

July 2022 Newsletter

Thank you so much for your faithful support this month. We truly appreciate you, and the Lord will use your giving for the kingdom as we place it in His hands with faith. Here's where we are in....

Circumstances/ Fundraising:

We are grateful that the Lord is using a potluck we did in April to stir hearts because, by God's grace, three more monthly supporters have joined that were there! As of May, we have \$87,750.00 with pledges and one-time gifts. This is 83.5% of the target goal. We continue to work in the PreK classroom and an assisted living facility and to be a mom and dad. We also continue participating in pastor Beto Fernandez's online small groups with other Peruvians. God continues to place things on my heart to do for more support in the future and continues to open doors. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness.

Spiritually: There are two parts: Walking in His Victory and Walking in Obedience

Part 1: Walking in His Victory

It's been our prayer this month that God lead us and those we are around and know into his victory each day. The only way we will walk in it is through faith, trusting and depending on Him, and not leaning on our own strength. Knowing the war's outcome is in God's hands will help us fight our day-to-day battles with more courage. Knowing He has already defeated the enemy and taken away his power gives us hope for restoration, healing, renewal, and revival of what was lost.

There will be a day when sin, the flesh, the devil, and his principalities will be forever destroyed; the harm, the hurt, the pain, and the destruction they all bring will be gone. The only standing before us will be the lamb of God on the throne and a river of water of life flowing down the middle. On each side will be the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruits, yielding its fruit every month and the tree's leaves for the healing of the nations. The encouraging thing about this in the present is that though we fight many battles, we know that our Savior, our Lord, and our Deliverer is faithful, has disarmed Satan and claimed us as his own, by the cost of his blood and life. Jesus, through his Spirit, walked without sin on earth through the power of the Spirit and dependence on the Father; and gives us the power of the Spirit to also walk in His victories every day!

"God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." Col. 2:14-15. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:13-14

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." Rom. 16:20

2 Corinthians 2:14-17, "**Now thanks be to God** who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one, *we are* an aroma that brings death, and to the other, an aroma that brings life."

- **Part 2: Walking in Obedience**

This past month also, I've realized that to truly obey the leading of the Spirit (1 Thess. 2:8), it comes down to whether we are sacrificial or not. Many times if the Lord asks us to do something, there can be many excuses- no money, no time, not good enough, don't know enough, not adequate, etc. But ultimately, it comes down to whether we are willing to give of our lives to God and others or not. Ephesians 4:32-5:2 says to follow God's example, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Are we willing to lay down our lives for our friends, for God? There is no greater love than this (Jn 15:13). We see Jesus, an excellent example in Gethsemane,

"They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James, and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that, if possible, the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:32-41

Apart from being sacrificial, however, one significant factor of obedience that many of us may miss. Doing what the Lord tells us to promptly, and not waiting and putting it off repeatedly because of those excuses mentioned previously. Many of us struggle with this. Also, fixing our eyes on Jesus and His return will help us with this waiting issue. That's why I am so encouraged by these following couple examples of how quickly obedience came to Jesus.

We see this diligence/promptness in Abraham when he was asked to sacrifice his only son to the Lord. Genesis 22:1-3 says, Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love-Isaac- and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." **Early the next morning**, Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and Isaac...."

We see this promptness in the disciple's response to following Christ: Mark 1:17-20, "Come, follow me," Jesus said, and I will send you out to fish for people." **At once**, they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. **Without delay**, he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with hired men and followed him."

Notice in both examples that there were real sacrifices for Abraham- a son. The disciples left their jobs and families; however, both responses were made in response to obedience to God. Both their responses were made promptly. An important but hard question to ask ourselves is- if we put off something the Lord tells us, how really important is it to us? To Abraham, what God was saying was very clearly important to him because he went out the next morning. We see this with the disciple's response because Jesus took precedence over anything else. What does that tell us how our lives should look and how important the kingdom of God is in our lives?

So while I was in limbo mode on an issue, the Lord gave me a good little push when I read Revelations 3:1-6, "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who

holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, **for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.** Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."

And so, I feel for me and many other Christians, James 4:17 is very applicable, "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do it and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." This is as much disobedience as committing sin. Ouch!

I have lots more to share and thank God that He has put in my heart, but I have already maxed out on the word count. May our prayer be that we be quick and prompt to obey what the Lord puts on our hearts and follow through with it, and may we not wait any longer if we are, but step out in faith and as it says in Galatians 5:25, "since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step or walk with the Spirit."

If you are perhaps feeling far from the Lord, it could be procrastination or forgetfulness in obedience to him, as he is waiting on you to act. Remember, we are to walk in his footsteps, and though there will be a pain, returning to our Shepherd and the Overseer of our souls is worth everything! In Him, we find healing, redemption, and righteousness.

1 Peter 2:20-25, "But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this, you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness: "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Blessings in Christ Jesus!

From the Iveys

