



Walking in Obedience

I struggled to develop a topic for this month's devotional. In each attempt to sit down and devote time and energy to it my thoughts were unfocused and clouded with other, earthly distractions. No matter how hard I tried to use my thinking ability and logic to 'get the work done', nothing happened. What I eventually realized was:

- I was not listening well. -- Parents, and kids past a certain age, understand the frustration cause by a child who does not listen or in other words is disobedient. Fortunately for us, our Heavenly Father is unlimited in his patience and love for us.
- I was focused on working for me and you, not for God. – **Galatians 1:10** 'For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.'

When I let go of the Earthly pursuit of checking the box on the monthly meeting devotional the message came through a little clearer.

Walking in Obedience requires that we continually submit and devote ourselves to the Lord. Paul writes to Timothy in **1 Timothy 4**: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example... Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture..." Timothy is not just given instructions on what to do, but Paul reminds him how: Focus your attention. Read the Word, the truth, out loud. Paul tells him to do that, not just once, but continuously until he comes. In **Matthew 6:33**, Jesus outlines the proper order: "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Seek Him. Pay attention to Him. Devote yourself to speaking His Word. Everything else will come. And, as **Isaiah 40:31** says, "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Our dependency upon God's power and strength should not fluctuate based on our circumstances. Consider what your praise looks like when things are going well and what it looks like when things aren't going well. What are some habits we can consistently practice to help keep our focus on Jesus, whether things seem to be going well or not?