

The Power of Obedience

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I. Introductory Remarks.

We are living in a very crucial period of time in the history of the earth. We are approaching the end of the age when the church needs to arise to its rightful place and allow the glory of God to cover us. But what is it going to take on our part to come into this pre-ordained position that God has established for His church?

Isaiah 60:1-5 Arise, shine; For your light has come! and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 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, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

In this message I want to share with you one of the most important concepts in our victory over the enemy and what it will take for the glory of God to come upon us.

Isaiah 1:18-20 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

II. The Obedient Path vs. The Disobedient Path.

- Illustration of the obedient path vs. the disobedient path.

The disobedient path looks good through our carnal eyes, but because we are looking through our carnality we fail to see the destructive influences that are on that path. The obedient path doesn't look good through our carnal eyes, because all we can see are the cross and the pain, humiliation and suffering that it represents. If we saw it through our spiritual eyes we would see the joy, peace and goodness of God that exists on that path.

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

When we see the cross through our spiritual eyes we can also see all of the joy that flows forth from it just as Jesus did.

Hebrews 12:2 *...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

When we are in the process of partaking of the good of the land, which consists of all those things that pertain to life and godliness that have been given to us through God's divine power, (I Peter 1:3) it causes us to walk in a great victory.

Throughout the Old Testament we see time and time again that obedience produces success and success produces victory. It was always through the obedience of the children of Israel to God's command that they walked in victory.

Joshua 1:8 *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

III. Obedience Is Needed In Order To Survive Storms.

The world is headed into one of the worst storms that has ever come over the face of the earth and if we as Christians are not walking in obedience to Christ, we can end up in disaster as well.

Hebrews 12:26-27 *...whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being*

shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Luke 6:46-48 *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

IV. Two Essential Areas Of Obedience.

Being obedient has to do with being submissive to the restraint or command of authority. (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

1. We Must Be Obedient To The Truth Of God's Word.

2 Thessalonians 3:14 *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

John 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

2. We Must Be Obedient To The Voice Of The Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3:7-10 *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion..."*

V. Concluding Remarks.

1 John 3:22 *And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*