii. It is the love of self that brings unrest. When we are born from above, the same mind will be in us that was in Jesus, the mind that led Him to humble Himself that we might be saved. Then we shall not be seeking the highest place. We shall desire to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him. We shall understand that the value of our work does not consist in making a show and noise in the world, and in being active and zealous in our own strength. The value of our work is in proportion to the impartation of the Holy Spirit. Trust in God brings holier qualities of mind, so that in patience we may possess our souls. {Desire of Ages 330.4}
- b. Read the last half of paragraph 4: “It’s not out of the realm . . .”
- i. Will this be because they were disobedient? To whom?

## TUESDAY

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- a. Read the highlighted paragraph at the bottom of the page:
  - a. " Try to put yourself. . ."
  - b. ". . .face and do things we do not understand. . . ."
- b. If we do not understand them, how do we know we are to do them?
- c. The story is referenced regarding Saul’s Damascus Road experience and the subsequent visit by Ananias.
  - a. How did Ananias know to do what he was asked to do?
  - b. Are we to do things we do not understand?
    - i. (Act 17:30) "God overlooked the times when people didn't know any better. But now he commands everyone everywhere to turn to him and change the way they think and act.
    - ii. If we have done this in the past: Is this one of the foolishness that God “winked at” or overlooked?
  - c. If we do not understand them, how do we know what we are to do?
  - d. If we do not understand them, how do we know we are to do them?
  - e. How did Ananias know to do what he was asked to do?
  - f. What is the difference between what Ananias was asked to do, what Abraham was asked to do (with the sacrifice of Isaac) and what a person who is experiencing revival is suppose to do?



- i. it is a matter of how close we know God.
  - 1. Paul was not given the full commission on the road to Damascus. He had other influences and revelations.
  - 2. Abraham had at least a 20+ year relationship
    - a. He had also spoken to God in a conversation, face to face.

### **WEDNESDAY - Paul vs Agrippa - who had it right?**

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- a. Acts 26:19 (NASBStr) “So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,”
  - i. Paul was not ready to accept what God had to say to him for three days.
  - ii. After preaching briefly immediately after his conversion, he went to the wilderness, and then went back to tent making in Tarsus.
  - iii. Paul did not immediately complete his entire commission. (time in Jerusalem, the wilderness, at tent making trade before he was called by Barnabas)

### **THURSDAY**

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- a. Read the third paragraph: “Jesus was a servant to the Father’s will. . . .”
- b. What is it called when you desire the best for another? LOVE

### **FRIDAY**

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- a. Discussion Question #1 is the story of Ananias & Sapphira.
- b. Does this story say anything at all about obedience?
  - i. If so, what?
  - ii. In what way were they disobedient?
    - i. Who were they disobedient to?
    - ii. What were they disobedient about?

**The Character of a Rebel** by EGW “God knows that if we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we would fall into Satan’s lines and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore the law of God confines us to the will of One who is high and noble and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. It is for our present and eternal good to work the works of God. If His will is cheerfully and gratefully accepted, the results will be seen in the service rendered and in the character developed.” – {12MR 235.2}

A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. Service is looked upon by such a one in the light of drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. If he dared, such a one would disobey. His rebellion is smothered,



ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. – {12MR 236.1}

#### fruit of the Spirit

- a. 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

#### final pronouncement of God

- a. let him be filthy still, etc
- b. (Rev 22:10-12) Then the angel said to me, "Don't seal up the words of the prophecy in this book because the time is near. Let those who don't have God's approval go without it, and let filthy people continue to be filthy. Let those who have God's approval continue to have it, and let holy people continue to be holy. "I'm coming soon! I will bring my reward with me to pay all people based on what they have done.

At the end of time there will be a revival of obedience, enforced by a false christ.

