



Module : Understanding, Accessing & Growing in GRACE

Session 20 : Submission Accesses Grace - Part 1

Focus : The Power of Submission to Facilitate Receipt of Grace for Effective and Efficient Functionality.

Submission today is not properly understood. Some react with rebellion and/or anger at the very thought of the idea of submission or the mention of the word, because they have been hurt in a relationship where the one to whom they were required to be submitted to abused or exploited them. This could be a spiritual or non-spiritual relationship. In shrinking back from and thus not embracing the principle of submission, many have robbed themselves of the God-intended blessing and grace transfer associated with submission. Many do not fully understand it and thus cannot completely enact it. The present study deals with submission as an expression of humility, and hence is a continuation of the principle of humility accessing a greater grace. We now focus on the power of submission to recruit grace.

Note that in the following portions of Scripture, submission or subjection is mentioned within a context which stresses humility accessing grace.

James 4:6-11a

- 6 But He gives a **GREATER GRACE**. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
- 7 **SUBMIT** therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double- minded.
- 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.
- 10 **HUMBLE YOURSELVES** in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
- 11a Do not speak against one another, brethren.

1 Peter 5:5-7

You younger men, likewise, be **SUBJECT** to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with HUMILITY toward one another**, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore **HUMBLE** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you.

UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENCE OF SUBMISSION

IN THE GREEK, ...

Submit/Subject = hupatasso = To place under in an orderly fashion.

[Derived from *hupó* = 'under' and *táso* = 'to place in order']

To subordinate; reflexively to obey¹.

This word suggests that one is placed beneath another so that there is order or an orderly arrangement. Submission is a principle that ensures things in God's Kingdom are orderly arranged. Whilst all sons of God are equal in terms of their sonship status before God, not all are ranked equally in terms of function (more on this later in this study). All sons of God have to understand this and function in a frictionless fashion in various contexts relationally within the Church and Kingdom of God. Amazingly, many people readily embrace structure, order and ranking of a superior above a subordinate within secular environments like the workplace, economics, politics, etc., but fail to accept that the spiritual Kingdom of God too has structure, order and a ranking structure for effective functionality.

Also implied in the Greek word 'hupatasso' translated as 'submission', is that one is placed under another so that proper order can come to the one who is placed under the other (e.g. Jesus 'subjected' Himself to Joseph and Mary, implying He was not just placed under them as a subordinate to them, but He had to be obedient to them as they placed aspects of His humanity in 'proper order' – more on this in the next session).

Examples: A husband's headship over his wife and home is a Divine order of God for the proper functioning of the marriage and home; an employee is to submit to his/her employer; a student to a teacher; a spiritual son to a spiritual father; etc.

SUBMIT TO THE HIGHER AUTHORITY

ROM. 13:1a Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. (KJV)

The King James Version's framing of Romans 13:1 above suggests that submission is permissible and acceptable only when in the submission of one party to the other, the submitted person does not violate the principles or nature of higher authority over the one to whom the submission is undertaken. The highest authority in all matters is God and His Word. His Word represents the highest standard of authority and source of appeal. To illustrate, let me employ an outrageous example: A wife is not to submit to her husband's request to 'swing' or commit murder, as third party sexual encounters in marriage and murder violate the principles of God's Word. In such cases, the wife has every biblical right to be unsubmitted to her husband, but to submit to the higher authority of God's Word on the matter.

Submission is to be observed so long as the one to whom you are required to submit to does not lay expectations upon you that require you to violate God's Word. God's Word is the highest authority over and above all human opinion².

THE MUTUALITY OF SUBMISSION

While the Scriptures frame submission within the context of particular relationships, e.g. a wife to a husband and a son to a father, the younger to the elder, an employee to an employer, etc., they also stress mutual submission of all sons of God to one another.

Eph.5:21 And be SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER in the fear of Christ.

One Another = allelon = reciprocally, mutually

Derived from 'allos' = another = Another, numerically but of the **same kind** in contrast to 'héteros' - another who is qualitatively different³

Sons of God, irrespective of roles, rank or function in life or in the Kingdom of God, must be mutually and reciprocally submitted to each other, because in essence, each is like the other, having the same substance of GRACE given to each of them by God Himself. I submit to all other sons of God who are my brothers because I regard and value their brotherhood in Christ, and this regard is borne out from my understanding that they are essentially of the same qualitative Divine substance as myself, regardless of their specific calling, role or function in the Church or Kingdom of God.

