

# *~Resistance in Obeying Commands & Building Confidence ~*

## Resistance in Obeying Commands

#1 Reason = Horse hasn't submitted to man's will

Levels of "resistance" (Questioning commands)

Resistance = Flesh

**Agreement – Immediately obey commands with no hesitation.**

**Disagreement – Hesitate in obeying commands.**

**Arguing – Know you should obey, do not at first, but end up obeying.**

**Fighting – Do not want to obey commands and become resentful.**

## God's Commands (Exodus 20:2-17)

These are the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses, and that all of God's children were supposed to follow. Jesus then came to fulfill the law. **"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 5:17-20).

- 1) Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
- 2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (Idol).
- 3) Thou shalt not bow down thy self to them nor serve them: For I am a jealous God.
- 4) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- 5) Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- 6) Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 7) Thou shalt not kill.

**"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment"** (Matthew 5:21-22).

- 8) Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart"** (Matthew 5:27-28).

9) **Thou shalt not covet.**

**Covet** – primitive root; to *wish* for: covet, (greatly) desire, be desirous, long, lust (after).

10) **Thou shalt not bear false witness.**

**(Lie)**

Jesus simplifies God's commandments for us in **Matthew 22:37-40** putting God's commands into two commandments. **“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

In order to complete a job the horse must obey our commands. In order for God to use us, we must obey His commands. So how do we obey His commands? How do we get our horse to obey our commands?

This is where the 2 thought processes come in. What is the goal, job completion, or perfect unity? If there is perfect unity we will obey the commands. The same is true with our horse.

The older I get, the more I work with young horses, and the more God teaches me about life, the importance of willing submission becomes increasingly evident. I have tried to obey God's commands, through will power, because I know that I should and I know that my life will be better if I do. However, if I have not willingly submitted every ounce of my life to Him, I find that I enter into a battle of what I want to do and what I know I should do. This is a fight between my flesh and the Spirit of God, which is living inside me. **“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members” (Romans 7:23).** I often lose this fight, and have learned that it is awfully hard to obey God's commands solely through will power. A person must willingly submit their entire life to God and let the power of the Holy Spirit work through us to obey God's commands. Satan is going to try to use tricks that appeal to our flesh to get our focus off of God and keep us from obeying God's commands. If we have not willingly submitted to God and laid our entire life at His feet, Satan is then able to convince our flesh to disobey God's commands and get us off track.

I find the same thing to be true when working with our horses. I will use an example of loping circles. Circles and spins are a good tool to test the level of communication between the horse and a person. **The rate at which a horse is able to progress is determined by the horse's ability to stay on a set line and speed; whether it is straight or curved, walking or running.** The measure of how well trained a horse is, is determined by the rider's ability to control the horse. It is not too difficult to get a horse to travel in a straight line, but to get a green colt to lope a circle on a loose rein or turn around on a loose rein, the horse has to be listening to the rider and have submitted their will. The same is true with us. It is easy to obey God when our life is on the straight and narrow, but when things start getting complicated and we start getting pulled different directions it gets harder to follow God.

A horse is the same as us. They are going to bounce back and fourth between listening to us (feel/Spirit) and paying attention to everything else that is around them (distractions/flesh). When a horse is more concerned about the distractions around them than listening to the commands of the rider, it does not do any good to try to force the horse to obey the commands. This will only make the horse resentful against the commands and ultimately the rider. Often braces and strongholds will be formed that are very hard to get rid of in the future.

Most of the time I start working on circles around 5 to 10 rides on a horse. Often I will work with a horse on loping circles, and at the end of the ride we will be in agreement and loping very good circles. However, if I try to get on them the next day and pick up where we left off, I usually run into some resentment. In the past I used to force the horse to obey my commands and lope the circle, but it seemed like our ride was based more on disagreements and arguments than on perfect unity and total agreement. At the end of the ride the horse would be loping the circle, but it felt like I had to force him to stay in the circle instead of him wanting to lope the circle.

Or, the horse had lost some of the softness that I had at the end of the ride the day before. The problem with this scenario is that I was trying to force the horse to obey my commands, without him being fully submitted to my will. This, in turn, made the horse resentful to me, and the unity that I had earlier started to fade, and he started to obey me through unwilling submission (religion).

To correct this problem, a person needs to realize that although the horse had submitted his will the day before, it was a new day and each day we must gain willing submission before we can teach them. Four things are needed in order for a horse to obey our commands: willing submission, good communication, a solid foundation of maneuvers, and a balanced life to direction ratio. If a horse is lacking in willing submission and communication, we can strengthen these by working on the foundation of maneuvers and balancing the life to direction ratio. The most important maneuvers in young horses are the hindquarters (life) and suppleness through the loin and poll (direction). It is the hindquarters that drive the horse's self-preservation to run, buck, rear, and even flip or elevate their head. By submitting the hindquarters (Stage 1) the horses will no longer be driven by self-preservation and all the problems I have just mentioned will leave.

