



LEARNING OBEDIENCE

KINDOM PRINCIPLE STUDY KP2

READ THIS FIRST

In study KP1 we learned that God, our Father, has made a way for us to be His sons. In this study we see that even though He has made us His sons, while we remain on this earth we are **learning obedience - in the same way that Jesus did**. We are being prepared for a future in which we shall rule and reign with Jesus over God's creation. This creation will itself be renewed, as we are renewed, when the Father has completed His work in us.

Key Scriptures for this study are found in:

Matthew 5:48
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Ezekiel 36:1-28
Matthew 16:13-20
Philippians 3:1-14

Read these scriptures first; write out the verses which seem to you to be the most important. Then go through the study notes; learn the memory verse and look up the Bible texts as you go along. Finally, answer the questions and forward your answers to us. We will return your answers together with our comments and the next set of notes.

LEARN THIS STATEMENT BY HEART

'Even though He [Jesus] was God's Son, He learned to be obedient through the things that He suffered. When He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all those that obey Him' (*Hebrews 5:8-9*).

GOD'S PLAN TO PERFECT THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOW HIS SONS

We, who have received the Father's life and are now His sons, are to be perfect. That is God's will for us and Jesus's command. We are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect! We are to think like our Father, speak like our Father and behave like our Father! (*Matt.5:48; Luke 6:35-36*).

While God's first objective is to make us His sons, His ultimate objective is **to reclaim the whole creation and fill it with His glory**. The fact that Christ has given us His Father's life within us is the certain hope that the whole creation will also be filled with God's glory in His own time. This is the secret plan that God kept hidden right up to the day of Pentecost when He

began to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. His plan is to first fill men with His life and liberty and then release the whole creation, which is in bondage at the present time because of our disobedience (*Num.14:21; Col. 1:27; Gen.3:17; Rom.8:19-25*).

Because God is anxious that all men should receive His life and not die, we who have already received His life live this life in fallen human bodies, in a world still at enmity with God. We face many trials and much testing as we allow the Father's life to have His way within us. We learn, as Jesus learned - He having been subject to the same temptations as we are - to be obedient by the things that we suffer (*II Pet. 3:9; II Cor. 4:7-11; Heb.2:9-18; Heb.4:15-16*). Our temptation to disobedience comes from three sources:

- The world system which the devil has constructed to deceive us
- Elemental demon hordes that harass us
- Our flesh, which is mortal (dying) and is at enmity with God

So, if we are to be God's sons in this world (obedient sons living His life) we must overcome the world, the flesh and the devil (*Rom 8:5-8; Col. 3:5-17*). None of this is possible by human effort BUT it is ALL possible through the working of the POWER OF GOD within us!

When we first turn away from our old life and begin to live our Father's life we find we have much to learn in the business of overcoming. John, the apostle, compares growing up in the family of God with growing up as a human being; he sees that we are first children, then young men and finally fathers (*I John 2:12-14*).

'**Children**': Those that have stopped looking to the world system to supply their needs; they have discovered that they have a Heavenly Father who supplies all of their needs as they allow Him to reign in their lives (*Matt. 6:24-34*).

'**Young men**': Those that have overcome the harassment and condemnation that the devil brings against them.

'**Fathers**': Those that have learned to overcome the flesh and have entered in to a deep union with the Lord Jesus.

So, says John, within the family of God we find children, young men and fathers. We relate to each other (being rooted and grounded in LOVE) in encouragement and support; ministering to each other until we all grow up into perfection (*Eph.3:13-19; 4:11-16*).

But we must be careful how we do this. We must allow the Spirit to do the work in us and in one another, rather than try to improve ourselves or correct others by human methods. If it is not the Spirit

building life in us we are wasting our time. This is carefully explained to us both by Jesus our Liberator and by the Spirit through the prophets (*Psalms* 127:1).

GOD'S NEW COVENANT SHOWING US HOW WE ARE TO RELATE TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND TO EACH OTHER IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

According to scripture, God our Father has made seven great covenants (statements of commitment and relationship) with humanity. The last of these we call the New Covenant. This is the one made possible because Jesus came into the world to suffer, die and be raised to life again. The New Covenant is God's arrangement between Himself and those who believe in Jesus His Son. If we are to grow up into maturity as God's sons we must understand how God has determined to perfect us. So, we will look closely at the three main statements about the New Covenant; two from the prophets and one from Jesus Himself.

LEARN BY HEART the New Covenant Statement by Jeremiah (*Jeremiah* 31:33-34; *Heb.* 8:10-12; *Heb.* 10:16-17)

'After those days, saith the Lord...

I will put my laws in their inward parts and write them on their hearts...

I will be their God and they will be my people...

