

Chapter 7

Obeying God

When a person really becomes converted to Christ it will show in the way he lives. "We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it does. We cannot see the Spirit of God as He works on the heart, but His power brings us new life. That power creates a new person in the image of God. Although we cannot see or hear the working of the Spirit, we can see what He has done" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 54).

Jesus once said: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). You can't see the Spirit but you can see what He does. When a person really belongs to Jesus, and is guided by His Spirit, people will know. A life with Jesus in it is different from a life without Him. These two ways of living are not the same.

Wólta'ii 7

Diyin God Bik'eh Hojíł'íjgo

T'áá aaníí Jesus joosdląądgo ɬahgo át'éego jiináa doo. "Níłch'i Diyinii t'áadoo hodéezyéelgo hajéí yinaalnish, nidi binaanishígíí éí t'áá yit'íí yileeh. Níłch'i Diyinii éí diné ɬa' bijéí ániidígo ánáyiidlago, yá'át'éehgo jiinánígíí bee bééhózin doo. T'áá hó hajéí doo ɬahgo át'éego ánájódle' át'ee da, doo nidi Diyin bich'í' dashdóya' át'ee da. Áko doo ádeíjódlíí da; ádá ájoolnílígíí doo éí binahjí' Diyin God baa bił hózhóq da lá. Nidi Diyin bibee'ajooba'ígíí éí hajéí bii' hazlígíí go jiinánígi át'éego bee bééhózin doo" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 54).

Jesus ání: "Níyol t'áá bí nízingóó níyol, t'óó dinit's'a'go éí dinit's'a', nidi deeyoldéé' dóó íiyolgóó éí doo nił bééhózin da, áko Níłch'i Diyinii bee nidahachíihii ałdó' t'áá ákódaat'é" (John 3:8). Azhá Níłch'i Diyinii doo yit'íí da nidi, t'áá bééhózinígo naalnish. Diné ɬa' t'áá aaníí Jesus bí' jílíjgo, dóó Níłch'i Diyinii bikéé' joogáałgo, áko hak'éí bił béédaħózin doo. Jesus bee jiináago, dóó Jesus t'áá gééd jiináago, doo aheełt'ee da lá. Naaki ał'ąą át'é.

"It is true that we may act in the right way without the power of God. We may do good so that other people will think well of us. We may even avoid evil because we want to look right in the sight of our friends. Even a selfish person may give to a good cause, or help the needy. How can we know, then, whose side we are on" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55)?

"Who owns our hearts? Whom are we thinking about? Whom do we love to talk about? Who has our warmest love and our best work? If we are Christ's, we think often about Him, and our kindest thoughts are of Him. We have laid at His feet all we have and are. We want to be like Him and have His Spirit in us. We desire to follow His way and to please Him in everything" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

At this point there are two mistakes to avoid. (1) The first is that something we do can make God accept us, that we can obey God without His help. Those who hold this

"Jesus bibe adziil hwii' ádingo, la'ígóó daats'í yá'ádaat'éehii hanaanish dooleeł. Jó hak'éí, hoł nidaal-nishiida, yá'át'éehgo shaa nitsídaakees dooleeł t'áá éí t'éí biniyé nizhónigo binááł nijigháa doo daats'í. Yá'ánisht'éeh jinízingo ádaa nitsídzíkeesgo shíí ájít'íí dooleeł. Doo lá dó' shí da jinízingo ádaa nitsídzíkeesgo éí t'áá áłahíjí' hak'éí bíká aníjílwo'go shíí, éí ayóó'ázhdo'níigo ákójít'íí dooleeł lá. Ákoósh hajéí ts'ídá haash yit'éego bee bééhózin doo?" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

"Hajéí lá háí bí? Háí lá baa nitsídzíkees ɬeh? Háí baa yájílti'go hoł yá'át'éeh? Háí lá aláahgo hoł nizhóní, dóó háí bízhneedlíigo baa nijighá? Christ éí hwíí' nilíigo bí baa nitsínízdíkos, dóó hajéí bii' hólónígíí éí Christ bízhdéet'i' doo. Hwee dahólónonii t'áá ałtso, t'áá hó nidi ałdó', Christ bee böhólníih doo. Bí hinánígi át'éego hinishnáa doo jinízin, biNíłch'i Diyinii bee nízhdídzih nahalin dooleeł dóó há yinízingi át'éego nijigháa doo; t'áá ałtsoji' bił hózhóqo go bá ádeeshkííł jinízin doo" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 55).

