

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anna Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

June
21
2020

THE GENUINE NATURE OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Jim Stauffer

The KJV renders the Greek word, **anupokritos** as unfeigned. Whether it speaks of faith unfeigned as Paul does with Timothy or unfeigned love of the brethren, as Peter does when he speaks of those who have been born again *through the living and enduring word of God*, it shows us the contrast between a genuine and a fake attribute.

The reason the Lord gave such extreme qualifications for one to be a disciple of His, was because anything less than unfeigned faith in Him would fail in the face of persecution. When Peter questioned of the Lord about what they would receive for following Him, Jesus answered with positive results obtained through a trying process. *“Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.” (Mark 10:29–30)* While they would sacrifice many temporal things to follow Him, they would be rewarded spiritually in abundance, but it would come amid persecutions.

When we consider the possibility of leaving family and friends behind as we walk in His steps, it becomes apparent that only those whose faith is real, sincere and unfeigned will be able to endure the difficult pathway. All we have to do is study the life of the Savior to understand how He continued to present both Himself and His mission to the world accurately to those who doubted Him to see the uphill struggle to reach people with the truth.

It is for the purpose of our endurance that Jesus presents discipleship in such an unvarnished way. He wants us to know what we are getting into. What we are undertaking and the difficulties that will come our way. The Hebrew writer speaks to the issue of brethren becoming discouraged by the influence of those around them in this present world. He warns them against developing an *unbelieving heart (3:12)*. Later he encourages them to *show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (6:11,12)*

Paul teaches Timothy *....the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Tim. 1:5)* He tells the Romans to *Let love be without hypocrisy. (Rom. 12:9)*

The attributes we are to possess as the children of God, disciples of Christ, must be genuine if we are to sustain them through the difficulties of persecution and sacrifice that are demanded. Not one of these attributes can be superficial or fake in any way (see **2 Pet. 1:5-7**). We are then to practice unfeigned love, faith and wisdom (**2 Cor. 6:6; 2 Tim. 1:5; Jas. 3:17**). We cannot pretend to be His disciples because the trials by fire (**1 Pet. 1:6,7**) will expose anything but the purity demanded by the path before us.

Paul says it well to Timothy, *“It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:11–13)*

WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

“And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. And He said to him, You have answered correctly; do this and you will live. But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:25-29 NASV; note vv. 30-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan that illustrates who one’s neighbor might be).

A Jewish lawyer, one trained in the nuances of the Law of Moses, asked a good question. How do we reach the worthy goal of eternal life? Jesus spoke about a life of faith while on this earth, and everlasting life in the world to come (**John 20:30-31**). A life of faith is a life lived, an active life. The inheritance of eternal life would be the grandest of all. Did the lawyer want to live a life of faith; or, did he simply want eternal life—something to be gained but not actually lived out in daily practice? Can you separate the two? But still, the lawyer was a believer in God; he knew something about God and about God’s will. For this we might give him credit for his question. Luke, though, exposes the lawyer’s real motive; he was putting Jesus to the test. Jesus engaged in Bible study with the lawyer. You have asked a question; you know the Law; how does what you already know answer your question? The lawyer quoted **Deuteronomy 6:5**, the *Great Commandment*. Now the test will come. Was the lawyer willing to give himself in total dedication to God and His commandments? Surely, he answered yes! Would he extend that same love and concern to an outsider? Or, would he remain entrenched in a narrow view of who could actually be included in the kingdom? Could a Samaritan be a candidate for kingdom citizenship? Loving God is essential to eternal life; so is loving the right people, even those you don’t necessarily want to love. We want to love the neighbors we want to love; others we are not so sure about.

The Good Samaritan is a familiar story. Sermons, lessons, and Bible readings have elevated the Good Samaritan to a status of acceptability that was not the case in the 1st C. When Jesus said the Good Samaritan helped a man who had been beaten by robbers, the lawyer’s credulity was stretched. The non-actions of the priest and Levite, two men who knew something about the Law, only added to the lawyer’s

prejudice; after all, he was in league with these *religious* men. The lawyer was culpable, too.

Are you hoping that some people turn out not to be your neighbor? Do you dread having to stop and help? Are you more comfortable passing by on the other side? Are you afraid that stopping might cost you something? Could someone you think to be an enemy of God might actually be someone who loves God and also loves others? Jesus asked: Of the three men in the story, which one was a neighbor to the wounded man left by the roadside? The lawyer answered: The one who showed mercy toward him. Was he afraid to even utter the word *Samaritan*? Are we?

Randy Harshbarger

‘Obey’ is a ‘Four Letter Word’

I am old enough to remember when the use of ‘four letter words’ was forbidden in most of society. They were considered a sure sign of low morals and laziness of mind. They still are those things but our society has become so much coarser that people wouldn’t know a ‘four letter word’ (profanity) if they used it, they do it so often!

