

WEEK NINE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 7, "Obey The Leader," *Growing Up*

In what I believe is the highpoint of Chapter 7, Robby quotes Dave Browning, in *Deliberate Simplicity*, "We are convinced that the gap holding back most believers is not the gap between what they know and what they don't know. It's the gap between **what they know and what they're living**. Many Christians are... educated beyond their obedience." (Page 105).

I believe we struggle with two difficult issues regarding obedience:

- While there are some common struggles we all face, our issues are also deeply **individual**. Our past, our present, our jobs, our marriages, our failures, our regrets, our strongholds, while "common to man," (1 Cor. 10:13) are unique to each person.
- Also, for many who have been saved for a lengthy period of time, we **know we should be walking in greater obedience**. Gluttony, lust, envy, coveting, fear, procrastination, not tithing, not managing our money, body, or time well—all these are areas that many believers know they should have overcome by now. Not walking in obedience leads to **guilt and shame** and covering of our sin.

So how do we begin walking in obedience in those areas where we have not? Is it another lesson or another sermon? Will Robby's chapter finally get us over the hump? While I don't have the final word on those questions, I do know where we can begin.

The question (just one this week) below is provided to aid you and your D group to grasp the importance of the disciplines of silence and solitude:

Let's start by leading our folks to share an area where they know they are not walking in obedience to God. It may not be **(and it probably won't be)** one of those "big, intimate, intimidating giants" of their life that they confess they want to overcome—**accountability and trust take time!** However, as they confess that area of disobedience, as we pray for one another for strength and grace, I believe God will carry out His biblical design. "He is opposed to the proud, but gives grace *(the desire and ability to do the will of God)* to the humble" (James 4:6). As the people in your group experience God's grace and power in a specific area of disobedience, Robby's triangle of "Knowing, Loving, and Obeying" (p. 107) will become not just words on a page, but a reality in their life.

For this to be a meaningful time--for them to begin to open up and share a real struggle, you are going to set the standard. Share an area where obedience has not become a settled issue in your life. The Holy Spirit will give you wisdom.

Our verse next week is Psalm 119:11.