TITLE: Trust comes before what?

Hymn trust and obey

TEXT: 1 Jn. 2:3-6; Mt. 26:36-42; Lk. 22:24; Pr. 3: 5-6;

Heb. 11:6; 2 Jn. 1: 5-6

INTRODUCTION: I will start out today by asking a question. Trust comes before what? Or trust is a prelude to what Christian action?

The Hymn we sang this morning contains the answer….Trust and? (Obey)

Trust comes before obedience!

*Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey……*

Does anyone else ever have a problem with being obedient at times-- Especially in your relationship with the Lord?

There have been times when I have felt the Lord directing me to do something and I find myself making excuses why I can’t do it.

Lord, I am tired, it is 2:00 a.m., let someone else handle this one….

Lord, I am not that good in these types of situations, surely You can find someone else more qualified-- I think I will go fishing….

Obedience can be difficult at times, can’t it?

A mother had a particularly trying day with her young son. Finally, she flung up her hands and shouted, “All right, Billy. Do anything you darn well please! Now let me see you disobey THAT!”

Obedience, as difficult as it may be at times, is something that each of us is called to as a Christian.

**1 John 2:3-6(NIV)**  **3We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.**  **4The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

**5But if anyone obeys his word, God’s loveis truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:**  **6Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**

One thing that marked the life of Jesus was His obedience to the Father.

We see this exemplified in:

**Matthew 26:36-42(NIV)**  **36Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”**  **37He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.**  **38Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”**  **39Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”**  **40Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.**  **41“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”**  **42He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”**

Within about 24 hours of this prayer Jesus would find Himself on a cross dying for your and my sin.

It is here in the garden of Gethsemane that Jesus started to feel the sins of the world come down upon His shoulders.

This is the cup that He is talking about—the cup that contains the sins of the world that He was called upon to bare.

According to the Gospel of Luke it says:

**Luke 22:24**

**44And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.**

It was in the anguish of His soul that Jesus cries out to God the Father:

**Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”**

Jesus trust in the Father was implicit!

In order to obey God fully we need to trust God completely…

—Stormie Omartian once said:

*Trust that God has your best interests in mind and be willing to do what he asks of you, even if you don’t understand why. Obedience starts with having a heart that says yes to God.*

In order to obey, before we will always say yes to God, we first will need to come to a place of deep trust in Him.

**Proverbs 3:5-6(NIV)   
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;   
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and in all your ways acknowledge him…**

*Hebrew word for trust*

***baw-takh'***

**properly to *hide* for refuge ; figuratively to *trust*, be *confident* or *sure:—*be bold, careless, put confidence in, hope, make to trust.**

*The Hebrew word for acknowledge is:*

***yaw-dah'* A primitive root; to *know* (properly to ascertain by *seeing*);**

So how does one trust in God with all ones heart and acknowledge Him in all our ways?

Only through full and complete obedience..

Example:

A few centuries before Christ a man named Alexander conquered almost all of the known world using military strength, cleverness and a bit of diplomacy.

The story is told that Alexander and a small company of soldiers approached a strongly fortified walled city. Alexander, standing outside the walls, raised his voice and demanded to see the king. When the king arrived, Alexander insisted that the king surrender the city and its inhabitants to Alexander and his little band of fighting men.

The king laughed, “Why should I surrender to you? You can’t do us any harm!” But Alexander offered to give the king a demonstration. He ordered his men to line up single file and start marching. He marched them straight toward a sheer cliff

The townspeople gathered on the wall and watched in shocked silence as, one by one, Alexander’s soldiers marched without hesitation right off the cliff to their deaths!

After ten soldiers died, Alexander ordered the rest of the men to return to his side. The townspeople and the king immediately surrendered to Alexander the Great. They realized that if a few men were actually willing to commit suicide at the command of this dynamic leader, then nothing could stop his eventual victory.

Are we as willing to be as obedient to the ruler of the universe, Jesus Christ, as those soldiers were to Alexander? Are we as dedicated and committed to Jesus? Think how much power Christ could have in our life and in our part of the world with just a portion of such commitment on our part.

Obedience is not just a matter of trust but it is also a matter of love.

Jesus said in:

**John 14:15(NIV)** **15“If you love me, you will obey what I command.**

Here our love is tied to our obedience….

Jesus said:

**If you love me, you will obey what I command…**

Not “might” obey but “will” obey!

Some words cannot be separated in Scriptural principles. Repentance and salvation go hand in hand in that you cannot have one without the other.

So, it is with words such as Trust, faith and obedience.

These all are meant to be embraced as a single unity in our life.

Ralph Erskine, that eminent Scotch divine of the seventeenth century, put the relation of faith and works in a most revealing way when he wrote, “*True faith is never alone, but still joined with Gospel-obedience: ‘As ye have received, so walk.’*

*He that would separate faith from obedience endeavors to walk with one foot, which is impossible. Faith and works, faith and holiness, are the two feet by which a man walks in Christ; when the Spirit of Christ promotes the one, He promotes the other also. If a man should try to go upon one foot, he could not walk but only hop, which would be impossible for him to continue long. Neither can obedience be consistent without faith, and such consistency will be the measure of the Gospel-walk.”*

Striving to be obedient without faith and trust in the Lord is like trying to walk on just one foot.

