

Hey guys, how'sand today let's talk about cooperation

How do you serve someone who doesn't want it? Like your husband maybe is exasperated with you trying to submit to him. You are changing up the norm and it's a bit annoying. He's tired and uncooperative about leading you. Maybe he thinks he'll lead some stuff and leave most everything else up to you but you are trying to practice complete submission to everything. He may even try to say "i'm giving you permission to do the leading" but you know that is not permissible by the Lord God. I'm to be his help meet but he doesn't want the help.

It almost feels like he's thwarting your practice of obedience on purpose. I have examined my motives, I am not doing it so my life would go well, I'm not serving to make sure I keep the peace, I am serving and helping and submitting and obeying because my Lord created me for this purpose.

One day, I was talking to my husband. I guess let me start off by setting the scene. it was early morning, his coffee was in front of him, he slept 45 minutes past his alarm, I reminded him quietly, I promise, 2 times that it was after a certain time, I casually mentioned that he promised to look in the shed for my waffle iron to which he replied "you just want to work me to death". I was a bit taken aback, since I asked him to do it yesterday, it's my job to cook food for our family and not having access to my tool is hindering me. he didn't get it yesterday and I asked if he could check before he left for work this morning and he's been late for work for many days because he doesn't wake up and I wanted to make sure he had time to check real quick and it really was real quick, the shed is mostly empty but he found a snake in there a few weeks back so I was not going in there alone. Anyway, I just turned and walked away. He got up, immediately went outside to check for the waffle iron, which was a surprise to me. See, I know he likes to wake up gradually, sit in his chair and drink his coffee while I chat a bit to help get his brain moving. It's our way, we always do it just like this. I had zero expectation for him to immediately go searching without even getting dressed or having his coffee. I distinctly remember not insisting it was very important to have the waffle iron immediately.

So when he came back in side I took a risk, wanting to attempt something I experienced with our daughter who wanted a bit of direction on how to be honorable to her parents as the Lord commanded her and I wanted to help

her be what the Lord has called her to be so we spent a few minutes talking (I have a video all about this coming in the future). I'm always seeking to be helpful and I see that her heart is growing in the same desire.

Anyway, I said, honey, you've been really stressed lately and I was wondering if there was anything I could do to make your life flow better or help you with. You already know what his response was. Complaints about me. How I was getting on his nerves, how I expect him to work himself to death, how I this and I that. I opened my mouth to say that he was misunderstanding me but the second my lips parted, he said See, this. I can't even express myself without you blah blah blah. I tried again to say that I asked how I could help and if he'd like me to not ask him to do a job for our family first thing, I can do that, it's not a problem and that yesterday all I said was "good morning boogie" (okay I did say it differently, I say good morning boogie...i'm sorry,i'm sorry, i'm sorry I know that can be annoying to hear first thing so I did apologize) to which you said "shut up", which was mean, so this is why I would like to help make your life a little better to which he replied, "no what can I do to help you. You need help; how can I help you?" It's sarcasm, in case you didn't pick up on that but I did. You see, I think my husband, in his anger and frustration, lays little traps for me to fall into, maybe it's the influence of the evil one as we all are susceptible to this, but I immediately recognized it for what it was...a subtle invitation for us to reverse our roles in our marriage where I make demands and he jumps through hoops to help me and make me happy. So I calmly said "I'm YOUR helper,I'm here to help you, I have no needs" and I walked off. We didn't talk anymore and he left for work.

Why am I airing all of this, you ask? I took you through the whole thing to make a point.

My question is this: do the circumstances matter? The road that led to the conflict? Is it important? At what point should the details become irrelevant, especially if your motives are wrongly misjudged and misunderstood? I am what I am by the grace of God and woe is me if I don't do as He has commanded me. So will I let people stop me from doing as I am instructed? Are all bets off because they make it hard for me or forget that I have a mandate on my life?

Apostle Paul spent much time defending his apostleship to people he had already proven himself to. In 2 Corinthians he asked if they needed to commend themselves again. Such *is the* confidence we have toward God through Christ. **5** Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as *having come* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, **6** who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Of course the apostleship is infinitely more valuable than earthly marriage and its roles, but the same sentiment applies, loosely of course.

What I mean is Do I need to constantly commend my help meet responsibilities to my husband? Does he need epistles of commendation delivered to him of the requirements of the Lord? I am a wife, his wife, his rib and I too have been made adequate for the task of being a submissive, obedient help meet, not an adequacy of myself (especially since I seem to do poorly at it) but from God who has made me adequate not to the letter but of the Spirit who will give life to my mortal body, who made me able to set my mind on things above, the Spirit himself testifies with my spirit that I am a child of God and like Christ, I must work the work of Him who sent me. I was made to serve, called to serve, I like serving and yet, I feel hindered from doing what I am supposed to be doing.

At some point, it no longer matters the problems of marriage that I will experience, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be* compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. This overarching truth reaches past the earthly task of being a helpmeet, it is an eternal reality, that all who love Him keep His commandments and that goes on as we live here, not as ourselves but Christ who lives in us.

I am not in a ministry out in the world, I'm just a wife and mother and this is my mission field. My sufferings may come from within my own house, from the people I love the most and yet, it is the very thing the Lord will use to conform me to Christ, which is what this whole life is about, right? If it's

only about marriage, good marriage, happy marriage, that is such a vain thing to waste life on, in my opinion and the Lord is not in the business of being casual about sanctification. So there are heavenly eternal realities built into every single altercation, every single affliction, every tear and it's important we see that, to count it all joy when we experience trials.

So I repeat: how do you serve someone who doesn't want it? Who isn't interested in cooperating with the spirit, not necessarily how I think they ought to, I don't know, just regular cooperation, like not preventing me from doing as I ought to do. I think if someone doesn't know, or doesn't care that they are hindering you from serving the Lord we are to take a lesson from Galatians 6 which says Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

A husband's failings, his faults are no means an opportunity for wives to cast them aside and our service to the Lord aside, but WE who are spiritual, are to see they are overtaken in a fault and restore them in a spirit of meekness considering ourselves lest we be tempted. It goes on to say : But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. Meaning, you keep doing your work, despite the pushback, despite the hardships, despite the afflictions and tears and you prove your own work, the work of obedience, the work of subjection and submission, the work of being a help to your Nabal, and you can rejoice in yourself alone. That despite the problems, you were continually striving to walk worthy of the one who called you. And let us not be weary in doing well: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

So as long as we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men including our husbands, and conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

What about you? Do you turn to the Lord for help to keep pressing on, refusing to throw in the towel, determined to try again next time? Or do you shrink back from the call, nursing your wounds and wallowing in self-pity like I was fond of doing? Let me know down below in the comments section.

That's it for today guys....