

## Preparing the Overcomers: Our Obedience

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April 22, 2017

**Matthew 10:7** The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The Lord has purposed to come meet with us and do an eternal work in each meeting. He wants to help prepare you for your Wedding Day! I encourage you to keep coming, and not miss what the Lord wants to do in you and through you, as these meetings will keep building upon one another!

**Last Month:** Looked at Matthew 22 in depth, and Matthew 25, ten virgins – the Wedding invite. All invited, not all will attend. Invite was to the Church first. Revelation 19:7-9 requires our response, if we are to attend the Wedding Supper. It requires we put on a special garment, that it's our responsibility to be prepared. That the eternal purpose for why the Lord died for us was not to get us out of hell, but that He would have His Bride ruling and reigning with Him for eternity, as well as, Revelation 2 and 3, 3:21 show us it will only be the Overcomers, who will rule and reign with Him. We looked at Matthew 24, Daniel 9-12 giving us more insight to the days we are in. How the church is going through the great tribulation, many will fall away because of deception – did not make time to be prepared. Revelation 13, 14, 20 warns us to not take the MOTB. Luke 14:26,27, 33 define true discipleship. **Notes/audio on website, if you want to review.**

### READ Haggai 2:6-9

We are in the last days, and the Lord is looking for a people to make a habitation with – vessels who have made themselves ready. Those who will receive the end result of their faith, the salvation of their soul (1 Peter 1:9). The Bride's Invite is a call to die to self, until Christ is completely formed within us (Galatians 4:19). This should be our #1 priority!

**Why?** Because Scripture teaches us we are all called to live the crucified life. It is in that process of dying to self, that He qualifies us to be the Overcomers. It is the Lord's answer for His Bride for the dark days we will be facing, not only to endure them, but to overcome them His way. Only one-way to the glory (Galatians 2:20, Revelation 3:10, 3:21, John 14:6).

**Haggai 2:6-7** One more time the Lord is going to shake the heavens, the earth, the sea and the land – shaking all nations!

Yeshua spoke of these things in Matthew 24:7-9, 21-22. We will suffer persecution, hated, great trib, no one would survive but for the sake of the elect, the days are shortened. Warns during great shaking, even the very elect can be deceived.

**AFTER THE SHAKINGS: Haggai 2:9** Latter glory of this house will be greater than the former glory.

**Former house** refers to Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4. HS was poured out giving birth to the Church, with the 9 gifts manifested. It grew from 120 to 8,120 just by a couple of sermons. Signs and wonders main reason the church grew so quickly.

**Latter house** refers to our present time – the last days we are living in. Overcomers/Bride will come forth!

**Joel 2:23** Says both rains will come at the same time. This will cause the perfect storm to take place, with the outpouring of the HS in the fullest measure, in those vessels who have prepared themselves. They will know their God intimately, and do great exploits. This is the latter glory filling His house. It is the full indwelling of the 7 Spirits of the Lord - the "powers of the age" to come, that Paul speaks about in Hebrews (Daniel 11:32, Isaiah 11:2, Hebrews 6:5). **IT IS NOT AUTOMATIC!**

Mark of the beast will be our final test (Revelation 13, 14). John was seeing our day, the believers who refused the Mark (20:4).

**Revelation 13:10, 14:12** Herein is the call for the patience and the faith of the saints to keep God's commandments.

**Luke 21:34** Warns us to be on guard, don't fall to self-indulgence, drunkenness, the cares of this life (temporal Col. 3:1-2).

**Luke 21:36** Keep awake, watch at all times, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape these things, and to stand before the Son of Man. Refers to the promise of protection given to the overcomers in Revelation 3:10. **No pre-trib!**

**Matthew 24:13** He who endures to the end shall be saved.

**Acts 14:22** It is with much hardship and tribulation that we will enter the Kingdom of God.

**Rev. 19:20** The false prophet will lead many astray, causing them to take the Mark of the Beast (Matt 24:11 false prophets).

**Matthew 24:42, 44** Exhorts us to watch, be ready...Son of Man will come suddenly, when we are not expecting.

**Matthew 24:45-47** Blessed is the faithful servant found doing what His Master asked. **He made him ruler over all his goods.**

To qualify to be an Overcomer, need to be found doing the will of God. Be eager to be found without spot...(2 Peter 3:14).

Refers to the Overcomers who will reign with Him during the 1,000 year Millennium. Not everyone (Rev. 2:26-27, 20:4-6).

**Revelation 2:26-27** He who **overcomes (1)** and who **obeys My commands (2) to the end (3)** I will give him authority and power over the nations; **27** And he shall rule them with a rod of iron...

