

Chapter 7

Obeying God

When a person really becomes converted to Christ it will show in the way he lives. "We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it does. We cannot see the Spirit of God as He works on the heart, but His power brings us new life. That power creates a new person in the image of God. Although we cannot see or hear the working of the Spirit, we can see what He has done" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 54).

Jesus once said: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). You can't see the Spirit but you can see what He does. When a person really belongs to Jesus, and is guided by His Spirit, people will know. A life with Jesus in it is different from a life without Him. These two ways of living are not the same.

Wólta'ii 7

Diyin God Bik'eh Hojíl'íigo

T'áá aaní Jesus joosdlaadgo łahgo át'éego jiináa doo. "Níłch'i Diyinii t'aadoo hodéezyéelgo hajéi yinaalnish, nidi binaanishígíí éi t'áá yit'íi yileeh. Níłch'i Diyinii éi diné łá' bijéi ániidígo ánýiidlaago, yá'át'éehgo jiinánígíí bee bééhózin doo. T'áá hó hajéi doo łahgo át'éego ánájódle' át'ée da, doo nidi Diyin bich'í' dashdóya' át'ée da. Áko doo ádeíjódlii da; ádá ájoolníłgíí doo éi binahjí' Diyin God baa bił hózhóq da lá. Nidi Diyin bibee'ajooba'ígíí éi hajéi bii' hazlí'go jiinánigi át'éego bee bééhózin doo" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 54).

Jesus áni: "Níyol t'áá bí nízingóó níyol, t'óó dinit's'a'go éi dinit's'a', nidi deeyoldéé' dóó íyolgóó éi doo nił bééhózin da, áko Níłch'i Diyinii bee nidahachíihii ałdó' t'áá ákódaat'é" (John 3:8). Azhá Níłch'i Diyinii doo yit'íi da nidi, t'áá bééhózinígo naalnish. Diné łá' t'áá aaní Jesus bí' jíłíigo, dóó Níłch'i Diyinii bikéé' joogáałgo, áko hak'éi bił béédahózin doo. Jesus bee jiináago, dóó Jesus t'áá géed jiináago, doo aheelt'ée da lá. Naaki ał'ąą át'é.

"It is true that we may act in the right way without the power of God. We may do good so that other people will think well of us. We may even avoid evil because we want to look right in the sight of our friends. Even a selfish person may give to a good cause, or help the needy. How can we know, then, whose side we are on" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55)?

"Who owns our hearts? Whom are we thinking about? Whom do we love to talk about? Who has our warmest love and our best work? If we are Christ's, we think often about Him, and our kindest thoughts are of Him. We have laid at His feet all we have and are. We want to be like Him and have His Spirit in us. We desire to follow His way and to please Him in everything" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

At this point there are two mistakes to avoid. (1) The first is that something we do can make God accept us, that we can obey God without His help. Those who hold this

"Jesus bibee adziil hwii' ádingo, ła'ígóó daats'í yá'ádaat'éehii hanaanish dooleeł. Jó hak'éí, hoł nidaal-nishiida, yá'át'éehgo shaa nitsídaakes dooleeł t'áá éí t'éí biniyé nizhónigo bináál nijigháa doo daats'í. Yá'ánisht'ééh jinízingo ádaa nitsídziikesgo shíí ájít'íi dooleeł. Doo lá dó' shí da jinízingo ádaa nitsídziikesgo éí t'áá áłahíjì' hak'éí bíká aníjłwo'go shíí, éí ayóó'ázhdónúigo ákójít'íi dooleeł lá. Ákoosh hajéi ts'ídá haash yit'éego bee bééhózin doo?" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

"Hajéi lá hái bí? Hái lá baa nitsídziikes łeh? Hái baa yájłti'go hoł yá'át'ééh? Hái lá aláahgo hoł nizhóní, dóó hái bízhneedłjigo baa nijighá? Christ éí hwíí' niljigo bí baa nitsínízdikos, dóó hajéi bii' hólónígíí éí Christ bízhdeet'i' doo. Hwee dahólóonii t'áá ałtso, t'áá hó nidi ałdó', Christ bee bóhólníih doo. Bí hinánigi át'éego hinishnáa doo jinízin, biNíłch'i Diyinii bee nízhdídzih nahalin dooleeł dóó há yinízingi át'éego nijigháa doo; t'áá ałtsojì' bił hózhóqogo bá ádeeshłíł jinízin doo" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

K'ad índa ni'iidzihígíí naaki hóló, áko bits'aą nanináa doo. (1) T'áálá'í góne' nilínígíí éí, t'áá yá'át'éehgo áashníłígíí binahjì' Diyin God shaa a'ááh nízín doo jinúigo, Áká Análwo'ii t'áá géed nidi. Diné ła' t'áá ákót'éego jinízinígíí

view have a wrong idea of what God can accept, and also of what it means to obey. For something to be acceptable to God it has to be perfect – absolutely without fault. If we occasionally do something good, this fact does not change all the other things we do that are bad. So doing good things is not enough.

