

Theme for 2021

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!

‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’

“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”

John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)



This Week’s Thought – March 28, 2021

“Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect [uniquely equipped and prepared as Savior and retaining His integrity amid opposition], He became the source of eternal salvation [an eternal inheritance] to all those who obey Him.” **Hebrews 5:8-9 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” Obedience to God is the heartbeat of Jesus. He learned and modeled obedience, and suffering was the incubator in which His obedience grew. The best lessons we learn seem to come out of suffering. Anyone can obey when it is easy, but in the fire of adversity and pain, our obedience is put to the test. Will we obey even when it hurts, even when it costs us dearly, even when we don’t want to, even when we are uncertain of the outcome? Obedience’s tests unmask our motives. Untested obedience may just be the result of convenience.

So be prepared to obey, just because you know it is the right thing to do, when no one else but God will ever know. He is watching to see if we will obey Him when no one else knows. Jesus knows from first-hand experience that obedience is what makes us more like Him.

We experience Him in our acts of obedience; He assures us in our obedience; He loves us in our obedience; He empowers us in our obedience. God shows up in the middle of our obedience. It is so important to Him that He makes it a priority to bless our obedience. His blessing may not be recognized immediately. It may take months or years before we enjoy the fruit of our obedience to pray.

This is especially true when things are going well or when things are fine. We unwisely drop our prayer guard and are exposed to a ‘sneak attack’ by our adversary, Satan. The reality is that success and blessings need to propel us to pray more. Progress demands prayer. How can we maintain any level of achievement or move forward to conquer new horizons without obedience in prayer?

Success reveals a different type of suffering. We suffer from isolation, greed, and pride. Without obediently seeking God, we fail where it matters most. God smiled on our efforts and brought success. He is the author of progress by His providence. Therefore, we obey Him with our prayers. We obediently point our prayers toward Heaven, often and aggressively.

When you passed from death to life, from darkness to light, you became a new creation in Christ. Your name changed from self to selfless. You went from control to trust, from disobedient to obedient. As a follower of Jesus, you represent Heaven on earth. You are the face of your Heavenly Father. You obey Him because there is a higher purpose in life. You are ambassadors for Almighty God, hosts for Heaven, and greeters for God. Therefore, even in hypocrisy you obey. In other words, you obey your way to obedience. You obey because you love Jesus! You obey because you are a child of God!

Jesus replied, *“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”* (John 14:23)

Application: We all struggle at times to follow God’s Will. What problems are you having in your walk with God? Confusion, anger and frustration can lead us away from the Lord and what He wants for us. We may let fear take over our beliefs. But, in order to turn away from these negative emotions, we must take a moment to create an open and honest dialog through prayer. Go to God with your questions and He will bring answers!

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: *“Heavenly Father, I pray that as each of us comes to a point in our lives where we dare to ask You to reveal Your will for us, You would put us in a place of acceptance of what You reveal to us. It may not be what we want, but it will surely be what we need in order to live a life fully invested in You. Help us to realize that anything You bring into our lives and anything You reveal to us is for our good. Give us a spirit of acceptance and a heart open to Your movement in our lives. We await Your Voice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”*

Yours in Christ, Pastor King