

PRAYER STUDY 31

“Authority”

From Bill Gothard Materials

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17

3 BASIC PURPOSES OF AUTHORITY

1. To Grow in Wisdom and Character

The only recorded incident in the life of Christ between the ages of two and thirty was a discussion with His parents which involved authority. This occurred when He was twelve. Should He follow His spiritual calling and be about His Father's business(Luke 2:49), or should He become subject to His parents and leave His ministry at the temple? He did the latter, and the following verse reports, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” Luke 2:52

2. To Gain Protection from Destructive Temptations

The essence of submission is not “getting under the domination of authority but rather getting under the protection of authority.” Authority is like an “umbrella of protection”, and when we get out from under it, we expose ourselves to unnecessary temptations which are too strong for us to overcome. This is why Scripture compares rebellion and witchcraft-“Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft.” (1st Samuel 15:23). Both terms have the same basic definition-subjecting ourselves to the realm and power of Satan.

3. To Receive Clear Direction for Life Decisions

Correct decisions are based on faith; that is, visualizing what God intends to do. “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23) One of the most basic aspects of faith is to realize how God gets His directions to us through those He has placed over us.

After the centurion asked Jesus to come and heal his servant, it occurred to him that just as his life was structured around a “chain of command,” so the kingdom in which God operates must have a similar structure of authority. When Jesus realized that he understand this, Jesus “marveled and said to them that followed, “Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10) Our faith multiplies as we see how God speaks to us through those He has placed over us.

4 BASIC STRUCTURES OF AUTHORITY

<i>FAMILY</i>	<i>GOVERNMENT</i>	<i>CHURCH</i>	<i>BUSINESS</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"> FATHER ↓ MOTHER ↓ CHILDREN </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> NATIONAL LEADERS ↓ LOCAL OFFICIALS ↓ CITIZENS </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> CHURCH LEADERS ↓ CHURCH MEMBERS </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> EMPLOYER ↓ EMPLOYEES </p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Colossians 3:20 • "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: (as those whom the Lord has set over you) for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3 • "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck." Proverbs 6:20,21 • "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." Proverbs 30:17 • "A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent." Proverbs 15:5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be the king, as supreme, or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." I Peter 2:13,14 • "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Romans 13:1 • "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil...for he is the minister of God to thee for good." Romans 13:3,4 • "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake." Romans 13:5 • "For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues..." Romans 13:6,7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: and to esteem them very highly in love for their works sake." I Thessalonians 5:12,13 • "Obey them that have rule (guide) over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as them that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17 • "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially them who labor in the word and doctrine... and, the laborer is worthy of his reward." I Timothy 5:17,18 • "The elders which are among you I exhort...Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." I Peter 5:1-3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God." Colossians 3:22 • "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23,24 • "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward." I Peter 2:18 • "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed." I Timothy 6:1 • "And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them...but rather do them service." I Timothy 6:2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>"These things teach and exhort. If any man teach otherwise...he is proud, knowing nothing." I Timothy 6:2-4</p> </div>