

Obedience By Faith

Romans 1:5, "By Him - our Lord Jesus Christ - we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name."

What is obedience by faith? - It is put together of two words: faith and obedience. Therefore it is the obedience that comes out of or from the faith.

1. But it is not the faith by mind, which we can find everywhere, the intellectual faith, also called hope - for this faith is beyond the promise and just hopes to possess it once. But here is meant the divine, spiritual faith - the revelation. This faith is now and has already taken possession of the promise. Only then we have found the foundation, the presupposition, the fountain, to be obedient to God in a pleasant manner.

The Bible mentions this in Ephesians 2:8-9,

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

So His grace brought us faith - and His grace is love. Faith is a divine revelation of Himself. It is nothing religious - for religion means covering -, nothing that is learned, educated or persuaded by man (respectively by fallen angels, demons), but by His loving kindness (Isaiah 63:7) it was given to us freely by His Self-revelation. By faith in His blood, redemption was given to us (Romans 3:23-26), the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7-9). By the new birth from above His blood, His Word, His Spirit, His life, yes Christ Himself is in us. But what we live now in the flesh (this body of flesh), we live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:19-20).

Therefore we read in Hebrews 11:1-2,

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for (expected), the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."

But yet this faith is the faith of the Son of God and believes as the Scripture has said (St. John 7:38-39). This faith is a revelation of God, a revelation of the Word, of the will of God for you. And only He Himself, the Holy Ghost, gives this faith to you. By this what was revealed, uncovered, shown inwardly to you, what you can see and recognize, you received the perfect faith. This real faith cannot be explained by man. The disciples in St. John 6:67-69 were absolutely convinced that JESUS had words of eternal life. They could not explain it, but they believed it.

2. Once more, the divine faith is a strong conviction of that, which is hoped! And because you were convinced from above that it is the Word of God, who revealed Himself, His Word, to you (Gal. 1:12), you will be moved by fear of God like Noah... (Heb. 11:7).
3. You will be moved by fear of God then, that means with divine fear, divine respect, to do after that, what He has told you, and shown to you. People today are so reverentless and disrespectful towards God, His Word and His servants, because they do not have the conviction that it is the Word of God and not the word of man. Your faith will be effective, active by divine love (Gal. 5:6), and you act and live upon it, you are concerned to tell it others, according to your conviction, according to your faith. By this your reverence becomes visible before God. Jesus says: *"He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me... He that loves me not keeps (follows) not my sayings"* (St. John 14:21-24).
By spiritual faith you are convinced, and thereby you know your position in the Word. We only can have reverence before God's Word, when we are convinced that it is God Himself Who has spoken to us by this Word, by vision or dream, by a divine gift, a divine saying, yes no matter in which manner, whether in a mighty wind or in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:9-13).
4. The effect of your meeting with Himself, of His speaking, His divine communication and revelation of the will of God for you in your personal life is that you are completely convinced and fearless, because you know what you know! You know that it was and is the Word of God. And you work and walk in this pulsation.

But we only believe what we live. The Word of God Itself just lives out of you. That is the heartbeat of the predestinated ones. For the Word of the Lord comes to them, and they are the Word to the people, written epistles, known and read of all men (II Cor. 3:1-3).

When something has been revealed to you, then grasp it and hold on to it, for it belongs to you, even if you don't possess it yet. Keep it, keep your position, hold on to confess it with your lips, because this spoken rock-confession the gates of hell cannot overcome (St. Matthew 16:16-18).

Faith and works are like man and woman, they work together and identify one another. When the real faith brings not forth works and no accordingly acting which prepares itself for the promised things (while your way of living, your attitude, your thinking and speaking is changed), then everybody has the right to doubt your testimony. Don't be afraid of man. And don't look on the high waves that come unto you, like Peter did. Remain in this divine revelation, for in it you are absolutely invincible. But when Peter looked upon the waves he got afraid and began to sink, even though he had this substance-faith. For he obeyed the voice of God, that said: "Come!", got out of the ship and walked upon the waters in order to come to Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. And when he began to sink, he cried and said: "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him: "O you of little faith, wherefore did you doubt?" (St. Matthew 14:22-33). Peter got afraid, and that happened. In Job 3:25 we read:

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me."

