

Beyond our limits, Part 4 - Obedience

But why do you call me Lord Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6: 46)

Going beyond our current limits in obedience requires understanding what obedience is all about. It's all about God's authority.

Before the creation of man, Satan was created to give God glory in heaven. But he rebelled against God's authority in his desire to be in control (Is. 14: 12-14). He was then cast out of heaven to earth with a third of the angels that rebelled with him (Rev. 12: 7-9; Luke 10: 18).

When God created Adam and Eve He gave them dominion over the earth. Satan wanted that control. Therefore, he deceived them and got them to disobey God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Note carefully that Satan's goal was not just to get them to sin against God. It was about gaining authority. Likewise, today his plan is not just to get man to sin, but to get access and control over the souls of people (Eph. 2:2). Man still has natural dominion over the earth, but he has lost spiritual dominion. He has given it to Satan, the prince or ruler of this world (John 14: 30).

Of course, the earth is the Lord's (Ps. 24:1), and He has always had all authority over His creation (Heb. 1:3). However, He loved us and saw the suffering caused by disobedience and coming under demonic rule. This is why Jesus came. He came to seek and to save that which was lost (disobedience, Lk, 19:10) and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3: 8).

When Jesus arose, He declared that all authority has been given to Him in heaven and in earth (Matt. 28: 18). He then gave the Great Commission to his disciples to go and make disciples...teaching them to observe all things

that I have commanded you (v. 19-20).” Following Christ is all about obedience to his lordship. As we learn to obey, we usurp the authority of the devil in our lives and break his power. At salvation we came under the rule of Christ and were born again. However, sanctification is all about learning to obey the Lord. It’s not just about doing good works, it’s about obedience. This is an important distinction.

What God wants the most from man is not to serve, give, or deny ourselves. He wants us to obey Him. To obey is better than sacrifice... for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (I Sam. 15: 22-23).

This is why Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” It is because it is through obedience that God’s kingdom comes on earth and Satan’s power is broken.

To serve God in newness of the Spirit (Rom. 7: 6) means to obey from the heart, not just by external good works. The Pharisees and other religious leaders performed many good works but were far from God and used by Satan to crucify Christ.

Satan laughs when a rebellious person preaches or serves in spiritual leadership in the church, because that person is operating under the satanic principle of disobedience and gives Satan access to poison the whole church.

Anyone serving God must understand and obey God’s authority. When we do, we begin to see His authority everywhere we go and we learn to be submissive to it. Our best key to being in God’s will and receiving His blessing is by finding authority and being subject to it. Find your place in the body of Christ and get under authority there. Also, find authority wherever you go and submit to it when you encounter it, be it in the home, in school, at work, in our towns, etc. Give honor where honor is due (Rom. 13: 7).