

Walking in Obedience by Faith

The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification – Direction 12

Direction 12: Make diligent use of your most holy faith for the immediate performance of the duties of the law, by walking no longer according to your old natural state, or any principles or means of practice that belong unto it; but only according to that new state which you receive by faith, and the principles and means of practice that properly belong thereunto; and strive to continue and increase in such manner of practice. This is the only way to attain to an acceptable performance of those holy and righteous duties, as far as it is possible in this present life.

Thesis: Live by Faith to be Obedient to God's Law

- I. Some expressions of Scripture that spell out the nature of our obedience by faith.
 - A. Expressions that emphasize faith
 - B. Expressions that emphasize relation to Christ
 - C. Expressions that emphasize God's grace
 - D. Expressions that highlight "old man" versus "new man"
 - E. Expressions that highlight "flesh" versus "Spirit"
 - F. The importance of "Knowledge" of Christ
- II. Some instructions to help you.
 - A. Though we come to Christ by faith and receive our new natures from him, we are still beset by the corruption of the flesh and must grow in grace and faith.
 - B. Don't try to purge your flesh of its sinful lusts and inclinations and work holiness in you by your own resolve or power, but endeavor to do it by the grace of God and the power of Christ by putting off the old man and putting on Christ daily.
 - C. You must not seek forgiveness of sins, God's favor, and holiness of life by the works of the moral law, but must work as one who already has those things in abundance. You must not obey *for* life, but obey *from* life.
 - D. Do not try to practice holiness by binding yourself to practical principles but by going to Christ by faith and letting him incline you to such principles.
 - E. Strive to keep the law having been persuaded of your enjoyment of Jesus Christ and your possession of everlasting benefits through him.
 - F. Consider who you are in Christ and what state is yours through faith and use those arms you and encourage you to heavenly obedience.
 - G. Be encouraged to keep the law by the particular circumstances of the commands and your own circumstances.
 - H. "If you endeavor to grow in grace and in all holiness, trust assuredly that God will enable you by this manner of walking to do everything that is necessary for His glory, and your own everlasting salvation; and that He will graciously accept of that obedience through Christ, which you are enabled to perform, according to the measure of your faith, and pardon your failings, though you offend in many things and fall short of many others, as to degrees of holiness and high acts of obedience. And therefore, attempt not the performance of duty in any other way."