**We see three things must happen:** If we are to qualify to rule and reign with Him over the nations, to be the Bride who attends the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, those who will be a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection (Revelation 20:6, 19:7-9).

**Apart of this equation:** He will only accept a Bride who is without spot or wrinkle. No compromise/filth. Equally yoked.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting our holiness in the fear of God (NKJV). Note: temple of Living God, dwell in and among you, come out!

**2 Timothy 3:20-21** To be a vessel of noble use, profitable and ready for any good work our Master wants to do through us, **we need to cleanse and separate ourselves** from everything that is ignoble, unclean, contaminated and corrupt.

We see it requires our response everyday. It has to be intentional, if we want to possess our full inheritance (Philippians 3:14-16).

**So, how do we do this? How do we learn to put on the right “Wedding garment?”**

Last time, I shared three character attributes that if we are willing to be conformed to His likeness in these areas of our lives, God can do anything with us! If we are: **Humble, teachable, and obey. Need all three!**

**1. Humility:** Without it we will never go into the deeper things of God. Pride will stop us in our tracks. We need to learn the art and discipline of “dressing ourselves” in humbleness and meekness, every day in our words, thoughts and actions.

**He leads** the humble in what is right (by instructions), and the humble **He teaches His way** (by experience) (Psalm 25:9).

Serving the Lord with all humility in tears and in the midst of adversity. **Are we humble when others afflict us?** (Acts 20:19).

**2. Teachable Spirit:** We must be teachable, and we will never be teachable if we do not walk in humility.

**3. Obedience:** We can't just be hearers of the Word, but doers. Faith without works is dead faith (James 1:22, 2:20).

Get rid of all wickedness, and in a **humble spirit receive the Word**, which has the power to save your soul (James 1:21).

If we do not obey – we are going after emptiness, falseness, and futility and are fruitless and worthless. This is His church at large today (Jeremiah 2:5).

**Today, I want to focus on our obedience.** We need to know He requires our absolute and explicit obedience. It is life and death to our souls, and will determine how much of our destiny we will fulfill. Not possible to go into the deeper things of God – to be the Bride, unless we obey the Voice of the Lord. Ultimately, we get to decide how deep, by our choices.

**Define obedience:** Surrendering power to another, yield to the will of another, *obedience occurs when you change your opinions, judgments, or actions because someone in a position of authority told you to.* Key aspect to note about obedience is just because you have changed in some way, does not mean that you now agree with the change. **1<sup>st</sup> step is to just obey.**

**How do we know we are being obedient?**

**1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we **keep His commandments**. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the **truth** is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the **love of God** has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him **ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked**.

**Wanting Truth (a desire to know Him) is key to our obedience - it starts the path to our obeying.** If we obey truth, we begin the process of being perfected in love = transformation, which causes us to conduct our lives by the same standards Yeshua did when He walked this earth. Absolutely possible! It's the process of dying daily, surrendering our will for His.

**Isaiah 5:13** My people go into captivity without even knowing it, because they have no knowledge of Me.

**Knowledge:** Familiarity gained by personal experience. An encounter with Yeshua = revelation / transformation.

**Our obedience:** Always meant to restore us back to intimacy with Him, so that we would know Him = transformation.

**What does this mean for us and how do we get there?**

**1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father/Truth is not in him.** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; **but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

**1 John 3:2-3:** Know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

**So we can say:** Obedient means we **love truth**, and to be **pure**. That we no longer lust for the world or its ways, but we pursue the One we love, yielding our will for His, allowing His refiner's fire to purify us in our words, thoughts and actions.

**We are to seek the eternal:** Set our minds on what is above and not the temporal. We are to kill our flesh (Col. 3:1-9).

**1 John 4:16-17** God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of Judgment; **that** as He is, so are we in this world.

*The word "because" is not the right translation from the Greek, should be "that" makes difference.*

Brings us back to becoming perfected in love, back to an intimate love relationship that we were created to be in with our King. We love Him because He first loved us. Our love for Him is why we want to obey Him. If we obey Him, which now means truth, love, purity, we abide in Him, His love. To abide in Him means to love His way, not our selfish ways.

**This is John's message.** Our obedience restores the broken fellowship, causing us to be perfected in love – conformed to Messiah. If we are not perfected in love, on this earth, we are not going to survive what is coming! It is a process of purification, by the choices we make, every day, in how we respond to our trials and afflictions.

**Need to appropriate 1 John 1:8-10, apply the Blood to our sins every day.** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us (NKJV).

