

Children of Obedience

“as children of obedience”

1 Peter 1:14

Children of obedience—the Greek expression is *tekna Hupakoes*. *Tekna* (children) is a special word in the New Testament. It has a wider definition than simply genetically produced children. It can mean descendent, disciple, pupil or spiritual child. When this word designates children of God, it carries the further meaning of followers, subjects and worshippers. John uses it as a tender address (“my little children”).

Here Peter tells us that we are a certain kind of children of obedience. The word for “obedience” is *hupakoes*, a compound word that literally means “through hearing.” Obedience is a response to spoken or written instruction. This phrase, children of obedience, is a Hebrew idiom. It does not mean children of God who are obedient. It means children *whose mother is obedience*. This emphasizes the continual and habitual behavior of their lives.

Mothers have an incredible special role in our lives. Not only are they the ones who bring us into the world, they are usually the ones from whom we learn obedience. This instruction is crucial to our existence. When we do not learn obedience from our mother’s lap, we will discover that life is a very lonesome and difficult place. In this verse we learn that God takes over the role of our spiritual mother. We are born by the Spirit. That same birth-Spirit is the Mother who teaches us obedience. There is an incredibly intimate connection between our second birth and our willingness to obey. Disobedience is far more than deciding to go our own way. It is an action that severs connection with the one who birthed us.

We live in a deformed world that offers past family dysfunctionality as an excuse for disobedient behavior. “I couldn’t help it. My parents were so terrible. They made me what I am today.” You know something? God doesn’t care about that excuse. You see, no matter what your genetic family might have been, your new birth came from the purest most holy Mother in the Universe. Become a child of Her obedience and life will be as new as the day you arrived here. Sit on Her lap and learn to obey. There really is no other way.