

**Monday, 27 November 2017** *Philippians 2:5-8*

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Have this mind, John, which is a **gift** from Christ Jesus. My attitude is to be that of a humble servant, obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. Some gift, in the eyes of the world, to be a humble servant let alone to be willing to suffer crucifixion. However, in the eyes of the LORD, God the Almighty, who calls me to walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8) nothing is more precious.

LORD, may I be obedient to You and Your Word in all things.

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**Tuesday, 28 November 2017** *Philippians 2:12-16a*

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life,*

The elements of applied obedience (salvation):

1. A way of life that is consistent regardless of the audience
2. A solemn obligation, one that is practiced in the presence of the LORD, God the Almighty.
3. A goal to please God,
4. Absolutely without grumbling or argument about terms and conditions.
5. Displaying life as a child of God, being transformed without blemish into a light in the world.
6. Always grasping the Word of God as the guide to life.

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**Wednesday, 29 November 2017** *Philippians 2:24*

*and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.*

How often, in any given day, do I ignore the clearly stated instruction in James 4:15 *'Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."'*? It is not only a poor testimony to my fellow saints; it is a violation of the first element of obedience (see yesterday's list)

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**Thursday, 30 November 2017** *Colossians 3:20*

*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

This had to be my mother's favorite verse; I'm sure for I heard it so often. However it was usually the full-blown version in Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

Like the other nine Commandments, this is one without time constraints. I am called to honor my parents whether a pre-schooler or an octogenarian. (Check with me in a few years, and we will discuss the next decade). My parents have been home with the Lord for many years, but I am still called to honor their memory.

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**Friday, 1 December 2017** *Colossians 3:22-24*

*Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

I've never been a bondservant, but I have filled just about every level of responsibility from potato bagger to business owner. It was during the latter phase that I began to realize that I was not selling products but that I was engaged in a constant witness to the power of the Cross to transform me. Every aspect of my life had to be informed by the Word of God; I was serving the Lord, not meals to guests. "Good enough" could not be part of my vocabulary, all had to be based on the very best that I could do.

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**Saturday, 2 December 2017** *1 Thessalonians 1:6-7*

*And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received*

*the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Righteousness and peace are good; necessary and valuable aspects of the life of a child of God but joy, especially in the face of affliction, is evident of all to see. Consistent joy, bubbling out of a believer during a period of loss and/or discouragement is an emotion that the world cannot comprehend. That joy that results from faith in God's goodness, from trust in the truth of His Word, is something that only another believer can value and understand.

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**Lord's Day, 3 December 2017** Psalm 119:50

*This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.*

Yes, there is life in Your promises for they are sure, yea and amen. I need only to turn to Your Word in my affliction for there they are. Jewels ready for the taking, ripe grain for the harvest, balm for my soul.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*November 27-December 3, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Romans 15:5-6**

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Lord Jesus, may the focus of every aspect of our lives bring a spirit of unity to our fellowship so that we will glorify Your and our God and Father with one voice. Give us that endurance and encouragement that comes only from You so that we do not allow the routines of life and ministries to distract us from that call to bring glory to You and the Father.

Through the power of the indwelling Spirit, granted to each of us, *Amen*.

**Creational Theology hint for the week**—I drove past a field recently planted in winter rye, a carpet of emerald green. That field will produce the sweetest sweet corn east of the Hudson River in mid-August a gift from God who created the winter rye to replenish the nitrogen needed to produce the sweet corn. Praise the Lord.

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