

Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

TRUST AND OBEY

As you know, my only grandchild is named Byron. And, I have written that my best high school girl friend, Wanda (for whom I named Byron's mom when she was born) has a brother named Byron. Although Byron is not a name we hear every day, there was one other Byron in our small Twin Bridges community. Mr. Ruppel (his dad) was the principal of our local school. The Ruppel family and our Nye family were among a half dozen families who attended our local one-room church each Sunday. I've seen Byron only once since his attractive red-brown hair turned to white. But I remember him as a little boy, the Sunday morning when he and his twin sister, Barbara, stood at the front of that little church and sang the song "Trust and Obey."

Even now (60 years later) whenever I sing that hymn, I see those two cute little kids singing the message to the rest of us that day.

OBEDIENCE OR DISOBEDIENCE?

"There's no way to lose if you're obedient to God. There's no way to win if you're disobedient!" This is the way pastor Charles Stanley put it in his radio series about obeying God. Another quote from Dr. Stanley: "Partial obedience is disobedience." Most of us, without even thinking about it, do have a tendency to pick and choose what we want to obey and what we want to blot out of our thinking!

In other words, we want to plan out the way we will live our own lives. If you are a child, a youth, or an adult, you surely should not let another human being (other than a parent or teacher, if you are a young person) tell you what to do. DO NOT let one of your peers take away your ability to think things through for yourself!

But, with our Creator it is different. Our God can always see the TOTAL PICTURE, what is best for you and me, and where He needs to use you every day of your life in this world. He gives you the freedom to think for yourself in many ways every day. He also gives you the freedom to accept or reject His plans for you each day.

PUTTING OUR TRUST IN OTHER PEOPLE

I believe we should think for ourselves when it comes to the people around us, though it SOMETIMES helps to listen to their advice. But, after they give us that advice, we need to think it through, and PRAY ABOUT IT, and ONLY THEN decide what to accept and what to reject.

On the other hand, when it comes to GOD'S advice, sooner or later we will realize that HE will never steer us wrong! No human being, neither you nor I, nor a friend or family member, can offer the BEST ADVICE of the universe. But God can! He wants to! And He will, if we will STOP (right where we are) long enough to give Him that chance. We can always put our trust in HIM, without any fear of going wrong!

At some point in our past or present, a lot of us have put our trust in someone else when we were not sure what to do. Our friends, family members, or strangers may have the VERY BEST of intentions for our welfare, but they can lead us SO FAR ASTRAY that our life may be upset for years!!

Even though I have chosen to become a Christian, I may discover that the persons I trusted to guide me (knowingly or unknowingly) have caused me to drift so far that I feel it's impossible to come back!!

But, praise God! That's not true. We can always come back! But, we must MAKE ourselves turn back again to our Creator in repentance, humbly asking forgiveness! And then start to put into practice the words of the song: "Trust and obey" remembering that "there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

On another radio program, "Love Worth Finding," Pastor Adrian Rogers reminded us listeners that the only way we can have VICTORY in our daily lives is by "practicing the Word of God" each day!

I would add that we also need to "practice the presence of God Himself during the day, by beginning each day with the attitude (and the act) of prayer for His guidance.



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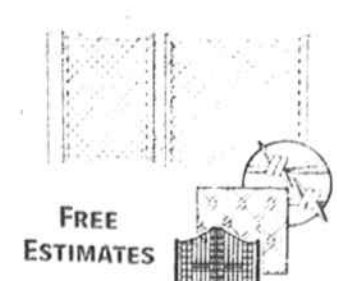


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