The text above also stresses that we do this "IN THE FEAR OF CHRIST", i.e. we do so out of reverence and respect for Christ Himself. Where there is no fear of Christ, there will be no mutual submission. Mutual submission then becomes the yardstick of our fear for Christ. Mutual submission of one brother to the other emerges out from a clear perspective or revelation that they have of Christ in each other, and this revelation of Christ in the other is revered in the same degree as fear/reverence for Christ Himself.

Examples: A spiritual son submits to a spiritual father in honour by obeying the Word of God that issues forth from him. A spiritual father submits to the spiritual son by placing such high value on him that the fatherly position and oversight is used specifically with the fostering of the welfare of the son. A father exists for the benefit of his son. The excellence and diligence with which the father ministers to the son gives evidence of how the father esteems the son and his service to the son testifies to his internal heart disposition of submission to the son (this point is more fully explained later in this study in the example of the Centurion officer).

This demands, within each son, a humility that deliberately **ESTEEMS EVERYONE AS BETTER THAN THEMSELVES.**

Phil.2:1-5

- 1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
- 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
- 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

We are to 'CLOTHE' ourselves with **HUMILITY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER** according 1 Pet. 5:5.

1 Peter 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be **SUBJECT** to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with HUMILITY toward one another**, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

In a prior session, I indicated that the Greek term for the phrase 'be clothed with' in 1 Peter 5:5 is **egkombóomai**.

'Be clothed with' = **egkombóomai**
 = derived from '**kombóo**' = to gather or tie in a knot, hence to fasten a garment, to clothe; to clothe or girdle oneself. Egkombōma is a long white apron or outer garment with strings worn by slaves⁴.

Hence, we are to BIND or FASTEN our persons over with a servant mentality. This implies that a proud person is uncovered or unclothed - too much flesh (carnality) is seen and persists. Jesus demonstrated this disposition of being clothed with humility by His actual divesting Himself of His garments to robe Himself with a towel in order to wash the feet of His disciples (John 13). The towel here was an apron worn by servants as well. He had no problem doing this because His identity as God's Son was solidly entrenched within Him. John clearly indicates, prior to Him taking off his robes and then taking up a towel, that

John 13:3,4 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given **all things into His hands**, and that He had **come forth from God** and was **going back to God**, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

Jesus first laid aside His own garments and then robed Himself with the servant's towel/apron. You cannot adopt a disposition of servanthood towards another without first emptying yourself of any identity or image you seek to uphold externally.

Jesus encouraged us to do the same as He did, following His pattern of servanthood towards one another, irrespective of our rank and role in the Kingdom.

John 13:14,15 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

The washing of the feet, symbolically, has great significance. In Scripture, 'feet' generally denotes the following:

- Forward Momentum
- Preparedness to PREACH the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15)
- Present truth of the Word of the Lord (Rom. 10:15).

Eph. 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Rom 10:15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Beautiful = horaïos = Belonging to the right hour or season (timely); Flourishing⁵.

The Greek term 'horaïos' is associated with one of the Greek terms for time, viz. 'kairos', which means 'an opportune time in which certain constituted events determined by God must take place'. So 'haraïos' bears reference to that which is 'timely' or a relevant functionality that is reflective of God's emphasis within a certain time period.

Those bearing good news through the preaching of the Word of the Lord must have beautiful feet. As the definition of the Greek word 'horaïos' above indicates, this word carries three ideas:

- a. The word 'beautiful' denotes 'flourishing' – hence – 'productive'. It bears fruit in the lives of the hearers in tandem with the expectation of God for that season.
- b. The word is a timely and relevant word – a current word.
- c. This word brings momentum and forward movement (implied by 'feet') to the purposes of God.

Thus, in servitude to others, we are to wash their feet in reference to the points cited above. Washing of the feet therefore suggests that we seek to raise the PREPAREDNESS of others who speak the Word of the Lord, so as to raise their understanding of current truth and how this will activate the attendant productivity and fruitfulness of this Word. We also seek to fuel their own forward momentum in their efforts to share the Word to their spheres of influence.

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM IS THE SERVANT OF ALL

In LOVE, we are to SERVE one another ...

Gal. 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.**

Submission to each other requires servitude of each other. It places the other's needs above your own. You position yourself to be a blessing or of some help to someone else. You are willing to inconvenience yourself in order to convenience the other. This demands that you do not be self-centred and self-absorbed. Submission that expresses itself by the serving of another requires the other's needs to be prioritised above your own.

