

Faith-Submission to the Father's Will

"When the creature submits to the will of the Creator, he does not submerge or surrender his personality" (TUB 117:5.2). It is the full "willingness" of his personality which achieves this faith-submission. Only in faith-submission can we mortals survive and eventually find God:

[WILLINGNESS] "Throughout the universe, every unit is regarded as a part of the whole. Survival of the part is dependent on co-operation with the plan and purpose of the whole, the wholehearted desire and perfect willingness to do the Father's divine will." (TUB 3:5.15)

[SUBMIT] "Though you cannot find God by searching, if you will submit to the leading of the indwelling spirit, you will be unerringly guided, step by step, life by life, through universe upon universe, and age by age, until you finally stand in the presence of the Paradise personality of the Universal Father." (TUB 2:5.5)

Notice that, foundationally, one's submission logically is a cooperative subordination to "the whole" (i.e., the Paradise Trinity); just as the Father's will is in cooperative subordination to the whole; and, the leading of the indwelling spirit (i.e., the Thought Adjuster) is in cooperative subordination to the whole. [Consider TUB 120:0.3, also.]

Ever, the willingness to submit is a universal imperative: "The Spirit never 'drives', only leads. If you are a willing learner, if you want to attain spirit levels and reach divine heights, if you sincerely desire to reach the eternal goal, then the divine Spirit will gently and lovingly lead you along the pathway of sonship and spiritual progress. Every step you take must be one of willingness, intelligent and cheerful co-operation. The domination of the Spirit is never tainted with coercion nor compromised by compulsion." (TUB 34:6.11)

Over and over, the revelators emphasize "willingness", "co-operation", and "submission" as the prerequisites for all mortal survival:

[WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE] "As to the chances of mortal survival, let it be made forever clear: All souls of every possible phase of mortal existence will survive provided they manifest willingness to co-operate with their indwelling Adjusters and exhibit a desire to find God and to attain divine perfection, even though these desires be but the first faint flickers of the primitive comprehension of that 'true light which lights every man who comes into the world'." (TUB paragraph 40:5.16)

[FREELY SUBMITS] "Mind universally dominates matter, even as it is in turn responsive to the ultimate overcontrol of spirit. And with mortal man, only that mind which freely submits itself to the spirit direction can hope to survive the mortal time-space existence as an immortal child of the eternal spirit world of the Supreme, the Ultimate, and the Absolute: the Infinite." (TUB 42:12.8 [paragraph, not item])

[CO-OPERATE, CEASING TO RESIST, WILLINGNESS] "The success of your Adjuster in the enterprise of piloting you through the mortal life and bringing about your survival depends not so much on the theories of your beliefs as upon your decisions, determinations, and steadfast 'faith'. All these movements of personality growth become powerful influences aiding in your advancement because they help you to co-operate with the Adjuster; they assist you in ceasing to resist. Thought Adjusters succeed or apparently fail in their terrestrial undertakings just in so far as mortals succeed or fail to co-operate with the scheme whereby they are to be advanced along the ascending path of perfection attainment. The secret of survival is wrapped up in the supreme human desire to be Godlike and in the associated willingness to do and be any and all things which are essential to the final attainment of that overmastering desire." (TUB 110:3.2 [and see section 110:3, in general])

Notice the emphasis on "faith", not mere belief--namely, per TUB 93:6.4, believing God's promises "and" following his instructions. The terms of salvation are not your terms; they are not my terms; they are God's terms--the Father's way, the only way. The "willingness to do and be any and all things which are essential" is a willingness that cannot be seduced by the pleasures of our ease-seeking, animal-origin desires, and can stand unmoved against the wicked wills on our sin-darkened world.

Recall the following portion of the recorded plea of a Thought Adjuster to its human associate: "that he more faithfully give me his sincere co-operation, more cheerfully endure the tasks of my emplacement, more faithfully carry out the program of my arrangement, more patiently go through the trials of my selection, more persistently and cheerfully tread the path of my choosing, more humbly receive credit that may accrue as a result of my ceaseless endeavors" (TUB 110:7.10).

Apart from survival--consider merely the doing of God's will, relative to your "willingness" to cooperate and submit: "The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God--with the very God who has made such a creature life of inner meaning-value possible." (TUB 111:5.1)

Consider that Nicodemus was not at first born again, because he did not know how to "submit": "Nicodemus was thoroughly sincere. He was deeply impressed but went away bewildered. Nicodemus was accomplished in self-development, in self-restraint, and even in high moral qualities. He was refined, egoistic, and altruistic; but he did not know how to 'submit' his will to the will of the divine Father as a little child is willing to submit to the guidance and leading of a wise and loving earthly father, thereby becoming in reality a son of God, a progressive heir of the eternal kingdom." (TUB 142:6.8 [also see 142:6.7])

The Father is absolutely subject to your sovereignty over your inner life. Your capacity for receiving his spiritual gifts is wholly determined by your true faith, your willingness to cooperate, and your willingness to submit: "The Father's human children have equal capacity for the reception of material blessings; therefore does he bestow things physical upon the children of men without discrimination. When it comes to the bestowal of spiritual gifts, the Father is limited by man's capacity for receiving these divine endowments. Although the Father is no respecter of persons, in the bestowal of spiritual gifts he is limited by man's faith and by his willingness always to abide by the Father's will." (TUB 166:4.11) Of faith and submission, remember:

"Jesus taught that, by faith, the believer enters the kingdom 'now'. In the various discourses he taught that two things are essential to faith-entrance into the kingdom: 1. 'Faith, sincerity'--to come as a little child, to receive the bestowal of sonship as a gift; to submit to the doing of the Father's will without questioning and in the full confidence and genuine trustfulness of the Father's wisdom; to come into the kingdom free from prejudice and preconception; to be open-minded and teachable like an unspoiled child 2. 'Truth hunger'--the thirst for righteousness, a change of mind, the acquirement of the motive to be like God and to find God." (TUB 170:2.16 [paragraph, not item])

Jesus said: "Remember, we should all submit ourselves to the will of the Father in heaven." (TUB 182:2.2) And so, "remember": "Man's great universe adventure consists in the transit of his mortal mind from the stability of mechanical statics to the divinity of spiritual dynamics, and he achieves this transformation by the force and constancy of his own personality decisions, in each of life's situations declaring, 'It is my will that your will be done.'" (TUB 118:8.11)

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)