“A mere participation in religious services and ordinances does not make a sinner a Christian. A wicked man does not become righteous merely by associating with those who fear God. A man is made holy, and acceptable with God, only when his unclean heart is made clean by the grace of Christ, through faith, and by obedience to words of truth and righteousness. A work of reformation and restoration must take place in every heart. Those who have had great light and many privileges may perform some good works, notwithstanding their impenitence and their refusal to be saved in God’s appointed way. But these good works do not cleanse the soul from corruption. Only those who accept the light of God’s truth, choosing to obey him, will be cleansed from the defilement of sin.” – {RH December 19, 1907 Par. 11}

“The material world is under God’s control. The laws of nature are obeyed by nature. Everything speaks and acts the will of the Creator. Cloud and sunshine, dew and rain, wind and storm, all are under the supervision of God, and yield implicit obedience to His command. It is in obedience to the law of God that the spire of grain bursts through the ground, “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” Mark 4:28. These the Lord develops in their proper season because they do not resist His working. And can it be that man, made in the image of God, endowed with reason and speech, shall alone be unappreciative of His gifts and disobedient to His will? Shall rational beings alone cause confusion in our world? – {COL 81.3}”

“God stands toward His people in the relation of a father, and He has a father’s claim to our faithful service. Consider the life of Christ. Standing at the head of humanity, serving His Father, He is an example of what every son should and may be. The obedience that Christ rendered God requires from human beings today. He served His Father with love, in willingness and freedom. “I delight to do Thy will, O My God,” He declared; “yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. Christ counted no sacrifice too great, no toil too hard, in order to accomplish the work which He came to do. At the age of twelve He said, “Wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” Luke 2:49. He had heard





the call, and had taken up the work. “My meat,” He said, “is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.” John 4:34. – {COL 282.3}”

“The divine Son of God saw that no arm but His own could save fallen man, and He determined to help man. He left the fallen angels to perish in their rebellion, but stretched forth His hand to rescue perishing man. The angels who were rebellious were dealt with according to the light and experience they had abundantly enjoyed in heaven. Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in heaven. He was next in honor to Christ. The knowledge which he, as well as the angels who fell with him, had of the character of God, of His goodness, His mercy, wisdom, and excellent glory, made their guilt unpardonable. – {Con 21.1}”

“His lessons of instruction and His holy life, if followed, would stay the tide of physical and moral wretchedness that has so defiled the moral image of God in man that he bears scarcely a resemblance to the noble Adam as he stood in Eden in his holy innocency. Every prohibition of God is for the health and eternal well-being of man. In obedience to all the requirements of God there will be peace and happiness unaccompanied with shame or reproaches of conscience.” – {Con 72.3}

“Their obedience to the laws of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world. He who could give them wisdom and skill in all cunning work would continue to be their teacher, and would ennoble and elevate them through obedience to His laws. If obedient, they would be preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations and would be blessed with vigor of intellect. The glory of God, His majesty and power, were to be revealed in all their prosperity. They were to be a kingdom of priests and princes. God furnished them with every facility for becoming the greatest nation on the earth....” – {CH 204.3}

“The wondering crowd that pressed close about Christ realized no accession of vital power. But when the suffering woman put forth her hand to touch Him, believing that she would be made whole, she felt the healing virtue. So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.” {DA 347.1}

“ We hear so many things preached in regard to the conversion of the soul that are not the truth. Men are educated to think that if a man repents he shall be pardoned, supposing that repentance is the way, the door, into heaven; that there is a certain assured value in repentance to buy for him forgiveness. Can man repent of himself? No more than he can pardon himself. Tears, sighs, resolutions—all these are but the proper exercise of the faculties God has given to man, and the turning from sin in the amendment of a life which is God’s. Where is the merit in the man to earn his salvation, or to place





before God something that is valuable and excellent? Can an offering of money, houses, lands, place yourself on the deserving list? Impossible!

There is danger in regarding justification by faith as placing merit on faith. When you take the righteousness of Christ as a free gift you are justified freely through the redemption of Christ. What is faith? “The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). It is an assent of the understanding to God’s words which binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God, Who gave the understanding, Who moved on the heart, Who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

When men learn they cannot earn righteousness by their own merit of works, and they look with firm and entire reliance upon Jesus Christ as their only hope, there will not be so much of self and so little of Jesus. Souls and bodies are defiled and polluted by sin, the heart is estranged from God, yet many are struggling in their own finite strength to win salvation by good works. Jesus, they think, will do some of the saving; they must do the rest. They need to see by faith the righteousness of Christ as their only hope for time and for eternity. {FW 25.3}