

Attitude #6 * Obedience

**Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
I desire to live day-by-day under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.**

Do we really desire to live day by day under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit and if we do, what does that involve?

Obedience - Conducting the word and will of another person, especially the will of God. In both the Old and New Testaments, the word obey is related to the idea of hearing. Obedience is a positive, active response to what a person hears. God summons people to active obedience to His revelation...in other words, what He has said. Man's failure to obey God results in judgment. **Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loves He chastens..."** This is a direct quote from the book of Proverbs 3:11-12 **"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son whom he delights."**

As you and I grow in our relationship with God and our knowledge of God's word we should ask God every day to help us to obey that which we know that He has revealed to us. Ignorance for the Christian can only be used as an excuse for a short time. Immediately following our salvation experience God begins to reveal to us how He wants us to live or not to live and He does it in two ways.

One, we are told that as believers, the Holy Spirit of God indwells us.

Romans 8:9,11 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Verse 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

According to **John 16:8**, one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sin.

John 16:8 - And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The word reprove here means to convict or by conviction to bring to the light, to expose. So we see that the Holy Spirit reveals sin to us by convicting us of that sin many times in a new believer's life before they have the knowledge of it revealed to them in God's word.

Two, we have the knowledge of the truth of God's word. As we have just said, many times the Lord convicts us of our sin before we have the Scriptural knowledge of that sin revealed to us. What God's word does is confirm what we are experiencing on the inside (conviction) with what God has written and the only way that we are to respond to His word correctly is in obedience and/or repentance. In doing so we have satisfied God's expectation, and the conviction will cease.

Many of us have viewed God's word as a matter of convenience rather than a matter of necessity. We will never follow God's word perfectly, but it will be to our help and spiritual growth to follow God's word practically and consistently. Doing the little things that we know to do as we learn and grow is the key to Christian growth. Our refusal to do that which we know to do is as harmful to our spiritual growth as doing that which we know to be wrong. If we are ever going to move forward in the Christian life in a way that will honor God and help us we are going to have to do the little things.

A Biblical example of doing the little things:

John 9:1-7 - And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

- 1. Vs. 1 - A perfect observation. And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.**

- This man could not see Jesus, but, what was better, Jesus could see him.....he was in the way that Jesus would go.
- Jesus Christ saw us long before we ever saw Him. We only know what we see...Jesus sees what He knows.

Isaiah 65:1 - I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

2. Vs. 2 - A hasty assumption. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

When we consider the question of the disciples, we see that we might be tempted to be more curious concerning the sins of others than we are of our own.

Matthew 7:3-5 - And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

3. Vs. 3-5 - A compassionate and instructive response. Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

- It was compassionate to the blind man.
- It was instructive to His disciples.

It was instructive because not all afflictions are the punishments of sin, as some might think. Some afflictions are for the glory of God, as we see here.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

4. Vs. 6,7 - An unusual cure. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Why would Jesus choose such a way to heal the blind man? Perhaps.....

- To show that He is not tied to any methods but His own.

Isaiah 55:8,9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- To magnify His power in making a blind man see by a method which would make a seeing man blind.
- To show that there is a greater advantage to hearing than there is to seeing.

Jesus Christ makes men feel their own blindness before He gives them sight. Spiritual blindness leads to wrong paths and wrong thinking. It makes us think of ourselves more highly than we ought to and has the tendency to place ourselves above others and even above God. The design of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to open our eyes!

2 Corinthians 4:3,4 - But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The only solution for spiritual blindness is the gospel of Jesus Christ!!

So what was the man's part in receiving his sight?

- Although the healing was owed purely to the power of Jesus Christ, there was still an instruction to be followed by the man for his need to be met....he went on what looked to be a fool's errand in confidence of Christ's power!
- His part was to go and his part was to wash.....a small part for a great blessing!!
- Promises are fulfilled by fulfilled instruction.
- It taught the man that future blessings are contingent on present obedience.
- This man would not have reaped this great blessing had he left either one of these things undone.....and neither will we!!!