

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

February 24, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

(We used this material two years ago; it is worth a second look.)

Obedience

**I will thank the LORD with all my heart
as I meet with his godly people.
How amazing are the deeds of the LORD!
All who delights in him should ponder them.
Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.
His righteousness never fails.**

**Who can forget the wonders he performs?
How gracious and merciful is our LORD!
He gives food to those who trust him;
he always remembers his covenant.
He has shown his great power to his people
by giving them the lands of other nations.**

(Psalm 111:1-6)

Carlo Caretto said, speaking to church leaders, priests, pastors, and theologians:
“If you who set yourselves to explain the theory of Christianity had set yourselves instead to do the will of the Master, the one object for which the Gospel was preached to you, how different would now be the condition of the portion of the world with which you come into contact?”

Many of us are sluggish in our faith, or even paralyzed in it, because of our skepticism, doubts, our lack of understanding. We cling to the same questions year after year, because the questions are real and legitimate. But what if... what if instead of standing still, paralyzed by our fear and doubt, we chose to obey? What if we chose to DO one thing we know God has commanded and STOPPED doing one thing we know God has forbidden.

Mother Teresa: “Pray for me that I not loosen my grip on the hands of Jesus even under the guise of ministering to the poor.” Our first task: to grasp Jesus’ hand, to follow, to obey.

“Write thy blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraven, that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from thy love. Be thou to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. Amen.”

(Thomas a Kempis)

It is generally much less difficult for us to commit the keeping of our future to the Lord than it is to commit our present. We know we are helpless as regards the future, but we feel as if the present was in our own hands, and must be carried on our own shoulders; and most of us have an unconfessed idea that it is a great deal to ask the Lord to carry ourselves, and that we cannot think of asking him to carry our burdens too.

(Hannah Whitall Smith, The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life)

Recall a time when obedience to God has brought you a blessing.

Where in your life now do you want, need obedience?

If you were to simply obey in a specific way, what change would be required of you?

What might the results of such obedience be?

**All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.
They are forever true,
to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.
He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!
Reverence for the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom.
The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him.
Praise his name forever!**

(Psalm 111:7-10)

God be with you as you enter a new week.