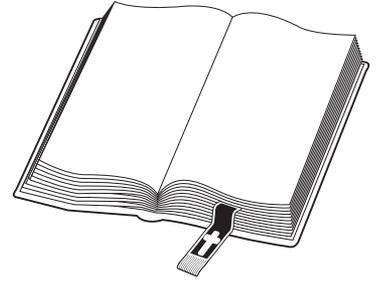


A Teachable Heart

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.” Psalm 119:33-34



Number 17 in the series “The Joy of Obeying God’s Word”

As a new believer in 1976, this scripture was the cry of my heart. I often prayed asking the Lord to give me a teachable heart—a heart that would be obedient to Him. I did not want to be a half-hearted Christian. I did not want to be half-hearted in my love and obedience to the Lord. I was overwhelmed by His love, mercy, forgiveness, and AMAZING GRACE towards a sinner like me, and I wanted my life to glorify Him.

I do not have the words to adequately express to you how much I love the Lord and the Bible. From the very beginning of my Christian life, I had a desire to know Jesus in a deep, intimate relationship. I did not know what it meant to be a Christian, but I knew in my heart that if I would read and obey the Bible, I would come to know Jesus and why He created me.

I can still remember so many years ago praying and telling the Lord that my life was a disaster, that I was tired of trying to change myself and my marriage, and that I desperately needed His help. Beloved, I learned the hard way that trying to run my life my way brought nothing but pain and sorrow to God, others, and myself. I was just like a lot of you. I was a master at covering up the truth in public and a master at looking good on the outside. I put a lot of time and effort into looking good and saying and doing “the right thing.” In my life there were two main reasons for this: (1) I grew up in an alcoholic, violent, abusive home where I was constantly told not to tell neighbors, police, or school teachers what was being done to me, and (2) I did

not want anyone to know the sin that I was involved in.

It was very important to me to be liked and to be accepted by people. I tried to change my life. I read books, went to movies, watched television, and listened to people, and I found that not only did the world’s way not work, but also following it made my life worse. Proverbs 14:12 reads, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* Everything I have ever done my way—the world’s way—has ended in disaster, no matter how right it seemed at the time.

Beloved, the world’s ways lead to death. A deep intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, daily praying, reading the Bible, and having a teachable heart and an obedient spirit—this is what leads to life. My love for Jesus, a desire to live a life that glorifies Him, and wholehearted obedience to His Word has brought forgiveness, cleansing, healing, peace, and joy into my life. It has restored my marriage, and it has given me an international ministry. Jesus Christ loved us so much that He died for us. He never promised us a pain-free life; He promised to help us through every situation if we will surrender to His will. Can I repeat that? If we surrender to His will. He alone has transformed my life, and He alone can do the same for you.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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