**Trust And Obey**

This is Patrick Donahue of the Bible Crossfire radio program. Most churches (of all types) sing the hymn "Trust And Obey" from their song books. It starts off something like this … “When we walk with the Lord, in the light of his word.” Unfortunately many of those congregations don’t believe the words of the song they are singing. They think one can be saved by believing only; that obedience is not required for salvation. But notice these words from the song – “While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.” So the song is saying God only abides with those who do His will, those who obey Him. Do you really mean those words when you sing them?

The song expresses the necessity of trusting and obeying God in order to be pleasing to him, but what does it mean to trust and obey God? “Trust” is a term used for a strong form of belief or faith. I've heard the difference illustrated this way: What if you saw a circus tightrope-walker push an empty wheelbarrow across a high wire between the World Trade Center towers five times, and then he asked if you "believed" he could do again. Considering you had just seen him doing it successfully five times in a row, you would probably answer "yes." But then suppose he asked you to get in the wheelbarrow. See the difference in belief and trust?

Let’s read a couple of passages that emphasize trusting God …

Prov 3:5-6 “**Trust** in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Eph 1:12-13 “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first **trusted** in Christ. In whom ye also **trusted**, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”

I Tim 4:10 “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we **trust** in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

So it is not enough just to believe on the surface that God exists, we must trust Him. That means we "go out on a limb" for God. We not only must believe God exists, but we must act on that belief. Jesus said in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Jesus said in Matt 16:24-25 "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." It is not just believing in Christ; it is giving up your life for Christ. That takes trust that God will deliver on His promises to the faithful, that there is a benefit to serving God.

The word "know" is used to refer to this trust in II Thess 1:8 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." So we have to know, believe in, trust in God in order to be saved.

And this verse points out the second requirement listed in the hymn we mentioned. We must trust and obey to be saved. Most churches emphasize the believing part, but neglect the obedience part. I Pet 1:22 tells us the connection between obedience and the purifying of our sins. It says "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." Have you ever obeyed the truth, obeyed the gospel as these two passages direct?

Heb 5:9 is one of my favorite passages showing the necessity of obedience to our salvation - "And being made perfect, he (talking about Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Matt 7:21 says basically the same thing "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Many churches teach all you have to do to be saved is "accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior," meaning believe in Jesus, but they still sing the song "Trust And Obey" that contradicts that teaching. The song is right - the Bible teaches we must trust and obey God to be saved. James 2:24 puts it this way - "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." It takes more than just faith to be justified in God's sight; it also takes works.

I mentioned that most churches teach faith only is enough for salvation. And many of them even hedge on that ...

Billy Graham is famous for teaching in crusade after crusade that people needed to come forward and accept Christ in order to be saved. But in an interview with Robert Schuller (5-31-1997), Mr. Graham said “Whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world, or the non-believing world, they are members of the body of Christ because they've been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their hearts they need something that they don't have and they turn to the only light they have and I think they're saved and they're going to be with us in heaven.” In McCall’s magazine (Jan 1978) Mr. Graham said “I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost — were going to h-e-l-l — if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. … I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God—through nature, for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying ‘yes’ to God.”

However God clearly says ...

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 8:24 "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

Not only is it wrong to hedge on faith being required, it is also wrong to hedge on obedience being required – which is what most churches do.

Rev 22:14 says "Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Rev 20:13 shows that on the judgment day, "every man" will be "judged ... according to their works."

“Every man” in that verse gets everybody - saint and sinner alike. Which means Once Saved Always Saved is not true. Gal 5:4 is a quick way to refute that doctrine - "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Not only can a Christian fall from grace, this verse says some Christians in that day had fallen from grace.

Again the hymn is right, we must "Trust And Obey" to be happy in Jesus. If any preacher tells you that obedience is not required for salvation, ignore what he says; that is a false teacher.