K'ad índa ni'iidzihígíí naaki hóló, áko bits'ąą nanináa doo. (1) T'áálá'í góne' nilínígíí éí, t'áá yá'át'éehgo ááshnílgíí binahjí' Diyin God shaa a'áah nízin doo jiníigo, Áká Análwo'ii t'áá gééd nidi. Diné ɬa' t'áá ákót'éego jinízinígíí

view have a wrong idea of what God can accept, and also of what it means to obey. For something to be acceptable to God it has to be perfect – absolutely without fault. If we occasionally do something good, this fact does not change all the other things we do that are bad. So doing good things is not enough.

In any event, obedience does not just mean doing good things. It means serving God from your heart. The problem is that loving God does not come naturally to us; it is something the Holy Spirit must put in our hearts. Without this principle of love for God there can be no such thing as real obedience. (Read 1 Cor 13:1-3.) Obedience is the result of Jesus living in us by His Spirit.

Which do you think comes first? Do we start obeying so we can receive Christ? Not at all! We come to Christ as we are. Without Him no one can obey God. Jesus must come first. People are not saved by what they do.

(2) The second mistake to avoid is that we don't need to obey at all, with or without God's help. There are only two

Diyin éí baa bił hózhóonii doo bik'izh'diitjih da; ak'eh hól'í ałdó' doo bik'ináázh'diitjih da. Diyin éí ts'ídá ba'át'e' ádaadini t'éiyá baa bił hózhóó lá. T'oo t'áá ɬahídida yá'át'eehgo áníjiit'iihígíí shíí, t'áá áłahjí' nichó'igo baa nijigháago doo haajigo ɬahgo át'eeego ííléeh da. Jó hahgoda yá'át'eehgo ájoo-nílíigíí doo t'áá éí biniiнаа hool'áágóó iiná biih jidoogáał da.

Ak'eh hojíl'í éí doo t'oo díida, éida ho'di'níigo áníjiit'iihígíí óolyée da; hajéítł'áahdi ayóó'ó'ó'ní bee Diyin God bá nijil'a'ígíí óolyé. Ayóó'ó'ó'ní doo t'oo hwii'déé' haleeh da; Níłch'i Diyinii hwhee haleeh. Áko diné ɬa' azhá yá'át'eehgo ájooníił nidi, ayóó'ó'ó'ní t'áá géedgo, doo Diyin bik'eh hojíl'íníigíí át'é. (1 Cor 13:1-3 yíníłta'.) Jesus hwii' hólóqogo t'éiyá ak'eh hojíl'í bízhneel'áą jileeh.

Háidíshä' aláąjí' dooleeł nínízin? Ak'eh hojíl'í daats'í áłtsé, áádóó índa Christ hwhee haleehígíí daats'í? Díí éí ts'ídá dooda! Jesus áłtsé hwhee hazlíjí'go t'éiyá ak'eh hojíl'í bízhneel'áą jidooleeł. Jesus éí aláąjí'. Diné ɬa' t'áá hó habee adziil bee ájít'íníigíí ts'ídá doo bee yisdá'iildéeh da.

(2) Ni'iidzihígíí naaki góne' nilníngíí éí díí: Ak'eh hól'í doo ílji da jiníi ɬeh – Jesus t'áá biłgo, Jesus t'áá géedgoda. Jó

choices. A person can live in obedience, or in sin. It's true that God loves sinners, but He hates sin. He will accept the one, but never the other. Jesus Himself lived a life of obedience. His will and His Father's will were the same. What the Father wanted, Jesus also wanted.

Was it hard for Jesus to do His Father's will? No, it wasn't. The Father's will was His will too. Was the Father's law hard for Jesus to keep? No. It was entirely natural for Jesus to keep it. (Read Matthew 5:17; Psalm 119:97.) Christ had to struggle constantly against Satan, but He never struggled against His Father.

There are certainly times when *we* struggle against the Father! The difference is that we are sinful, while He is holy. This difference has separated us and, if we cling to our sins, it will continue to separate us. Jesus came to this world to remove the separation, so there would be nothing between Him and His people keeping them apart. He came to restore harmony between earth and heaven.

bíla'ashdla'ii Diyin yik'eh dahół'í daats'í, éí doodago bąąhági át'éii bee ádidahólnííh daats'í. Díí naakigo haz'ánígíí t'éí hóló. Diyin éí diné bąąhági ádaadzaaígíí ayóó'ádayó'ní, nidi bąąhági át'éii t'áá bí éí yijoołá. Jesus ak'eh hól'ínígíí bił nilí dóó bił hóshó. Nihitaagháháqadáá' Jesus éí biTaa' t'áá álahjí' yik'eh hól'íigo naagháá nít'éé'. Bí iinízinii dóó biTaa' iinízinii t'áá aheełt'éego yee ká'í nilíí nít'éé'.