In any event, obedience does not just mean doing good things. It means serving God from your heart. The problem is that loving God does not come naturally to us; it is something the Holy Spirit must put in our hearts. Without this principle of love for God there can be no such thing as real obedience. (Read 1 Cor 13:1-3.) Obedience is the result of Jesus living in us by His Spirit.

Which do you think comes first? Do we start obeying so we can receive Christ? Not at all! We come to Christ as we are. Without Him no one can obey God. Jesus must come first. People are not saved by what they do.

(2) The second mistake to avoid is that we don't need to obey at all, with or without God's help. There are only two

Diyin éí baa bił hózhóonii doo bik'izh'diitjìh da; ak'eh hół'í ałdó' doo bik'ináázh'diitjìh da. Diyin éí ts'ídá ba'át'e' ádaadinii t'éiyá baa bił hózhóó lá. T'óó t'áá łahídida yá'át'éehgo áníjii't'ìihígú shíí, t'áá áłahjì' nichó'ígo baa nijigháago doo haajígo łahgo át'éego íléeh da. Jó hahgoda yá'át'éehgo ájoo-níhígú doo t'áá éí biniinaa hool'áágóó iiná biih jidoogáał da.

Ak'eh hojł'í éí doo t'óó díida, éida ho'di'núigo áníjii-t'ìihígú óolyée da; hajéit'áahdi ayóó'ó'óní bee Diyin God bá nijil'a'ígú óolyé. Ayóó'ó'óní doo t'óó hwii'déé' haleeh da; Níłch'i Diyinii hwee haleeh. Áko diné ła' azhą yá'át'éehgo ájoo-níł nidi, ayóó'ó'óní t'áá géedgo, doo Diyin bik'eh hojł'ínígú át'é. (1 Cor 13:1-3 yíníłta'.) Jesus hwii' hółógo t'éiyá ak'eh hojł'í bízhneel'ąą jileeh.

Háidíshą' aląąjì' dooleeł nínizin? Ak'eh hojł'í daats'í áłtsé, áádóó índá Christ hwee haleehígú daats'í? Díí éí ts'ídá dooda! Jesus áłtsé hwee hazł'í'go t'éiyá ak'eh hojł'í bízhneel'ąą jidooleeł. Jesus éí aląąjì'. Diné ła' t'áá hó habee adziil bee ájít'ínígú ts'ídá doo bee yisdá'iildéeh da.

(2) Ni'iidzihígú naaki góne' nilínígú éí díí: Ak'eh hół'í doo íłłi da jiníi łeh – Jesus t'áá biłgo, Jesus t'áá géedgoda. Jó

choices. A person can live in obedience, or in sin. It's true that God loves sinners, but He hates sin. He will accept the one, but never the other. Jesus Himself lived a life of obedience. His will and His Father's will were the same. What the Father wanted, Jesus also wanted.

Was it hard for Jesus to do His Father's will? No, it wasn't. The Father's will was His will too. Was the Father's law hard for Jesus to keep? No. It was entirely natural for Jesus to keep it. (Read Matthew 5:17; Psalm 119:97.) Christ had to struggle constantly against Satan, but He never struggled against His Father.

There are certainly times when *we* struggle against the Father! The difference is that we are sinful, while He is holy. This difference has separated us and, if we cling to our sins, it will continue to separate us. Jesus came to this world to remove the separation, so there would be nothing between Him and His people keeping them apart. He came to restore harmony between earth and heaven.

bíla'ashdla'ii Diyin yik'eh dahó'í daats'í, éí doodago baahági át'ëii bee ádidahólníh daats'í. Díí naakigo haz'ánígíí t'éí hóló. Diyin éí diné baahági ádaadzaaígíí ayóó'ádayó'ní, nidi baahági át'ëii t'áá bí éí yijoołá. Jesus ak'eh hól'ínígíí bíł nilí dóó bíł hóshó. Nihitaagháháąąá' Jesus éí biTaa' t'áá áłahjì' yik'eh hól'íigo naagháá nít'ée'. Bí íinízinii dóó biTaa' íinízinii t'áá aheelt'éego yee lá'í nilíí nít'ée'.