Phil. 2:3,4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

In serving one's spiritual father in the Lord, one should serve the other sons of your father as well. Servitude and submission must not only be upward to the one over you in the Lord – but also the ones alongside you who are also submitted to the same oversight. Thus, submission to one's spiritual father will be expressed by submission to other brothers. In this way we serve one another and the LORD HIMSELF, represented in the spiritual father to whom we relate and the other sons in the House of the Lord.

When some of the sons from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin came to David to join him and expressed support of him, Amasai not only wishes and pledges 'PEACE' to David, BUT ALSO to everyone else from other tribes who have chosen to support David, saying "PEACE TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS YOU'.

1 Chron. 12:18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, and he said, "**We are yours, O David, And with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to him who helps you; Indeed, your God helps you!**" Then David received them and made them captains of the band.

When you strengthen your brothers, you strengthen your father; when you serve your brothers, you serve your father; when you seek to ensure the peace of brothers, you foster and facilitate the peace of your father in Christ.

Rom. 12:10 Be **devoted to one another** in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor.**

The phrase 'give preference to one another in honour' in the original Greek reads '**outdo one another in showing honour**'⁶

Rom. 15:1-3 Now we who are **strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves**. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

We are not just to be 'servants', 'servants of some', 'servants of a few', BUT '**servants OF ALL**' - so strong must be a sense and willingness to SUBMIT in service to another.

Mark 9:33-35 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and **SERVANT OF ALL. (KJV)**

Matt. 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant**, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

SIGHT SUSTAINS SUBMISSION

True submission is borne out from a revelation and prophetic perspective (sight) of the worth, value and God-determined function of the other person's representation in Christ. This necessitates that the person is not appraised by natural standards in the flesh through an unregenerate aspect in your soul, but through the enlightened eyes of your spirit by the Holy Spirit.

Submission to the other is borne out from a revelation of the representation of Christ in the other.

Refusal to submit equates to failure to 'SEE' the nature and function of Christ in the other.

2 Cor. 5:16a **Nasb** : Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh
Amp : Consequently, from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value].

Submission is usually couched in reference of one person to another. **You will never submit to a person if you first have not submitted to the biblical principle regulating that relationship.** Submission is the willful yielding of yourself to another borne out from a revelation

and acknowledgement of the manifestation and representation of Christ in the other, so as to derive maximum grace impartation or ensure the proper effective functioning.

SUBMISSION FOR FUNCTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

We are all equal before God in reference to our identity and status as God's sons, yet we are not equal in terms of grace-configuration, gifting and functionality. God sovereignly has granted specific grace allocations to each in reference to the efficient fulfillment, accomplishment or execution of specific task within His Kingdom. Every gift expression in the Body of Christ is an indication and a conduit of a grace transfer that He has elected to flow THROUGH specific individuals TO specific individuals (more on this in a later session). This He has established to be so in order to foster interdependence within His Body and to entrench the dispositions of humility and submission, which are traits central and eternal to His own being.

Ranking in God's Kingdom does not imply qualitative superiority of one over the other. In the Godhead, the Father, Son and Spirit are all equal, yet functionally different. The Father initiates an intention; the Son executes that will of the Father; and the Spirit is sent to empower the Son in the process. Similarly in the Body of Christ, we are all equal, yet ranked with specific functions, the execution of which requires that others recognise and submit to, in order for God's will to be effectively done for all concerned. Humble submission then to one another evidences a strong desire to please God and to see His will being done in the earth. On the other hand, refusal to submit, loudly indicates your deliberate willingness to frustrate the doing of God's will within your context.

SUBMISSION FUELED BY REPRESENTATION OF THE 'OTHER'

Submission presupposes that you are thoroughly understanding of the fact that the one you are required to submit to stands REPRESENTATIVELY OF CHRIST in some capacity. So in submitting, you are really bowing to the CHRIST in the person, not necessarily to the person themselves per se. Ultimately, the person and their representation of Christ should be indivisibly one.

Examples :

❖ Husband-Wife Relationship in Marriage :

Eph. 5:22-25

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

Within marriage, a wife's submission to her husband must be informed and motivated by a revelation of the Lordship of Christ represented within the headship of her husband. Where a wife fails to perceive this, submission to her husband will be difficult. Of course, the demand upon the husband is that his headship of the wife must reflect Christ's headship over the church, a headship characterised by intense sacrificial love. The submission of a wife will be natural and effortless when the character and function of her husband's headship is modeled after the sacrificial and loving nature of Christ. It is that to which she will naturally submit to.