What he was afraid of, has happened in reality. And what brought this fear to him? His confidence would have kept it from him. But his negative fear and dread brought it to him. He was afraid of sinking, and that happened. If he wouldn't have had this fear, then it would not have happened. When he believed, he could walk upon the water. But then he became afraid in his faith, and then the substance left him, even though he still confessed his faith. But he did not have the perfect faith no more. In this substance-faith he did not think of this high waves, he just walked by faith, without reasoning. Yes, when you are completely convinced of

His Word, then you are indeed concerned about the Kingdom of God; and the kingdom of God is the Word of God, which has become Spirit and life in us. You are concerned for God, to do what He says (St. John 2:5). Yes, real conviction will make us to be concerned to do reverently what He says. To be concerned about the Kingdom of God means: to accept, what He has prepared for our salvation. He sent His Word, and His Word comforts and strengthens, keeps and heals us (Psalms 107:20). We will be concerned about and care for

->what God's Messenger said,

->to do the will of God,

->to seek Him,

->to touch Him,

->to accept His grace and not to fail it,

->to take God's medicine (Acts 2:38), that is to repent and to be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the effect of the medicine will not fail: We will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

But why are just few concerned about God? - Not many are completely convinced of what they believe, confess and seemingly live! Why? They have not taken the medicine of God - which has no harmful side-effect. Indeed, by mind they know the instruction of use, the quality of the medicine, of what it consists and so forth. They also know the dosis and how to use it, but they are not ready to take this medicine according to the instruction, that means, according to the Word, and they are self-willed, stubborn and dogmatic.

Today is lacking - the real sincere confession,

- the deepest sincerity,

- the genuine, spirit-worked repentance,

- the fruits of the repentance

(the confessing and bringing things in order
before God and man, St.Matth.3:7-12),

- the Biblical baptism.

The result of this divine taking of medicine would be the sealing with the Holy Spirit.

But how can the so-called believers, with regard to their denominations, completely be sincere, if they don't have a perfect understanding, if they don't find God's Ultimate, the Absolute, the definite, that is to find His unadulterated Word, to purify their souls in obeying the truth (I Peter 1:22-23, St. John 8:31-32 and 17:17).

We remember: Divine faith is and works a complete conviction. Automatically you are moved by reverence to do, what you believe. You are concerned to tell others this divine truth, and God cares for them, who are concerned to accept what He has prepared for our salvation.

5. God always cared for the people that were concerned. He cared for them who were willing to be cared of. And we see, that He sent Moses - a prophet - to them, to lead them and to bring His elected ones on God's prepared way of escape. God cares for His people. He cared for those that were concerned in the days of Noah, so that they could flee (Proverbs 22:3). The simple and humble hearts listened to this man called Noah - and they could flee. They fled the judgement (Hebrews 11:7).

If men would be ready today to confess their sins and to repent, to believe and to accept the finished work of Calvary, then God would care for them. But they have to accept that what He has done for them, how He has cared for them, which way He has prepared for them. Rahab cared for the spies of God - and God also cared for her and saved her and her whole house (Joshua 2 and 6:15-25).

God cared for Elijah because he cared for God, by doing what God said and being obedient to the voice of God (I Kings 17:1-6). He also cared for Daniel, when Daniel cared for the Word and commandment of God, to pray sincerely and to obey the Word of God (Daniel 6:11-25).

God cared for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego when they sincerely respected their faith that was delivered to them, the Word of God for their time. When they were cast into the fiery furnace, God cared for them by sending a fourth Man into the fire to cool them. HE cared, because they cared for His Word before (Daniel 3:8-30).

When the centurion of Capernaum, by confessing his faith before public witnesses, was concerned for God, that he didn't trust in his

roman idols, and he asked Jesus to speak just one Word so his servant might be well, then Jesus cared for him, spoke the Word, and his servant was healed (St. Matthew 8:5-13).

God also cares for you, if you care for Him, His Kingdom, His Word.

If you hold unto a creed, a dogma, then He will never care for you, because you would follow what man say then. But if you hold unto the Word of God with a true sincere confession and if you believe that Jesus Christ is a mighty deliverer, redeemer and healer and if you confess this in the Holy Spirit, then He will care for you.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness (trust Him anytime). Delight yourself also in the Lord; and He shall give you the desires of your heart" (Psalms 37:3-4).

