



MINISTRIES

Many of you know the primary cheer from our house during football season:

"RollTide!" This started for me as I was playing

football at a young age and became a Bear Bryant fan. Alabama football naturally became my choice for teams, and I have followed the program since my high school days. Over the past several years, the phrase "trust the process," is often used to explain the Crimson Tide's success. This process has brought championships and awards to Alabama football over and over. Before I lose some of you, this is not all about Alabama football.

The process maps out a pathway to success. Many of us have experienced a process in our journey at some point. Businesses seek to have a healthy process that helps them progress toward profits. Relationships experience a process as they develop authenticity and meaning. Each of us are on a journey that is drawn to a process. The value of a good process is not always found in the daily practices but in the results that come later in the journey. So, how does this relate to our faith, you ask? The Bible shares with us elements of the process that our Father has laid out for us. As we read the Bible, we see glimpses of Heaven. A little word here and there to describe what the eternal home of God's children looks like. Yet, not enough information is found to clearly allow us to draw it out or paint a picture in detail.

However, all through the Scriptures we see examples and read descriptions of a daily journey of faith that leads to relationship with God. The Old Testament tracks the history of men and women on a path to understand the Father and obey His instructions. The New Testament shows us the answers to questions of how to walk this journey in faith and obedience. The Bible is full of steps toward the process of a successful relationship with the Lord.

So, how is the process going for you? Each of us is invited to join the team and get involved in the process of the faith journey that leads us to salvation, redemption, justification, and sanctification! Are you

walking in obedience in the process? Are you following the process by faith? Is it time for a check up by the Holy Spirit? Where are you in the process?

Daily, the Holy Spirit reminds us about the steps involved in walking the process. We see His hand at work around us to guide and instruct us in His ways. We all experience God daily and are given the opportunity to respond in faith to His sovereignty. The real question is whether I am listening for His voice, paying attention to His Spirit, and following His footsteps. The process of walking a faith journey is not easy or uneventful. Oftentimes our daily walk can be very tough and full of ups and downs. All of us face good days and rough days as we journey through life. The real issue is whether I remain committed to the plan. His process guarantees a successful end result no matter how rough the road is or how well I walk the journey. He is with me every step of the way. My entire journey is within the scope of His power, and if I trust Him, He will carry me all the way home!

As you and I make our way today, let us commit with fresh faith to follow His process. Let us pick up the Bible and read, take some time to pray, and listen to Him with all of our heart. Let's commit to the process and follow Him with all we have as He leads us to reach our world and teach His Word!



The Turner kids are taking turns visiting Madison in Washington, DC. Elly took her turn flying solo in January and did a fabulous job. Of course, she wanted to spend the majority of her time at the Library of Congress as she loves books immensely. We are thankful for the time the kids are getting together!





As a teacher, I often have to speak with my young students about following rules and making good choices. Truth be told, many of us need to have a talk with our Teacher about our selfish side. We don't want to follow the rules, and we want to do things our own way. We may even feel that our way is best.

God teaches us differently. He says we are to follow His commands for our own benefit and for His glory. The book of Deuteronomy is full of the Lord's commands to follow Him and do as He says. Obedience is not measured in percentage points. God doesn't say, "Well done good and faithful servant, you gave 90%!" On the contrary, He says that partial obedience is the same as disobedience. We are either all in or we are not.

Obedience does not talk back to God; it doesn't pick and choose; it doesn't make excuses. It says, "Yes, Lord. I will do what you have asked me to do." To be obedient, we must learn to LISTEN, SUBMIT and RESPOND. Just like when I talk to my students, I expect them to listen to what I have to say, to change whatever behavior needs adjusting, and respond differently based on what I have asked them to do. God wants the very same for us. We must listen to hear what He wants us to do, completely submit to Him, and respond immediately.



Have you ever heard Him speaking to you and asking you to do something but didn't respond immediately? We must remember that responding **when we want to** is not complete submission. This is saying that we know best. Our hearts must comply and respond both inwardly and outwardly at the same time. This shows that we love God, that we are glad to serve Him, and that He is our priority.

Get still today and ask yourself these questions...

- Am I willing to serve God?
- What stands in the way of me serving Him wholeheartedly?
- Am I showing Him that HE is my priority or that He comes

behind other things in my life?

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

Much love,

Karen

