**Titus Women’s Discipleship Summit**

**30 Days of Devotions**

***“Abide in Me and I in You ... the Key John 15:4*.”**

Day 7

*“Later on, in the third year of the drought, the Lord said to Elijah, ‘Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!’****2****So Elijah went to appear before Ahab. Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria.”* 1 Kings 18:1-2 (NLT)

Elijah was going back after three years of declaring there would be no rain. The severe famine would have caused illness, death, and heartache in the land. Yet God sent Elijah back to once again stand before King Ahab. Elijah was God’s messenger, His voice, God said, “*Tell him that I will soon send rain!”*

What enabled Elijah to go back? What enabled Elijah to be obedient? I believe it’s not what enabled him, but who. The living God!

Obedience was expected in Genesis, from Adam and Eve, to the Israelites, and carried into the New Testament with Jesus himself.

**God was not unclear about what He expected from His people.** From the Garden of Eden, God said to Adam and Eve, “‘*You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.’”*  Genesis 2:16-17

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 says,*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.****13****And you must always obey the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.*

**God sent the Holy Spirit. “***‘If you love me, obey my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.’”* John 14:15-17

The Holy Spirit makes living a life of obedience and surrender possible. We cannot be obedient to God in our humanness, it is only because the Holy Spirit lives within us as believers.

**What Jesus said about obedience. “***If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”* John 15:10 (NASB)

Jesus says, *“‘Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.’”*

*J*ohn 14:21

I wonder if Elijah was frightened to go back and present himself to King Ahab? Maybe so, but for Elijah being disobedient was not an option for him. He lived completely surrendered to God.

Has God ever told you to go back? God made it very clear to me several years ago that I had to go back and revisit a family problem that had been difficult and painful for me. I just couldn’t believe that God would tell me to do that. After several months and much prayer, I followed the directions God gave me. A short time later I received the biggest blessing, it was more than I had hoped for. Had I not been obedient, I would have missed what God had for me, and that blessing continues still today. Plus, my relationship with God would be fractured because of my disobedience.

Jesus said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5* (NKJV)

“Each act of obedience leads you into deeper union with the will and love of the Savior.” Andrew Murray

Prayer: Today I would like to finish with this hymn making it our prayer.

 **Have Thine Own Way, Lord!**

1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

2 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

United Methodist Hymnal, 1989

**The Story Behind Have Thine Own Way, Lord** In 1902, Adelaide A. Pollard was wishing to go to Africa as a missionary but found herself incapable to raise the needed money to fund the journey. Very disheartened, she visited a prayer ceremony and heard a woman say "It really doesn't matter what you do with us, Lord, just have your own way with our lives." These words encouraged Pollard and she pondered the story of the potter from Jeremiah 18:3. After returning home that evening, she wrote all four stanzas to what would become "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." Five years later George Stebbins composed a melody named "Adelaide" to accompany the text. <https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/have-thine-own-way-lord/> All scripture is taken from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless indicated.