Da' Jesus éí biTaa' yik'eh hól'íigoósh bił nantł'ah nít'éé' daats'í? Dooda. Bí iinízinii dóó biTaa' iinízinii t'áá aheełt'éé nít'éé'. BiTaa' bibee haz'áaniísh Jesus bá nantł'ah? Dooda ląą! T'áá bí bijéí bii' hólónígíí biniinaa aTaa' bibee haz'áanii ayóo bił yá'át'éeh. (Matthew 5:17; Psalm 119:97 yíníłta'.) Christ éí nihitaagháháqadáá' ɬahda hwe'anaí hach'í' nahwiiłnáa ɬeh nít'éé'; nidi bí dóó biTaa' ts'ídá t'áá aheełt'éego t'áá ałtsoní yaa nitsékeesgo, doo ał'ąą át'ée da nít'éé'.

Áko nidi nihí dóó nihiTaa' lá t'áá ał'ąą át'éego baa nitsídeiikesgo át'é ni! Jó nihí bąąhági ádaniit'é, bí éí bąąh át'e' ádin. Áko ha'át'íhida doo ɬahgo ánééhgóogo t'ahdií nidi bił ałts'áąjí niidlíí doo nít'éé'. Jesus díí nahasdzáán yikáa'jí' níyá, ɬahgo át'éego ánihidoolíí yiniyé, áko nihí éí aTaa' bił ałts'áąjí niidlínígíí nidoot'ih. Jesus éí nahasdzáán dóó yá'ąąshii yił k'é nááhodoołeł yiniyé níyá.

So what sort of change did Jesus have in mind? Did He come here to change His Father's law so that sinners could continue breaking it and still be saved? Or did He come to change us? Why should He change Himself? We are the ones who are sinful. He wants us to come to know Him here and come to love His law – the way He does things – so we will enjoy being in heaven with Him later.

What Jesus had in mind was not to get rid of His Father's law, which condemns sin, but to help sinners stop breaking that law and live changed lives. (Read John 17:15.)

The Bible says: "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8). But God also says: "I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Hebrews 8:10).

Ákohgo Jesus éí ha'át'íish ɬahgo iidoollííl yiniyé níyá? Da' biTaa'ísh bibee haz'áanii daats'í – bíla'ashdla'ii niidlíinii, t'ah nidi bąąhági át'éii baa deíníikáahgo yisdáhidiikah biniyé? Éí doodago, ɬahgo ánánihidoodlííl daats'í? Jó Diyin God doo ɬahgo ánéeh da; nihí t'éiyá. Kót'éego aTaa' t'áá Bí dóó bibee haz'áanii t'ah nidi ba'át'e' ádingo nihí éí yisdáhidiikah.

Jesus éí biTaa' bibee haz'áanii doo ádoodijílgíí yíká áát'iid da. Jó bee haz'áanii bąąhági át'éii yá nihoní'áá lá. Yíká áát'iidígíí éí nihí ɬahgo át'éego jiináago áadóó t'áadoo bąąhági ánáájít'íigo át'é. Díidí ts'ídá aláahgo laanaa nihá yinízin. (John 17:15 yíníltá').

Diyin Bizaad ákóní: "Háálá ts'ísee k'ehgo nidzinii éí Diyin God ye'ana'í nilí; éí Diyin God yee has'áanii doo yíhólníih da, t'áá'aaníí doo óone' át'ée da. Áko ts'ísee k'ehgo dajjiináanii Diyin God doo bił dahojíshqó le' át'ée da" (Romans 8:7-8). Áko nidi ákónáádí'ní: "Éí yoołkálgíí adayiiskáádóó bik'iji' díí bee aha'deet'á nilíinii Ízrel dine'é bee bił ahadadi'deesht'ááł, ní Bóhólníihii: Bee hoséł'áanii bintsíkees biih dadeeshléél áadóó dabijéí biyi'di bee bik'eda'deeshchííł. BiDiyin God nishkíí doo, áadóó bí shidine'é danilíí doo" (Hebrews 8:10).

God has not changed His law—so that we could avoid being condemned for breaking it. Instead, by His Holy Spirit, He changes us. When we accept God's free gift of eternal life we will obey Him just like Jesus Himself always did. This is the way He wants all His followers to live.

Diyin God bibee haz'áanii doo Ɂahgo ádzaa da, nihí doo bił ał'ąą ádaniit'ée da doo biniyé; bee ádaniit'ehígi át'éii nihá Ɂahgo íílééh lá. Iiná doo ninít'i ii t'áá jíik'e hwee hazlígígo índa Diyin God bik'eh hojíl'íi dooleel – Jesus áát'iidgi át'éego. Shikéé' nidaakaiígíí t'áá ákót'éego dahináa doo nihá yinízin.



Sego Lily. State flower of Utah.