1 Pet. 3:1,2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

Now, where Divine protocols governing the effective management of any relationship are observed, the parties involved all access the attendant grace of God, for God will dispense grace in that relationship to all parties because their representation of Himself in the relationship is accurate. Consider that the husband is required to LOVE and HONOUR his wife, who is required to submit to him, and so TOGETHER WITH HER, as FELLOW-HEIRS they might jointly partake of the GRACE OF LIFE.

1 Pet. 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and **SHOW HER HONOUR** as a **FELLOW HEIRS** of the **GRACE OF LIFE**, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Husbands and wives can access a quantum of grace jointly that will not be accessed as separate individuals. Observance of all protocols (e.g. love, honour and submission) regulating their relationship is essential.

Col. 3:18-19 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them

An Aside : Where a husband is not a son of God, the believing wife is still to submit to her husband's headship over their marriage, on the proviso that the husband's leadership does not lay expectation upon his wife to violate a principle of God's Word. Also, in this context, the manner of the believing wife's' Christ-like nature and character modeled before her husband biblically, is the methodology God seeks to use to convince the husband of his need for his acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour (See 1 Pet. 3:1-2).

Submission requires and is demonstrated by honour and obedience. The love of a spiritual son for a spiritual father is evidenced essentially in the act of obedience to the Word of the Lord embodied within the lifestyle of the spiritual father and communicated through the teaching of his spiritual father in Christ.

Phil. 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Tim. 3:10a Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, ...

Obedience itself requires humility and submission.

Phil. 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Heb. 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

Many scriptures indicate **obedience** as indicative of **submission**. For example, Peter encourages wives to be submitted to their husbands and also cites the example of Sarah's obedience to Abraham.

1 Pet. 3:1a In the same way, you wives, be **submissive** to your own husbands ...

1 Pet. 3:5,6 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being **submissive** to their own husbands; just as Sarah **obeyed** Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear

A viewpoint or opinion held in the mind that is in contradiction to the truth of God in His Word needs to be brought low in humility and submission if it is to be submitted to the act of obeying Christ in a specific area.

2 Cor. 10:5,6

5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the **obedience** of Christ,
6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete

Time and space do not allow me to fully explain how that similarly, as within the '**Husband-Wife Relationship In Marriage**', God's principles regulating the following relationships is to be observed in order to maximise the functionality of the persons involved, access the requisite grace to all parties, and ensure that God's will is executed and fulfilled:

- ❖ **The Parent-Child Relationship in the Home**
- ❖ **The Government-Citizen Relationship in a Country**
- ❖ **The Elder-Younger Relationship in Mentorship and Training**
- ❖ **Employer-Employee Relationship in the Workplace**
- ❖ **The Elder(s)/Shepherd-Sheep Relationship in the House of God**
- ❖ **Spiritual Father-Spiritual Son Relationship in the House of God**

Refer to the ADDENDUM at the end of this study. There I have simply cited various scriptures relative to each relationship above, for your personal study.

IMPORTANCE AND OUTCOMES OF SUBMISSION

▪ GRACE

As already indicated, humility and submission attract GRACE. This grace configures and consolidates our sonship identity and empowers our function in doing God's will. Humility expressed through submission regards the need to empty oneself of your own opinion in deference and preference for God's view. This self-emptying can be effortless when you place value on the GRACE which will fill you. You lose nothing when you submit in humility. You actually gain much.

Grace is priceless
and should by
its very nature,
humble you.

Thamo Naidoo

Note : The effect and outworking of grace impartation to the SUBMITTED son can be expressed in the following ways:

- Effective Warfare in Resisting Satan
- Authority
- An Open Heaven
- Peace and Prosperity

▪ EFFECTIVE WARFARE IN RESISTING SATAN

One of the key Scriptural passages demonstrating humility and submission to access great grace is James 4:6-11. In the midst of this passage is this awesome verse:

James 4:7 SUBMIT therefore TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL and he will flee from you.

