

Trust And Obey

Joe Slater

In the final analysis, “Trust And Obey” has been the requirement of God from the Garden of Eden until now. For Adam and Eve, it was *“be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”* (Genesis 1:28). Eat all the vegetables and fruit you want with the single exception of the fruit of one particular tree. Trust and obey.

During the Patriarchal Age God expressed His will to individuals directly. He told Cain and Abel to offer sacrifice. He directed Noah to build the ark. Abraham was to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to the place God showed him. He commissioned Moses to lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. Trust and obey.

God gave Moses His law on Mt. Sinai. It contained numerous statutes and ordinances for the His chosen people, Israel, to obey carefully. *“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you”* (Deuteronomy 4:2). Trust and obey.

Neither Adam and Eve nor any of their descendants trusted and obeyed flawlessly. God knew they wouldn’t. In His mercy He planned from eternity to send Jesus to offer His own body and blood to save sinners. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31). *“If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Romans 10:9). *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38). Trust and obey.

“Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.”

It Is What It Is!

“It is what it is.” Usually said with a glum face and a voice of discouragement, this little saying means things cannot be changed. How wrong! It is true that some things, such as our age, cannot be changed, but most things in life are not static.

“That’s how he or she is” implies that the person cannot or will not change. It negates the ability of God to change someone through the power of His Word. It denies that in the future the person may make an effort to better himself or his circumstances.

The Bible encourages Christians to grow in the knowledge of God and Christ so that we may be filled with the fullness of God (Eph. 3:19). By studying the Bible and praying, we augment our faith and bring our lives into harmony with God’s will. God created each of us for the purpose of serving Him and bringing Him glory.

We cannot serve God by looking at people and situations and saying, “It is what it is. I cannot do anything to change it.” That fatalistic attitude hinders us from making changes in ourselves and keeps us from trying to help others and making their lives better.

With God’s help and the power He gives us, we can see the possibilities of making our world a better place. Let us not give in to feeling overwhelmed and defeated, but lean on God and His power to accomplish the goals He has set before us. May we not forget that we are soldiers in His army. The battle belongs to the Lord, and through Him we will win many victories.

--Donna Wittlif (Denver, CO)

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When a child is learning to walk and falls down fifty times, he never thinks to himself, “Maybe this isn’t for me.” *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand”* (Psalm 37:23-24).

Kathy Pollard (via Facebook)

You Don’t Meme It!

What is a “meme”? It is defined as “a unit of cultural information spread by imitation.” The term meme (from the Greek mimema, meaning “imitated”) was introduced in 1976 by British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins in his work [The Selfish Gene](#).

For most of us it is known as a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc., that is copied and spread rapidly by social media users. Because most of my social media friends are “believers,” I see many memes that have spiritual connotations. These memes may contain a bit of scripture or a feel-good proverb or saying and at first glance seem to be comforting and inspiring.

However, many times, a closer examination of many of these memes may reveal an error, falsehood or a lie when compared to the inspired scriptures. Just because something sounds good and gives us a warm and fuzzy feeling doesn’t make it right. Remember, man’s wisdom, no matter how good it sounds, is not God’s wisdom (Isaiah 55:9; Philippians 3:17-19).

John wrote, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world”* (1 John 4:1). It is our responsibility to take care that we don’t spread false doctrine on our social media accounts and cautiously consider the memes that we share. We must be vigilant and aware of the influence we may have on others who may not be as familiar with the scriptures.

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX)