

Service: Are We Disciplined to Obey God or Impulse?

by Oswald Chambers

True Christian work requires discipline and concentration on God, rather than relying on impulse and human nature.

Scripture: Acts 17:23, 1 Corinthians 3:9, 2 Corinthians 10:5

Topics: "Disciplined Obedience", "Spiritual Transformation"

Description

Oswald Chambers emphasizes the importance of focusing on God in all aspects of our work, urging us to maintain a childlike worshipful heart and to avoid distractions that hinder our cooperation with Him. He highlights the need for disciplined obedience to Christ, rather than impulsive actions, and the necessity of aligning our will with the Father's, just as Jesus did. Chambers reminds us that true earnestness is found in obeying God and bringing every project under His authority through disciplined spiritual transformation.

Transcript

"For we are God's fellow workers." 1 Corinthians 3:9

"Beware of any work for God which enables you to evade concentration on Him. ... The one concern of a worker should be concentration on God, and this will mean that all the other margins of life, mental, moral and spiritual, are free with the freedom of a child--a worshipping child, not a wayward child.

"A worker without this solemn, dominant note of concentration on God is apt to get his work on his neck; there is no margin of body, mind or spirit free, consequently he becomes spent out and crushed. There is no freedom, no [godly] delight

"But the other side is just as true--when once the concentration is on God, all the margins of life are free and under the dominance of God alone. ...the only responsibility you have is to keep in living, constant touch with God, and to see that you allow nothing to hinder your co-operation with Him. ...

"We have no right to judge where we should be put, or to have preconceived notions as to what God is fitting us for. God engineers everything; wherever He puts us our one great aim is to pour out a whole-hearted devotion to Him in that particular work."

My Utmost for His Highest, April 23

"God, who made the world and everything in it... is Lord of heaven and earth.... He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times. ... [I]n Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:23-26, 28

"Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

"How much Christian work there is to-day which has never been disciplined, but has simply sprung into being by impulse!

"In Our Lord's life every project was disciplined to the will of His Father. There was not a movement of an impulse of His own will as distinct from His Father's--"The Son can do nothing of Himself." Then take ourselves--a vivid religious experience, and every project born of impulse put into action immediately, instead of being imprisoned and disciplined to obey Christ.

"This is a day when practical work is over-emphasized, and the saints who are bringing every project into captivity are criticized and told that they are not in earnest for God or for souls. True earnestness is found in obeying God, not in the inclination to serve Him that is born of undisciplined human nature. It is inconceivable, but true nevertheless, that saints are not bringing every project into captivity, but are doing work for God at the instigation of their own human nature which has not been spiritualized by determined discipline.

"We are apt to forget that a man is not only committed to Jesus Christ for salvation; he is committed to Jesus Christ's view of God, of the world, of sin and of the devil, and this will mean that he must recognize the responsibility of being transformed by the renewing of his mind.

My Utmost for His Highest, September 9th

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