So, why am I stating that ‘obey’ is a ‘four letter word’? It’s not on the list of profane words. Well, it’s because of preachers. Yep, guys like me. So many of them will bend over backwards to keep from saying that you have to ‘DO ANYTHING’ in order to become a Christian that the word ‘obey’ has become profanity to them and they strike it from their vocabulary of religious words. In the New Testament, however we see no such aversion to insisting on obedience. Let’s look at a few verses:

John 3:36 *“He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

John 14:15 *“If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.”*

John 14:21 *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me”*

Hebrews 5:9 *“and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation”*

1John 5:3 *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

Go check, these are not taken out of context. It’s almost impossible to honestly misunderstand these verses and yet none of them imply that obedience

earns our salvation. Does your preacher's preaching include the doctrine of obedience? If it doesn't, why are you there?

Cleveland Reddinger

"Lest We Drift Away"

Jim Mickells | Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Hebrews 2:1)

I find it very easy when in a boat to drift away from where you originally started fishing. Many times, you don't even realize you have moved until you look at where you were in comparison to where you are now. There are several things which contribute to this. It could be the wind, the current, waves from other boats, etc. Yet there are a good number of things one can do to prevent this from happening. You could use an anchor, tie up if a bush or tree is near, or you can use a trolling motor to stay in the desired location. If we are catching fish in this area, we will do whatever it takes to stay there and not drift from this spot.

The writer of the book of Hebrews warns that this can happen to us spiritually. The word "drift" is defined as "to flow past, to glide by: lest we be carried past, pass by (R.V. drift away from them) (missing the thing), i.e. lest the salvation which the things heard show us how to obtain slip away from us" (Thayer). Vincent says, "The idea is in sharp contrast with giving earnest heed. Lapse from truth and goodness is more often the result of inattention than of design. Drifting is a mark of death: giving heed, of life. The log drifts with the tide: the ship breasts the adverse waves, because someone is giving earnest heed" (**Word Studies in the New Testament**).

How can I tell if I am drifting spiritually? Take a good look at the warning signs. Where are you now in comparison to where you were. Let me explain. Are you spending a fair amount of time in the study of your Bible (**Psalm 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 2:15**)? How often do you pray each day (**Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**). Have you continued to be involved in all aspects of the Lord's work? Do you call and visit the sick and shut-ins? Are you trying to teach the lost, strengthen the weak, and speak words of encouragement to all the brethren (**James 1:27; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14**)? What about my assembly with the saints? Do I forsake by finding excuses why I cannot be there? Even if I go, do I find it drudgery to worship my God (**Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalm 122:1**)? If I no longer find the time to study, pray, work

for the Lord, assemble and do it with joy, then I am drifting.

This is a gradual process; it does not happen overnight. In the forty years since I have been preaching, I have seen this occur over and over. It starts out with less study, less prayer, less work, missing on Wednesday or Sunday night, and then there is no joy in serving the Creator. The next step is total apostasy. After the writer warned about drifting, He said, *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12)*. He goes on to say, *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1)*.

How can I prevent this from happening? How can I anchor my soul? I think it would do us all good if we would turn off the iPhone, computer, TV, and any other electronic device which takes us away from our Bible study, our praying and the Lord's work. We need to make sure we redeem the time, use it wisely doing the things which will help us draw closer to the Lord (**Ephesians 5:16**). Be around other Christians, who will encourage, strengthen, and build you up. I have found through the years it is hard to do wrong when you are around good people, yet it is easy to do what you know you shouldn't when around those who are not servants of Jehovah. Follow the good examples of all those men and women in the Bible, who sacrificed so much to be servants of God (**Hebrews 11**).

Inspiration is given to us in the Scriptures which will help prevent drifting. Think of God's love for us. He gave His Son so we would not perish but have everlasting life (**John 3:16-17**). Jesus was crucified and died on the cross to redeem us from our sins (**1 Peter 1:18-19**). The Spirit's work in the revelation of the Father's will so we can know how to be forgiven, how to live, and finally how to go home when life on earth is over (**John 14:26; 16:7-15**). Our food, clothing and shelter are all gifts from God. This should motivate us to draw near to Him and not to drift from the peaceful shores of His grace and mercy (**James 4:8**). Lord help us to give the more earnest heed to what You have said to us.

Taken from Meditate on These Things

Anvil Sparks
by R.L. Whiteside

Where you are on the road is not as important as which way are you headed.

If you will listen to some incessant talkers, you will decide that practice does not make perfect.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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YOUTUBE ALSO - I AM A
DISCIPLE OF.....



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10