Note that submission is pre-requisite to effective resistance of the devil. The devil only flees from one whose resistance of him is borne out from and empowered by a submission to God. Submission to God is an act of spiritual warfare, because it is both pre-requisite to and the essential empowerment of any capacity of you in Christ to cause satan to flee through your resistance of him. Submission to God and resistance of the devil are not two mutually exclusive things. The one leads to the other and ensures the effectiveness of the other. Your abiding disposition of being submitted to God and His Word is itself the very methodology by which you resist the devil. Submission to God equates to resistance of the devil. The humble state and act of submission is an act of potent spiritual warfare.

*Submission is an
act of spiritual warfare.*



▪ SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

It takes a man of authority to recognise and submit to the authority in another. Acknowledgement of and submission to the authority of another is usually proof of just how authoritative you are. Pride prevents the recognition and regard of the authority the other possesses. Refusal to regard the authority of another disqualifies you from experiencing the benefits of that authority.

Consider the Centurion.

Luke 7:1-10

- 1 When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum.
- 2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.
- 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave.
- 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him;
- 5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue."
- 6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, **for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof;**
- 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and **my servant will be healed.**
- 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."
- 9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "**I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.**"
- 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Note five things about this Centurion:

1. He Loved the Jews

He loved God's people. The Israel at this time was a Roman colony, under Roman government, which taxed them severely. This Italian Centurion was an official of Rome, intent on subjugating the Jews, yet this Centurion, a leader in the Roman army, commanding one hundred soldiers, showed great love for the Jews and even built them a synagogue, i.e. he constructed an environment in which spiritual transactions could occur thereby facilitating relationship between God and His people. We can thus assume he was a man of great discernment and one who loved the God of the Jews. That he served them and aided their spiritual pursuit after God testifies to his humility and submission to God's people. He was a man of submission.

2. He Was a Submitted Man to A Superior, therefore an Authoritative Man in His Sphere

In verse 8, the reason cited by the Centurion for his great authority over others is the fact that he himself is UNDER authority. In describing how he commands soldiers under him to 'come' and 'go', one would have expected him to preface this by stating that he has authority **OVER** others. Instead, he qualifies his authority over others by his position **UNDER** another's authority. The posture of humility and submission is a posture of great authority. Submission is not weakness; submission is the expression of a truly authoritative person.

Thus, in referencing his position of great authority, he cites his position UNDER the authority of someone else. It is this very dynamic that he sees in Jesus, viz. that because Jesus is a submitted son functioning under the authority of His Heavenly Father, He therefore is authoritative in the realm of spirit and can thus command healing and life for his servant who was sick unto death.

Your degree of authority is determined by the depth of your submission. When you can function in submission under the complete command of your Heavenly Father, to the leaders He has placed over you, or observe submission in every relationship where this applies, THEN this unlocks or unearths your **inherent** authority already given to you by God.

Submission does not generate authority; it simply activates it within you, providing a legitimate path for its release. Submission to a higher authority empowers your own authority in the sphere of function God has given you.

The Authority of and in Submission

- The submitted man is a man of authority.
- The authoritative man is a man of submission.
- Submission undergirds authority.
- Authority flows out from submission.
- An authoritative son easily submits.
- A submitted son is inherently authoritative.
- Authority is demonstrated by submission.
- Submission unlocks, sustains and validates authority.



Be submitted to the authority in the other
and so express the authority in your sphere.

3. He was a Submitted Man to His Subordinate Demonstrated in His Esteem for Him.

The Centurion's slave was extremely sick and on the verge of death. Ordinarily, Roman officers would not go through great pains to seek recovery for such a sickly servant. But not this Centurion, he was different. He honoured his slave. His slave was 'highly regarded by him'.

'highly regarded' = *éntimos* = honoured, estimable, dear; precious, costly.⁷

The Centurion models what the Scripture implores of us to 'BE SUBJECT TO EACH OTHER'. Whilst, functionally, his slave ranked beneath him, in his perception of his slave, he placed the slave extremely high in his estimation. He deemed his slave costly, priceless, precious and dear. Hence, he spared no cost in seeking his healing. Jesus saw in this Centurion not just a man who knows how to submit to a superior, but one who knows how to be subject to subordinates expressed in the value placed on them. It was this about him that impressed Christ.

He probably exhausted all available means of healing for his servant. Then HE HEARD ABOUT JESUS. Already having a fear for God as evidenced in his love for the Jewish people, his request sent to Jesus to come home to pray for his slave and the manner in which this played out, reveals his sincere faith in Christ.