The horse is no different from us. Although one day we might have been in perfect unity, a young horse is still filled with all kinds of worries, cares, and interests (flesh) that keep them from obeying our commands. To fix this problem, a person must build the foundation of direction and life. If they are concerned about their buddies, want to run, buck, and play instead of listening to us, or are scared of silly little things, then build the foundation. Tip their nose and disengage their hindquarters. At first the horse will more than likely not be very soft because they are concerned about the environment, but the more time you spend working with the horse through feel, timing, and balance, they will receive revelation that it is easier to listen to you than to worry about the cares of the world. Once the horse has begun to listen to you (willing submission) then you can try to lope circles or use other things to build their foundation. The most important things are direction and life, and they must have a balanced ratio.

I have found the same thing to be true in my life. If I start the day without first willingly submitting to God and attaining perfect unity, I often end up doing 1 of 2 things. I make it through the day and obey God's commands (loping the circle), however it was a constant battle with my flesh, and I am tired, stressed, and worn out. Or, I try to obey God's commands, but my flesh takes over and I have a "runaway" from God's will. The same thing happens to our horse when we try to force our commands on them. They end up submitting unwillingly or they rebel against our commands all together.

However, there is a better way: perfect unity, or perfection. This is attained by direction and life. If we feel like that colt that is full of the flesh, worrying about everything, concerned with our own affairs, and our interest seems to be everywhere except obeying God's commands, then we need to build the foundation: direction/Scripture, life/Holy Spirit. Read Scripture and let the Holy Spirit start to soften you to God's will, giving you a new perspective on life, in that you are not in control and everything is in God's hands. He cares for you, wants the absolute best for you, and wants to communicate with you. Then as we willingly start to submit to His will, we start to receive revelation and God is able to communicate with us, taking us further into maturity. Then we face the day in perfect unity, and God is able to direct us and teach us as the day progresses.

### **Resistance "Killing the Flesh"**

In order for the Spirit of Christ to grow inside us and become changed into Christ's image, we must kill off our old self, **"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6)**. Our flesh and our Spirit are at war with one another, and it is impossible to please the Lord if we are living in the flesh. Our flesh is made up of selfish desires and worldly concerns and affairs, keeping us in sin and out of God's will.

However, the Spirit living inside us wants nothing more than to please God and stay in His will. The Spirit cries out "Abba, Father," wanting to know God and be close to Him, **"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father' "** (Galatians 4:6). We need to kill off the flesh and learn to live in the Spirit. The flesh is what causes resistance in our life, keeping us out of God's will and it is the flesh (worries, doubt, distrust, fears) in the horse that keeps them from staying in our will.

It is only by killing the flesh (resistance) that we have any hope of gaining perfection in our life, or with our horse. Often we may think we are living our life in the will of God, but tribulation will test where our heart truly is deep down inside. God will not give us more than we can handle, **"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13)**, but He wants to take us into perfection. He will let tribulation fall upon us so He can kill off more of our flesh and we can grow closer to Him.

The same is true with our horse. If all we did was walk around the round pen and go for little rides, never asking more out of our horse, instead of bringing the tempo up and letting them run

into a little tribulation, we would never fully get to the center of what was holding our horse back from becoming truly one with us. We would never have the opportunity to achieve a deeper level of communication and take them further to maturity. I can take a green colt and in a few rides have them loping in a straight line and good to ride down the road. However, this will not bring perfection between us. We need to give our horse a job like opening a gate, loping circles, or working cows. It is in these higher stress situations that our horse runs into a little tribulation and we kill off the flesh, bringing them closer to perfection.

The round pen offers security and comfort, and usually does not have a lot of foreign objects that may cause fear and doubt in your horse. We can get them soft and comfortable in the round pen, but if we stay in there too long, they will get numb and dull. We need to get them out in the real world and have them run into a little tribulation. They may get tight, confused, and scared, but if we do not force them into a panic and are there to offer them support and comfort, they will come back to us, and our relationship will grow to new heights.

The church is like our round pen. It gives us comfort and security, and teaches us foundational truths that we can build on. It also keeps us under control and from getting into a wreck if things get a little wild. It is needed to gain the first level of submission and to begin the second level of submission. However, once we have gained the first level and started the second level (direction and life on their back), if we stay in the round pen too long, and don't apply the truths we learned from the round pen to the real world, we will get numb and dull (like the Pharisees). If we never give life to our direction and apply it to jobs, our softness, and our good level of communication will start to degenerate.

If we never get out of the comfort and security of the pen and learn to build on the foundation through jobs, often running into tribulation and killing off the flesh, learning to stay in the Spirit, we will never reach maturity. The round pen is a starting place for perfection, but the only way to reach any level of perfection is to open the gate and get outside. It is by getting in the real world that we start to build foundational truths between the rider and horse, and between God and man. It is by getting in the real world that we learn to operate through willing submission, strengthen our communication, gain foundational truths through building on our foundation of maneuvers, and learn to balance the life to direction ratio.