

Obedience – The Essence of Trust

You obey/follow/do things in which you have confidence or faith, because you BELIEVE/TRUST it will produce a desired outcome. You know “experts” may achieve different outcomes, but you attempt it anyway, because you desire the same outcome. Men seek wealth, not because of itself, but because they BELIEVE/TRUST its acquisition will grant them their desires. Desire is the lever of action: Faith is its fulcrum. If you do not desire, you will not act and the intensity of effort is directly proportional to your faith. You sit in a chair confidently, because you desire rest and have either already proved it, or witnessed it done. Some actions are desperate, produced by desire, but the results sought have no basis in previous or witnessed experience. In these instances, one must decide whether to risk BELIEF/TRUST in the unproven word of another or one’s self on how to proceed. Many times we BELIEVE/TRUST another’s word based on our feelings about that person, and not from any experiential knowledge of their expertise. The world promotes SELF reliance, because men without God must rely on their feelings, others, or personal knowledge to determine courses of action. They have nothing else! Sadly, many who come to Christ, soon forsake Him, because the results were not really their true desire. They have too long relied on themselves and others. The best advice is from those who have done it. Who, alone, defeated death? Some BELIEVE/TRUST God’s Word for their eternity, but neglect its instruction for daily living. I believe C. S. Lewis said something like, “If you say you believe in Jesus, why don’t you take His advice?” What delights man’s desire will determine his actions. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7) “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:19) “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)* You want to know a man’s heart? Watch what he does when he thinks no one is looking. You will not BELIEVE/TRUST God’s Word until its Words are your desires and they will not be desirous until you begin to prove them with obedience. The more you obey, the more you will trust, and the more you will desire to obey, because you have experientially proven the veracity of God’s Word. *“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” (Psalms 37:3) “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith,’ saith the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10)*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away:
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay:
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love,
Until all on the altar we lay:
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way,

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. ~John H. Sammis, 1887

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into Judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

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