4. He Honoured Jesus

He honoured Jesus immensely, even considering himself unworthy for Jesus to come under his roof. Although a man of high rank in the Roman military, he saw a ranking in Jesus in the realm of spirit, with attendant authority and power to do what his own authority could not do. He bowed to that authority in Jesus. Again, he does not presume his eligibility to receive Jesus in his home,

but bestows on Jesus great accord in his mind such that his home is considered not fit enough to receive such rank and power.

5. His Faith, Rooted in Submission and Honour, was Unsurpassed in Israel.

The Centurion asked Jesus to simply speak the Word where He was, without even entering his house. Being a man of authority, he understood Jesus' authority over sickness and death. Jesus lauds his faith as GREAT, not yet seen in Israel. His faith was unsurpassed. His faith was actually rooted in the understanding of humility, submission, rank, honour and authority. His faith was equated to honour, for out from his honour of the Lord, his perspective of what the authority of the Lord can accomplished was manifest. Great faith in God to do extraordinary things is built on the basis of great submission and honour of Christ or the representation in which He comes.

Consider that in Nazareth, Jesus was dishonoured, but the Scripture cites unbelief as the reason why He could not do mighty works there. Dishonour leads to unbelief, whereas honour equates to faith.

Matt.13:57,58 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

The servant was found in good health at home. Our 'houses', both spiritual and natural, will know the supernatural power of Christ when we start to embody principles of humble submission and demonstrated honour to Christ and to those He sends to our 'houses'. Great grace will attend us and great faith will be exercised for the impossible to be made possible.

▪ AN OPEN HEAVEN

Jesus is greater than John the Baptist in every single way. John even testified to the truth of this. Yet, the greater (Jesus) was baptised and submitted to the ministry of the lesser (John). At the point at which Jesus permitted Himself to be baptized by John, the Heavens opened over Him and the Spirit descended upon Him (Matthew 3). Jesus functioned under an open Heaven. Amongst other contributory factors is the fact of His humility in submitting to John's ministry. After being baptised and tested of the devil for forty days in the wilderness, people were astonished at His WORDS OF GRACE that flowed from His mouth as he read Isaiah's scroll in the temple (Matthew 4). The heavens are shut over the one who is unsubmitted but open over the submitted son, and when that son executes purpose and communicates the Word of God, grace falls from his lips.

▪ PEACE AND PROSPERITY

JOB 22:21

NIV: Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

Nasb: Yield now and be at peace with Him; Thereby good will come to you.

Kkjv: Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you.

Amp.: Acquaint now yourself with Him [agree with God and show yourself to be conformed to His will] and be at peace; by that [you shall prosper and great] good shall come to you.

In this verse, the various translations cited above, ...

Submit/Acquaint/Yield = Sakan
= To be useful, profitable, to attend to, to be acquainted with⁸.

Its meaning is wide, inclusive of knowing God intimately (Psalm 139:3), of being obedient, useful to Him for some task and stewarding or managing some aspect of His will (cf. Is. 22:15). This submission to God incorporates an intimate relationship with God such that one is positioned and ready to be profitable/useful to Him in the execution of His will. To such a person, peace and prosperity is promised.

Consider Jezebel:

Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab. She was violently opposed to God, His representation and His purposes for Israel. She tried to destroy the prophetic voice of God to the nation of Israel. Historically she was an individual, but spiritually represents an operating system, mentality or spirit still prevalent today. It is not my purpose to give a detailed description of this Jezebel spirit here. I encourage you to study in detail the following passages in order to obtain a more fuller understanding of what this spirit represents (1 Kings 19-21; 2 Kings 9; Rev. 2:18-20). For our purposes, I just want to draw reference to the meaning of her name.

Jezebel = Noncohabitant; unchaste. Without obligation; i.e., (self) righteous; unmarried; chaste, free from carnal connection; (roots = [1] without; [2] to inhabit; to dwell together with)⁹; unhusbanded¹⁰.

Jezebel manipulated Ahab, her husband, and undermined his authority. She does not respect headship in marriage. She is legally married to Ahab but behaves as though she is unmarried to him because she does not observe Godly principles governing the marriage relationship. She is the embodiment of a prideful and an unsubmitted individual, someone who is positioned rightly in a political or legal sense within a particular relationship, yet does not observe protocols governing that relationship.

Features of a Jezebellian Mentality/spirit:

The following are outcomes of an unsubmitted person as modeled for us in Jezebel. These are extracted from a comprehensive study on the spirit of Jezebel by Dr Sagie Govender:¹¹

1. Sentimentalism – Love is prized above truth.
2. Lies and Conspiracy.
3. Fear.
4. Sexual Temptation.
5. Prophetic Suppression.
6. Undermines Set-Man.