Da' Jesus éí biTaa' yik'eh hól'íigoósh bíł nantł'ah nít'ée' daats'í? Dooda. Bí íinízinii dóó biTaa' íinízinii t'áá aheelt'ée nít'ée'. BiTaa' bibee haz'áaniish Jesus bá nantł'ah? Dooda ląą! T'áá bí bijéi bii' hólónígíí biniinaa aTaa' bibee haz'áanii ayóo bíł yá'át'éeł. (Matthew 5:17; Psalm 119:97 yíníłta'.) Christ éí nihitaagháháąąá' łahda hwe'ana'í hach'į' nahwiiłnaa łeh nít'ée'; nidi bí dóó biTaa' ts'ídá t'áá aheelt'éego t'áá ałtsoní yaa nitsékeesgo, doo ał'ąą át'ée da nít'ée'.

Áko nidi nihí dóó nihiTaa' lá t'áá ał'ąą át'éego baa nitsídeiikesgo át'é ni! Jó nihí baahági ádaniit'é, bí éí baah át'e ádin. Áko ha'át'íhída doo łahgo ánééhgóogo t'ahdii nidi bíł ałts'ąąjì niidlí doo nít'ée'. Jesus díí nahasdzáán yikáa'jì' níyá, łahgo át'éego ánihidoolíł yiniyé, áko nihí éí aTaa' bíł ałts'ąąjì niidlínígíí nidoot'ih. Jesus éí nahasdzáán dóó yá'aashii yił k'é nááhodoołeł yiniyé níyá.

So what sort of change did Jesus have in mind? Did He come here to change His Father's law so that sinners could continue breaking it and still be saved? Or did He come to change us? Why should He change Himself? We are the ones who are sinful. He wants us to come to know Him here and come to love His law – the way He does things – so we will enjoy being in heaven with Him later.

What Jesus had in mind was not to get rid of His Father's law, which condemns sin, but to help sinners stop breaking that law and live changed lives. (Read John 17:15.)

The Bible says: "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8). But God also says: "I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Hebrews 8:10).

Ákohgo Jesus éi ha'át'íish ɭahgo ídoolííł yiniyé níyá? Da' biTaa'ísh bibee haz'áanii daats'í – bíla'ashdla'ii niidlíinii, t'ah nidi baahági át'èii baa deíníikáahgo yisdáhidiikah biniyé? Éi doodago, ɭahgo ánánihidoodlííł daats'í? Jó Diyin God doo ɭahgo ánéeh da; nihí t'éiyá. Kót'éego aTaa' t'áá Bí dóó bibee haz'áanii t'ah nidi ba'át'e' ádingo nihí éi yisdáhidiikah.

Jesus éi biTaa' bibee haz'áanii doo ádoodííłgíí yíká áát'íid da. Jó bee haz'áanii baahági át'èii yá nihoní'áá lá. Yíká áát'íidígíí éi nihí ɭahgo át'éego jiiináago áádóó t'áadoo baahági ánáájít'íigo át'é. Díidí ts'ídá aláahgo laanaa nihá yinízin. (John 17:15 yíníłta'.)

Diyin Bizaad ákóní: "Háálá ts'ísee k'ehgo nidzinii éi Diyin God ye'ana'í nilí; éi Diyin God yee has'áanii doo yíhółníih da, t'áá'aaní doo óone' át'é da. Áko ts'ísee k'ehgo dajjináanii Diyin God doo bił dahojíshóq le' át'é da" (Romans 8:7-8). Áko nidi ákónáádí'ní: "Éi yoolkálígíí adayiiskáádóó bik'íjì díí bee aha'deet'á nilíinii Ízrel dine'é bee bił ahadadi'deesht'ááł, ní Bóhółníihii: Bee hoséł'áanii bintsíkees biih dadeeshléél áádóó dabijéi biyi'di bee bik'eda'deeshchííł. BiDiyin God nishłí doo, áádóó bí shidine'é danilí doo" (Hebrews 8:10).

God has not changed His law—so that we could avoid being condemned for breaking it. Instead, by His Holy Spirit, He changes us. When we accept God's free gift of eternal life we will obey Him just like Jesus Himself always did. This is the way He wants all His followers to live.

Diyin God bibee haz'áanii doo łahgo ádzaa da, nihí doo bił a'ąą ádaniit'ée da doo biniyé; bee ádaniit'éhígi át'ėii nihá łahgo ílleeł lá. Iná doo ninít'i'ii t'áá jíik'e hwee hazłí'go índa Diyin God bik'eh hojíł'íi dooleeł – Jesus áát'íidgi át'ėego. Shikée' nidaakaiígú t'áá ákót'ėego dahináa doo nihá yinízin.



Segoe Lily. State flower of Utah.