The Lord Yeshua cannot dwell in the unclean, unholy recesses of our hearts, the parts of our soul that have yet to be saved, renewed, transformed into His likeness. Only to the degree we allow Him to purify us can He abide in us. He is not going to force us to go through the process – He will never go against our will. He wants Union with us, but again it is not automatic. Very few will go that deep in Him. Very few are willing to let go of the world, their sin, their lusts, their false belief systems. Very few are willing to obey Him – too often we spiritualize the Word, or we reason it away.

Very few are willing to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow the Lamb – live the crucified life (Matthew 16:24).

**1 John 4:17 says, ...that as He is, so also are we in this world.** This means today, it is not something that happens when we pass from this world to the next. We are called to be like Him today, and He expects this of us. He is calling us to this place to abide in Him, so He can abide in us!

We are called to be Holy because He is Holy [1 Peter 1:16].

## **CLOSING:**

Yeshua tells us that not everyone who says to Me Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of My Father. That many will do works in My name, but He will say, "I never knew you, depart from Me, you who acted wickedly (Matthew 7:21-23). This speaks about relationship, and those who were not willing to surrender their will for His. They abused the gifts He had given them and used them for selfish gain – to build their kingdoms and not His.

He further says, everyone who hears these words and obeys them is wise and has built their house on rock, that when the floods came and the wind blew, that house did not fall because it was built on rock/truth. He also says, those who do not obey His words will be like a stupid man, who built his house on sand, and when the floods came it was utterly destroyed.

Samuel told Saul, when he did not obey the Voice of the Lord, that to obey is better than sacrifice. For **rebellion is the sin of witchcraft** and **stubbornness is like the sin of idolatry**. Because **you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected** you from being king (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

Did not end well for Saul. His rebellion, caused him to lose the kingdom, turned to witchcraft, ending up committing suicide.

**2 Tim. 2:11-12** If we die with Him, we will live with Him, If we deny, disown and reject Him, He will also deny, disown and reject us.

God will never understand our disobedience – we all have access to the HS/grace to obey. On that Day there will be no excuses.

**Obedience requires:** We walk in truth, love and purity/holiness. It is a key to us knowing Him, to our prayers being heard.

John was talking to the Church, not unbelievers. These things I have written **to you who believe in the name of the Son of God**, so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

His Word has conditions. Too often, we gloss this over in the Church. He has conditions to our rewards, to answering our prayers, protocols. Only one Way! He is so willing, but we have our part to do. Most Christians do not understand what it means to obey, and they minimize the great eternal losses due to their disobedience. We need to learn to dress ourselves in absolute and explicit obedience to the Word, that we may be found doing His will, if we want to qualify to rule with Him.

Time is running out. There is not much time left to get your house in order. You need to decide if you want it to be built on truth/rock, or falseness/sand. Are you doing His will or your will? If we want to do it our way, refusing to surrender our will for His, He says we are like a stupid man whose foundation is sand, and we will be swept away and destroyed.

We will miss Him and the eternal purposes for why we were created.

There is not always time to make things right. Now is the time – I encourage you to not waste one more second chasing after emptiness, falseness, and futility. To go low, humble before the Lord and ask Him to show you every way you are not obeying His Word, and to put a teachable spirit within you, and the grace to obey. **Requires an intimate relationship!**

Ask the Lord for the grace to see the sin/compromise in your life the way He does, and for the grace and humility to let it all go: *our offenses with others, bitterness, unforgiveness, pride, selfishness, complaining, jealousy, lying, cheating, rebellion*. Just be bare naked and lay it all at Yeshua's feet, everyday, as often as you have to, for however long it is going to take!

**Is it ok that I can just be honest with you?** This truth – we all have a lot of cleaning up to do in our lives, don't we? This is how much He loves us! He died so we could be set free from all this bondage. Our sin stops us from having intimate fellowship with Him, from knowing Him, but we have to make the choice to let it go. Are we willing?

Did you know there is such freedom at our Savior's feet? There is no shame or condemnation, only freedom! There is such freedom at laying it all at His feet, denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Him. It is the truth that sets us free! If we keep deceiving ourselves saying everything is ok, when everything is not ok, we are just stuck! He doesn't want any of us to be stuck. He wants us to be free! He wants us to embrace truth, embrace the cross and let the cross do its redemptive work in us, so we can go onto glory! I encourage you to make the most of your trials/afflictions, embrace them. Learn to count them all joy, and let Him redeem them and work them for your good, as He always intended to do!

**Remember, our obedience is a key for us in this process, and will prepare us for the dark days, if we respond His way, especially when the pressure is on, and there is nothing in our flesh that wants to yield!**

He will have a company of people, the Bride/Overcomers, who will be vessels who are carriers of His glory to be used mightily in these last days. They will overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and will obey unto death, if that is what He requires. **AMEN!**