

## “The Lesson for All to Learn”

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One of the most wonderful things about the Gospel is its simplicity. There is nothing complicated about it. It consist of principles, not of rules; and these principles are so few and easily comprehended that children of tender years can understand them. Indeed, unless one becomes as a little child, artless, trustful, confiding, he will not, cannot understand them.

Now the spiritual life of a Christian is but a repetition in principle of his physical life. He “must be born again,” and after that grow up “to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

The one lesson for children to learn while under parental control is obedience; not that which comes through fear of punishment, because of dogmatic requirements or arbitrary commands, but a willing, cheerful obedience, such as springs from a heart of love. Jesus knew this lesson. When chided by His parents because He remained in the temple, talking with the doctors, although He gave a good and sufficient reason for His action, the record says “He went down with them . . . and was subject to them” (Luke 2:51). And has it not occurred to us that this lesson of submission that He learned in His youth helped Him to say, in the hour of His great trial, “not My will, but Yours, be done”?

And just as the child is to be subject to his parents, so **the Lord would have a willing, cheerful submission to His requirements. That is all there is in Christianity.** From first to last this is the one trait of character most prominent in Christ’s life. This is the one great lesson that Abraham had to learn, but when he had learned it, the Lord could trust him, and make of him a great nation.

Some of the Bible characters, like Paul, learned the lesson in a short time, while for others, like Jacob, a whole lifetime was required. But *just as that was the one lesson for them to learn in their day, so it is for the Christian now.* It is so difficult for us to yield our ways, sacrifice our desires, give up our previous ideas. **How hard it is to admit that our ways are not better than the Lord’s; and even though we admit it, what a struggle to give them up. Yet this is just what all our daily experience is for,—this is why we have trials, why afflictions and bereavements and losses come to us,—that we may learn submission.** And just as soon as we have learned the lesson, the Lord will say to us as He did to Abraham, that it is enough, “for now I know that you fear God” (Gen. 22:12).

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

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