They shall not have to teach their brothers to know me for...

They shall all know me, from the least to the greatest for...

I will forgive their sins and remember their wrong doings no more'.

If we understand this statement of relationship fully it will save us from a great deal of wasted effort trying to be better Christians through our own efforts. It will also help us to relate to our brothers in Christ a great deal better. We need to digest this word and 'fill our bowels with it' (*Ezek.* 3: 1-3).

NB: Under the New Covenant, ALL of the activity and responsibility to make it work is on God's side! (Note the 'I WILL'). Rejoice, all the power of God's Majesty is directed towards making you His son!

Our job is easy, our burden is light! (*Matt.* 11:28-30; *Phil.* 1:6) Simply place your life in His hands and allow him to write His instructions on your heart. REST in His love, knowing that He who has begun a good work within you will go on performing it until He has completed it. So, let us work hard at RESTING! Leaving our whole salvation, body, soul and spirit to Him (*Heb* 4:11).

Because we are set free to trust the Lord to do His own work within us, we can also begin to trust Him to do that for our brothers also. The New Covenant teaches us that it is not our responsibility to teach our brothers

to know the Lord. (Paul says we could not do the work anyway, *II Cor.* 3:1-5) God has promised a personal relationship with Himself to all believers. We know the Lord, not because we have the best teachers, but because He lives within us!

Lastly, in the New Covenant, the Lord reminds us that this relationship is only possible because He has dealt with the problem of our sin and disobedience and has brought us back into His family. Because of Jesus's reconciling work we are now free to enter into the new relationship that our Father has planned for us so that we might be His sons (*Col.* 2:13-14; *II Cor.* 5:17-21; *Phil.* 2:6-11).

LEARN BY HEART the New Covenant Statement by Ezekiel

'I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all countries and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean from all of your filthiness and all your idols. I will give you a new heart; I will take out the stony heart and give you a heart of flesh, and put a new spirit within you. I will put My Spirit (Life) within you and cause you to walk in my commandments and keep my laws and do them. You shall dwell in the land and you shall be my people and I will be your God' (*Ezek.* 36:24-28).

Praise the Lord! Again we see that nothing is left to chance and human failure and weakness. Our Father is going to do it for His own name's sake (*Ezek.* 36:22; *Psalms* 23:3).

Do not be surprised, therefore, if your Father chastens you a little in order to bring you in line with His thoughts and ways! (*Heb.* 12:5-13).

JESUS TELLS US HOW THE FATHER WILL RELATE TO HIS PEOPLE

'Jesus answered and said to him [Peter], "You are wonderfully blessed Simon son of John, for no man has told you this, it was my Father who is in heaven. And so, I will call you Peter (a stone) for it is upon this rock (the principle that God will speak to us directly Himself) that I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not stand against it. Then He told them to tell no-one He was the Christ (!)' (*Matt.* 16:17-20).

LET US PRESS ON TO KNOW THE LORD

The apostle Paul is a wonderful example to us as he declares how he has totally abandoned all earthly ambition. His ONLY desire is to know Christ, and to be completely united with Him. All I want, he says, is to experience the power of His Spirit within, to share in the same sufferings that He had by allowing the Spirit to put to death completely my own will and life so that the Father's life can fill me completely. I do not claim to be perfected already, he says, but I am pressing on as quickly as God will allow me, so that I

may win the prize that God has set before me
(Phil.3:1-14).

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF WITH THESE THOUGHTS

In the world you will suffer but be brave, I have defeated the world! (Jesus).

Every test that you experience is the kind that normally comes to people. God will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm. At the time you are put to the test, he will give you strength to endure it! (Paul)

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age! (Jesus).

I am persuaded that nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord! (Paul)

Through our God we shall do valiantly, for it is he who has trod down our enemies!

Fear not! The battle is not yours but God's. Stand still and see the salvation of your God!

(John 16:33; I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 28:20; Rom. 8:35-39; Psalm 60:12; II Chron.20:1-29)

Post your answers to:

**The Paraclete Institute Inc.
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96 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, South
Australia 5158**

Or scan and email them to:

paracamp@senet.com.au

QUESTIONS

1. What does Paul mean (Colossians 1:27) when he says that God's plan is to reveal His secret to us, which is 'Christ in us, the hope of glory'?
 2. What do you think it means that Jesus 'learned obedience through the things that He suffered'? What does this say about our own *life* once we have received the Father's life?
 3. Hebrews, chapters 3 & 4, warns us not to make the same mistake as the Israelites in the wilderness but to enter into the rest of God. What do you understand this rest to be? What is the relation between the 'rest of God' and 'the land'?
 4. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ?
 5. What do you think it means 'to press on' to know the Lord (Phil.3:12-14)?
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