We may hoop along for a while but if anything comes against us, if we encounter any resistance, we will fall over….

Trust and obedience are the two legs we are called to walk the walk of the Christian faith.

It is difficult to tell which is more important; the proclamation of the grace of God or submission to the Lord Jesus Christ, since the two are so interrelated.

Anne Sullivan, who tutored young Helen Keller who was deaf, dumb, and blind, said, *“I saw clearly that it was useless to try to teach her language or anything else until she learned to obey me. I have thought about it a great deal, and the more I think, the more certain I am that obedience is the gateway through which knowledge, yes, and love, too, enter the mind of a child.”*

Most often our trust of God and Love of God are manifest in our obedience to Him.

**Example:**

When evangelist J. Wilbur Chapman was in London, he had an opportunity to meet the Salvation Army’s founder General Booth, who at that time was past 80 years of age. Dr. Chapman listened reverently as the old general spoke of the trials and the conflicts and the victories he had experienced.

The American evangelist then asked the general if he would disclose his secret for success. “He hesitated a second,” Dr. Chapman said, “and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks,” and then he said, “I will tell you the secret.

God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that He would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.”

Dr. Chapman said he went away from that meeting with General Booth knowing “that the greatness of a man’s power is the measure of his surrender.”

How true that is… *the greatness of a man’s power is the measure of his surrender.”*

This is true in all of life. When I was in the Grocery business in Des Moines I saw many managers come and go over the 22 years I worked there.

The one thing that marked the best managers was that they placed themselves, surrendered themselves, to the authority of those over them.

As a young manager I can remember a particular time I surrendered to the authority of a company supervisor.

I was writing the work schedule for the employees of the store I was working in. The main office had a measure of profitability that they used called “sale per man hour”.

It was basically a pretty simple formula. You would take the gross sales of the store and divide that by the numbers of hours you scheduled your employees to work and the result was the sales per man hour.

Now they had a certain number that they used as a baseline for all of our stores. If you went above that it was great---if you fell below that—not so great.

Something else that factored in was how much money a particular person you scheduled made.

Someone that had been around a long time might make twice as much or more money per hour than a new hire, so whenever possible it was better to use the less expensive help.

At this particular time I had three part time guys working for me that had been there a long time and made a very good wage even though they were part time help.

To try to save the company money I would only schedule them a couple 4-5 hours shifts a week and use the less expensive help instead.

This was not good enough for our office and one day a supervisor called me on the phone and told me I needed to take care of the situation by firing those 3 men.(laying off-sounds better)

They had become too expensive to use in that we could use someone making half the money to do the very same job.

This was not right but I was a good manager and I placed myself in full submission to my employer and let those three men go.

This was a very hard thing for me to do because I really liked all three of these men. It was hard to do because they had done nothing wrong to be fired. It was a hard thing to do because it simply was not the right thing to do.

It is one of the things that I did in the grocery business that I am the least proud of today….

The alternative was to refuse to do it and place my own job on the line. In fact as I remember the conversation with my supervisor it went something like: you take care of this or we will find someone who will.

But it was this kind of submission to my employer that propelled me up through management with the company.

More times than not submission to those who are in authority over us in this life will reap a reward and be a positive experience.

The problem is with worldly submissions are they often will be subject to our sinful natures so mistakes can be made.

This is not true with our submission and obedience to God. Obedience to God will always come with reward and we can be assured that no mistakes will be made as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We may not always understand the direction obedience to God will take us at the time but in the end we will reap a reward and people will be blessed, both others and ourselves…

But before obedience must come trust, a living faith in the Lord..

**Hebrews 11:6(NIV)   
6And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

**6And without faith** (without trust) **it is impossible to please God**

I have often wondered if God has a heavenly “sales per man hour” that He uses to gauge our effectiveness as a Christians.

Take the total of souls that have been won into the kingdom of God through things that we have said and done for Him and then divided that by the numbers of days we have been a Christian….

Let’s call it: “Souls per man hour”.

How do you think you would do? How have you done so far? Is He pleased with what you have done for Him-- or may He be a little disappointed in your efforts?

Terry Fullam once said:

*The fruit of the Spirit grows only in the garden of obedience.*

**2 John 1:5-6(NIV)   
5And now…I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.**  **6And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.**

**6And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.**

This morning are you walking in obedience to His commands?

For this is love, love manifest for Him is that we walk in obedience to Him….

When we do this then our love for others will also be manifest in our lives and we will make a real difference for His Kingdom.

**6And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.**

Do we really trust Him and are we walking in obedience to Him today revealing our love for HIM

And for those around us?