

Having the Mind of Christ and Being One with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as They Are One.

Life is the opportunity to choose to follow the Spirit of Christ – given to all – into a fulness of JOY, as we become ONE with the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2 Nephi 2:25 Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. 26 And the Messiah cometh in the fulness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. 27 Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.

We best receive a fulness of JOY as we follow Him, who brings completeness to Father's plan of happiness.

D&C 6:36 Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not. 37 Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and feet; be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

As John Pontius points out, we often get hung up on obedience:

...obedience for the sake of obedience... is a formula for frustration and spiritual burnout... The classic harried laborer in the church who runs exhausted from home to church to home to church with a tired smile that resembles a grimace more than a grin, is the prototype of [all too many members]

Noah Webster's definition of obedience sheds some light on the difference between obedience to man versus proper obedience to God:

OBE'DIENCE, *noun* [French from Latin *obedientia*. See *Obey*.]

Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition. To constitute obedience, the act or forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience. *Obedience* is not synonymous with *obsequiousness*; the latter often implying meanness or

servility, and obedience being merely a proper submission to authority. That which duty requires implies dignity of conduct rather than servility. Obedience may be *voluntary* or *involuntary*. *Voluntary obedience* alone can be acceptable to God.

Government must compel the *obedience* of individuals; otherwise who will seek its protection or fear its vengeance? – *Ames*.

Choosing to obey God because we love Him (and all His children) places a very different flavor on the words "to be obedient to the commandments." We learn that the greatest commandment is to love God and His children (Matt. 22:34-40), and from John 14 we learn that to be lovingly obedient is equivalent to being obediently loving. As Webster says, "*Voluntary obedience* alone can be acceptable to God." Obedience bathed in love brings us to the higher way of freedom, peace, and the joy Father designed in His plan, if we will but choose to receive the fulness offered by hearkening continually to the voice of His Beloved Son.

The Apostle Paul said it well:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:12-16)

The mind of the Father and the Son is the Holy Ghost. Jesus is the perfect example. When He was baptized, the Holy Ghost descended upon Him and remained with Him throughout His ministry – giving Him the mind of the Father, so that He could teach the truth in love and perfectly answer every opposition brought by the adversary in all his subtle forms of trying to deceive, to blind, and to destroy. As we hearken to the Spirit we are doing the will of the Father and have the mind of Christ. We are at ONE with them. The atonement has full efficacy in our lives and we are receiving fully of the grace of Christ, which will lead us back into the presence of the Father and the Son – even in this life to see and know them.