

WHEN THE KING IS IN CONTROL

Richard Oostra

We live in a generation of “quick fixes,” a tendency that also affects the spiritual realm. No shortcuts, however, are available in our relationship with God. Obedience made Christ the object of His Father’s love. Christ’s obedience was not a single act but was a practice encompassing His whole life in doing the will of His Father.

When God created Adam and Eve, the only thing He asked of them was obedience. Today, as a Christian church, the only thing by which we can glorify God and enjoy His spiritual blessings is our obedience in making Jesus the Head of the church and of our lives.

Kingdom Blessings

What are some of these spiritual blessings? Well, there are plenty. First of all, upon our new birth, God promised to give us His Spirit. That gift will give us the desire and the ability to walk by His commandments. What He asks in return is for us to be obedient in all that we do. The Christian life is an exchange: *all for all*.

Secondly, when Jesus sent out His disciples to proclaim His kingdom or governing message, He endowed them with His power. As a result, they were able to cast out demons and heal the sick. Now this may seem far-fetched, but every time we have the privilege of leading a person into a new relationship with God, we have conquered some of Satan’s domain and extended Christ’s kingdom. Every time a person turns to God, he or she has passed from spiritual death to life by God’s Spirit. The new birth is God’s biggest miracle on earth.

Answers to Prayer

The Bible also teaches that those who live Christ-centered lives will see answers to their prayers. It was Jesus who said that those who walk and pray in the will of God will see God working through them (Matthew 21:22). It was Peter who warned husbands to live with respect in relationship to their wives, so that their prayers will be answered (I Peter 3:7). It was James who challenged us to confess our faults one to another, and to pray for each other to be healed because “the prayers of a person who is right with God is powerful and very effective” (James 5:16). Do we have such an intimate relationship with God?

Key to Power

The key to spiritual power, a stable walk, and a positive prayer life comes from obedience to God. As long as we doubt that we can be obedient in our daily walk and living in fear of possible failure, we lose the confidence that assures us the victory.

Obedience made Christ the cause of His Father’s love, and even today, “the eyes of the Lord are searching the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him” (II Chronicles 16:9).

Obedience to God is attainable, but it is also a heavenly art. We must not get discouraged if compliance does not come at once. The very essence of our salvation is obedience. Christ’s obedience became our salvation. Our submission is His delight.

The Bible clearly teaches that we are servants to whom we obey. Jesus’ abiding presence will help us to keep His commandments, even as He kept His Father’s commandments.

He wants us to be His light in a world of darkness.
He wants us to extend His kingdom on earth.
He wants us to have His Spirit's fullness.
He wants us to have His power in our lives.
He wants us to be baptized into Him (not unto Him)

Power Manifested

Being baptized into Jesus means that we have overcome the sins that so easily beset us. It speaks of a full commitment like being emerged in Him. On the basis of this baptism,

- Jesus said that Christians would receive power when the Holy Spirit enters their lives (Acts 1:8).
- John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit. (John 1:8).
- Being baptized only with water does not necessarily include the Spirit's power, but baptized with the Spirit of Jesus does include that power (Acts 8:15).
- His Spirit is only given to those who walk in obedience to God (Acts 5:32).
- If we hide sins in our heart, our spiritual effectiveness will diminish (Psalm 66:18).
- Someone who only knows about water baptism is not yet fully equipped for doing service for God (Acts 18:24-26).
- Being filled with the Spirit of Christ can only come to those who are pure in heart and motives (Acts 8:18-20).
- A time will come when many will claim to be Christian, but because of disobedience, they will not have the power they were meant to have (Acts 3:5).

God promised that if we would come near to Him, He would come near to us (James 4:8). We need to ask ourselves: Have I obtained an intimate relationship with God?

Note: Richard Oostra is the author of the book *Church on the Rock(s)* available at www.RichardOostra.com