

## *~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Obstacle: Obeying Commands ~*

### **III. 3<sup>rd</sup> Obstacle – Obeying Commands**

#### **3 Main reasons horses don't obey commands**

- 1) Self-Preservation/*Flesh*
  - Due to lack of trust
  - 1) Need salvation; 2) Grow in the Lord/Kill the flesh*
  
- 2) Disobedience (bitter resistance against commands)
  - Due to false teaching,
  - Operating through unwilling submission (Religion)**
  
- 3) Lack of Understanding/Communication
  - Horse needs more time, patience, and teaching,
  - Learn to hear God's voice, Holy Spirit (helper/teacher)**

We must grow and mature in the Lord if we ever hope to have communication with God, not living our life solely in the flesh. If we do not have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, and instead try to serve God through religion and unwilling submission, we are almost certain to fall into disobedience.

### **Growing in the Lord**

*Below is something that the Lord showed me about communicating and growing in the Lord.*

When we accept the Lord into our heart, we have a new creation living inside us. This is the Spirit of God. **“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15 KJV).** Just like when a new creation is brought into this world as a baby, they must be nourished. When our babies are born, if they are not fed, they will die. The same is true for the Spirit living inside us. The Lord's Prayer says, “Give us this day our daily bread.” The Lord expects us to be fed daily, just as a baby must be fed daily, if they are expected to grow.

We feed our babies milk while they are infants, and as they mature, they are able to eat solid food. I think there are too many Christians that live their life on milk, being fed only once a week, when they go to church. If a baby only ate milk once a week, they would die. The same is true with us. When God's Spirit inside us does not get fed, it becomes weaker and weaker, until finally, the spark that we once had for the Lord begins to feel dead, and we become empty and lost.

If our babies never matured and grew up, we would think there was something wrong with them. If they did not grow by the week, month and year, we would seek a physician to find the answer. If we are not growing in the Lord, we need to seek a physician, the Holy Spirit. We expect our babies to drink milk, graduate on to solid food and grow up. As they grow up we are able to have a relationship with them. We can talk to them, have a conversation, they are able to

follow us, and we are able to lead them. If they never grew and matured, we would be limited in our relationship. The same is true for our heavenly Father and us.

The Lord showed me once in prayer a beautiful long-stemmed, red rose. It was perfect in every way and its fragrance and beauty were evident to everyone around it. He showed me how the rose did not become this way all at once. It started out as a little seed that was planted into the ground, and with water and sunlight, it was able to grow. It was able to sprout and grow roots that worked their way into the ground. Once the roots had a base, it then grew out of the ground, and we were able to see the beginning of the rose that was planted.

The little plant needed water and sunlight daily so that its roots could dig further into the ground, gaining more nutrients from the earth. The more the flower's roots sprawled out, the more it was able to grow, until it grew into a beautiful rose. If at any time during its growing process it failed to get water and sunlight, it would have become sickly looking and eventually died. It was during the growing process that the water and sunlight were the most crucial for the maturing of the flower.

Our lives are like this rose. Some never get the seed, some have the seed planted but have never grown out of the ground, and some grow for a ways but never reach maturity. The beautiful petals we see at the top of the rose, is how God views our lives. If it is bright and beautiful and the fragrance fills the room, it is evident to all who come in contact with us.

The stem symbolizes support. Ultimately, all the support we need comes from God, but our brothers and sisters in Christ help to make up this support. The roots that grow into the ground symbolize our knowledge. Growing in the Scriptures, supplies us with nutrients to grow. The water that is so crucial for our growing is the Holy Spirit. Without this, we are not able to sprout into the ground and we will never be able to grow.

The light that comes from above is revelation from God Almighty. We wait in eager expectation for God to reveal Himself to us. Whether it is through Scripture or in the Spirit, it is crucial for growth. The leaves that grow off the stem are the things we do for others. The more we do for others, out of selfless acts, the more leaves we grow and we are able to soak in more sunlight.

Often we will find withered, dying petals that have crept their way into our flower and are taking away some of its beauty. We must seek the gardener, who is the Father, to remove these petals. Upon request, He removes them immediately and we return to the beautiful, perfect state we were in.

When the Lord originally spoke to me through the analogy of the flower, He used the flower to show me how Amaia and I were to grow in the Lord. He showed me what a husband and wife must do to ensure that God views our marriage like the beautiful petals of a long-stemmed rose. The petals make up the different parts of Amaia and me. He then applied the analogy to the church. Each of the petals makes up an individual of the church. By ourselves we are nothing special, but put many together and we make a beautiful rose. Whether we apply the rose to ourselves, to a marriage, or to the church, we all grow in the same manner.

In order for babies to grow, they need nourishment and the same is true for a flower. We expect this in earthly creations and we are willing to make sure that they get it. We can see the process of them growing and we can tell when they need more nourishing. The Spirit living inside us is a new creation and we should expect it to need nourishment as well. We should pay attention to the joy that we receive with the Lord, and as it fades, go back to Him to get filled up.

If we would do this, we would not find ourselves hungering and thirsting for happiness and looking everywhere except to Him to provide it. He can provide His sons and daughters with everything they need in this life, just as He did His son Jesus Christ. If He provided it for His son who lived on this earth, He can provide it for His son who lives inside us.