Yeah, when we are concerned for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (St. Matthew 6:25-33), all we need in God's sight, will be added unto us. Then we don't have the sorrow to care for the coming day by ourselves, for what to eat and drink, clothing and sorrows of life, cause the Father in heaven cares, yes He has already done it before (St. Luke 21:34-36; Philippians 4,6). It is really this way: If somebody fears God and does His will, him He hears, He helps him and heals and delivers him (St. John 9:31).

"He that does the will of God abides for ever" (I John 2:17).

This is only possible through the Holy Spirit, for He shows and reveals us the will of God.

6. With true divine faith, with a strong conviction in the heart it is not difficult to be obedient. The true believer has the spirit of faith within himself (II Corinthians 4:13) which is the Holy Spirit, and the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance..." (Hebrews 11:8).

In obedience of love towards God, Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac (Hebrews 11:17-19). Yes truly, in the love of God the obedience towards God has been given to us by grace. Even today our guide, the Holy Spirit, leads us. He sanctifies our behaviour. We learn to obey His voice, no matter what the world says. He leads us into our inheritance in the promised land, called the Holy-Spirit-Homeland. God can't bless us further, if we do not obey Him completely, like Abraham did. Yes, those who have obeyed in the little things, will be able to receive the revelation of the hidden things of God, that which was spoken by the seven thunders of Revelation 10:3-4 and what God placed into the Book, before the foundation of the world. Otherwise it will go over our head, as far as the east is from the west.

Faith guided Moses to the path of obedience, to go to Egypt in weakness to deliver the people of Israel. Only by faith, by a revelation from God, is it possible to be in divine obedience. Cain didn't want a bloody sacrifice. He presented the beautiful fruits of the field upon his altar. Very religious he brought the sacrifice, did everything like Abel and fell down before God to worship Him. Cain was obedient in every manner, but without the revelation of the Word. The plan of God was from the beginning the Word. By revelation God revealed what He would confirm and affirm as right - not religion, not an altar, not the membership to a church, not the presentation of a sacrifice, not the sincerity, but the revelation of the Word.

The children of obedience and of disobedience have nothing in common. Children of disobedience are those who rebel against the revealed Word of God, who revolt and are indignant. Like Cain: he rebelled against the revealed revelation of Abel, vindicated by God that it was right. And he killed his brother, because he was envious and jealous. Is this not the same today?

Yes, obeying is better than sacrifice, to hearken unto the speech and hint of God is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry (I Sam. 15:22-23).

God has two laws: to follow Him, to serve Him and to worship Him is life. To reject Him and to turn Him down is death.

In order to come home really, we have to follow the angel, called the "Holy Spirit". For He goes before us to protect us on the way and to bring us to the place that He has prepared (Exodus 23:20-

33). If we indeed obey His voice and do all that He speaks, then He will be an enemy unto our enemies, and an adversary unto our adversaries. Then we will be lead forth with peace (Isaiah 55:12). Yes, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, became the Author of eternal salvation, eternal joy and peace, unto all them that obey Him (Hebrews 5:7-9).

How important is the exhortation: "We ought to obey God rather than men", and God will give the Holy Spirit to them who obey Him (Acts 5:29-32). But they have not all obeyed the gospel (Romans 10:16). Oh, let us be obedient from the heart, that form of doctrine which was delivered us (Romans 6:15-17). JESUS humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8.)

Let us follow His footsteps! True self-abasement is to be obedient to His Voice, and His Voice is the Word (Matth. 23:11-12)! The Holy Spirit is the wealth of the Love of God in the hearts of His children, to obey His Voice. He Himself in us creates the obedience towards His Word! Yes, obedience is all. Then the streams of blessings are flowing, and the Spirit of God - our heavenly Joshua - brings us to the rest, into our inheritance - the position as sons. We will have entered first into His rest when we possess our inheritance in the Holy-Spirit-Homeland, that means, when we have come to the adoption as sons (Deut. 12:4-11; Deut. 3:18-22; Joshua 1:10-15a; Isaiah 63:7-14; Hebr. 3:7-19 and 4:1-13).

"And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:18-19).

God wanted us to be like sheep and needing a shepherd. And this shepherd is not a man, but the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ in us. Sheep cannot lead themselves, they need to have a shepherd. God doesn't want us to be clever or cunning. He just wants us to be obedient and trust in His leading, that we lean upon His intelligence, the way He leads us (Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 8:14).

7. And when we are willing to be led from Him, and if we live and do what the Word of God says, then we will see miracles. First comes obedience, and then God will fulfill what He has promised.

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