

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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Obedience and humility are important coinciding themes throughout the entire Bible. Jesus is our example in this, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" Philippians 2:8. Obedience definitely brings us to a place of death to the old man but life to the new man. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20. The work of redemption and new life in Christ Jesus is not possible if we are not obedient unto God. This heart of obedience is the signature condition of God's true children.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7: 14

Living faith has always been a matter of obedience and it is illustrated in this Old Testament verse. Herein is a promise that is extended to whomever finds themselves lost and wicked. This is the place each needy beggar of grace comes to when awakened to a knowledge of sin. The verse states that when we are called, if we humble ourselves, and pray, and seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways, that God from heaven hears us. This is a powerful dialogue that God desires to have with His people. The merciful heart of our Heavenly Father so wants to hear from us his children. God desires that we would be humble and that we would turn from, and repent of our wicked ways. Turning our heart to God is the very essence of obedience. The forgiveness and redemption that is offered was made possible thru the obedience of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Forgiveness and the remission of our sins thru His blood is the only thing that can bring true peace to our hearts and restore us to God. This promise still applies to every heart and land that in obedience to God repents and turns to God in true humility, and in faith believes that we are able to be transformed by the redeeming work of Christ. When Christ was so obedient unto death, is it too much to ask of us also to die to sin and to take up our cross and to follow Him? This is the heart condition of the bride of Christ and it is with joy that we are His follower.

God's Peace!
Mark Traffie