Insubmission of any kind is evidence of a Jezebel spirit. God will oppose this spirit and no grace will attend the individual. A doorway will be opened to the outcomes cited above. May I encourage us all not to succumb to a Jezebel spirit or mindset. Do not just be externally correct in how you posture yourself within a particular relationship, when inwardly you are not submitted to God's principles regulating that relationship.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, may I encourage you to ...

- Humbly OBEY God in everything, for obedience, the expression of humility, is the indication of submission.
- Humbly submit your personal preference to the tested truth of Scripture as revealed through credible and proven holy Apostles and Prophets.
- Humbly submit to God's attempts to upgrade you even through the most unlikely of sources. (consider Priscilla and Aquilla upgrading Appollos – Acts 18; Peter upgrading Cornelius – Acts 10).
- Humbly submit when a spiritual father exhorts, encourages, instructs, directs and disciplines you.
- Humbly submit to the Christ represented in your husband's nature and function.
- Humbly submit to the Christ represented in your wife's nature and function.
- Humbly submit to the representation of Christ in your brother.
- Humbly submit to all of the leadings of the Holy Spirit.
- Humbly submit when convicted of sin or when your sin is exposed (Consider David - 2 Sam.12; Psalm 51).
- Humbly submit when asked to do a task you consider as 'beneath you.'

*The HUMBLE and SUBMITTED Life
is the GRACE-FILLED Life.*

In our next session, I will demonstrate the SUBMISSION of our LORD JESUS CHRIST to spiritual parentage, and how this accelerated his growth in reference to Grace from ...

- (1) Grace being on Him
- (2) He increasing in grace until finally
- (3) He is FULL of GRACE, and ready to execute His Father's will in the earth.

May all Grace and Peace be yours,
Randolph Barnwell

ADDENDUM : BIBLICAL PROTOCOLS AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIPS

❖ The Parent-Child Relationship in the Home:

Eph.6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Col. 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

See also Prov. 6:20; 23:22.

❖ The Government-Citizen Relationship:

1 Pet. 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority.

Rom.13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.

❖ The Elder-Younger Relationship in Mentorship and Training:

1 Tim. 5:1,2 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Titus 2:2-8

Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

❖ **Employer-Employee Relationship In the Workplace:****Eph. 6:5-9**

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Col. 3:22-24

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

❖ **The Elder(s)/Shepherd-Sheep Relationship:****1 Pet 5:5a**

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders.

Heb. 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

❖ Spiritual Father-Spiritual Relationship Son in the House of God:

Phil. 2:19-22

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

Stay in Touch via my Website and Social Networks

'Follow' Randolph Barnwell personally via Facebook or Twitter to receive regular inspirational and encouraging short posts and tweets highlighting key life principles from God's Word. You may also freely download notes and audio files of each session from www.randolphbarnwell.com. Additional materials on various topics are also available for download here. Enquiries: randolph@gatedc.co.za Visit and 'like' the 'GATE MINISTRIES Durban Central' Facebook page [OR](#) 'follow' Gate Ministries Durban Central on Twitter and keep informed as to themes that will be taught each week. To regularly receive our free bible study notes, ensure you are on our email distribution list – send a request to info@gatedc.co.za.

Other excellent and empowering resources are available from:

thamonaiddoo.com ; apostolicleader.co.za; soleyn.com; josephmaterra.org; touchthenations.co.za; lifeenterprise.co.za; elijahmorgan.eu; gmh.co.za; godihear.com; egen.co; peace.org.au

ENDNOTES

1. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G5293
2. Naidoo T (2016), We Believe, eGenCo Publishers, 1
See point 1.2. "The Scriptures are Sacred, Complete and the Supreme and Final Authority. They are the Absolute Rule in all matters of truth, doctrine, faith, life and conduct, superseding all views that contradict the interpretation of the Scriptures. (Psalm 19:7-9, 119:160; Acts 15:13-20)."
3. Ibid. #G240
4. Ibid. #G1463
5. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G5611
6. See NASB margin note no. 1.
7. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G1784
8. Baker, W. (2003, c2002). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : Old Testament. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H5532
9. Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.
10. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE); <http://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/jezebel.html>
11. See Lesson 7 in Dr SY Govender's Course, 'Accurate Building Concepts' – www.apostolicleader.co.za