**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

**JANUARY 2021**

**GO DEEPER IN ME AND COME UP HIGHER TO ME (PART IV)**

Greeting in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Dr. Morrison and I want to wish you and your family a Happy and Blessed New Year. This past year of 2020 has been like none other, but how many of you know that God is still good and still on the throne. I also want you to know that our hearts go out to all those that have had tragedy and loss in the past year due to COVID, job loss, civil unrest and much more. There is hope in a hopeless world and that Hope is Jesus Christ the Savior of the whole world.

This January of 2021, we want to continue our teaching we started in October 2020 and this is Part IV of the teaching entitled “**Go Deeper in Me and Come Up Higher To Me**”. This month, we will begin by looking at the importance of **Obedience** to God. But before we do that, let’s briefly recap the last (3) parts of our teaching series.

In Part I and II, we looked at the need to be **submitted** to God. Seeking and Pursuing Him with our whole heart. In Part III, we looked at scripture relating to the importance of **God’s Word** in our lives as we **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher**.

Now, in Part IV, I want us to understand the importance of **Obedience** as we **Go Deeper In Him and Come Up Higher to Him**. From the beginning of time, God has asked and required our **Obedience**. We can see this from the creation story of Adam and Eve (**Genesis 2:15-17, KJV**).

We will be looking at **I Samuel 15:22** to get started. However, before we read this scripture let’s look at this entire chapter in context. The chapter starts out letting us know that Samuel was sent to anoint Saul over Israel and gave him the Word of the Lord (Specific Instructions). The instruction was for Saul and his army to go to war against Amalek. He was instructed to destroy Amalek and everything that was connected to him (no exception), everything should be destroyed. However, Saul didn’t obey the command of the Lord but saved Agag and the choices sheep and cattle (not what God told him to do).

When Samuel confronted him about this, he lied to cover up his **disobedience**. You see, Saul thought sacrificing the best sacrifices to God and being in the lime light was better than **Obedience**, but not so. Now let’s read this verse in **I Samuel 15:22**: **(Amplified)** *Samuel said,“Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obedience to the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams.*

The end of this chapter, **I Samuel 15** goes on to say that Saul evidentially confessed and repented but it was too late. God had rejected him and gave the Kingdom to another. **Disobedience** will cost you everything. It will take you farther that you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay. There is serious consequences to **disobedience**. However, **Obedience** is always better than any sacrifice (offering) and the offering of **Obedience** is what pleases God.

As we hear God calling us to **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher**, we can’t do this without an act of **Obedience**. Notice I said “Act of Obedience”. Obeying God is something you and I must will (make a decision to do) and when we do this the Holy Spirit will help us to walk out that **Obedience**.

We can see from the Word of God, that there are blessings from being **Obedient** and curses as a result of our **disobedience** as **Deuteronomy 28** states it. Now as New Testaments believers, we know that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law, but there are still dire consequences to our **disobedience**.

Before we close this powerful teaching, we will look at several more scriptures in the New Covenant as it relates to our **Obedience** in answering the call of God to **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher to Him.**

Let’s look at **Romans 6:16** but before we read verse 16 let’s also look at this chapter in context. Paul was writing to the church in Rome and encouraging them nor to sin now that they’ve received the Grace of God. Paul was admonishing the church that as born again believers, we have to put off the old man (nature) and allow Holy Spirit to help us to live in the newness of our new life in Christ.

Now, let’s read **verse 16 of Romans chapter 6 (KJV)**: *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* In our pursuit of **Going Deeper and Coming Up Higher** in God, we have to yield to Holy Spirit. This scripture says to whom we yield to is who we will **Obey**. Let’s endeavor to yield to the Holy Spirit so we won’t **disobey** the Lord.

Our last scripture will be **Hebrews 11:8 (TPT)**. The **11th chapter of Hebrews** is often called the **Hall of Faith**. This chapter mentions so many men and women of God that walked in Faith and **Obedience** to God. **Faith** and **Obedience** goes hand in hand. God spoke to Abraham and declared that he would be the Father of many nations (**Genesis 17**). Because of Abraham’s Faith and **Obedience**, he inherited the promise; *Faith motivated Abraham to obey God’s call and leave the familiar to discover the territory he was destined to inherit from God. So he left with only a promise and without even knowing ahead of time where he was going, Abraham stepped out in faith.*

So, as you and I answer the great call of God to **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher**, let’s follow Abraham’s example of **obedience** and **faith** in the promises of God so that we can receive our inheritance.

This will conclude our 4 part teaching. I trust that this series has been a great source of hope and encouragement to you as you start this new year of **2021**. May we keep our eyes looking towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus and looking unto the hills from which comes all of our help (**Philippians 3:14 and Psalm 121:1-2**).

Dr. Morrison and I want to once again wish you a **Blessed, Safe and Prosperous New Year** and remember that God has **Blessed you to Be a Blessing!**