**Spiritual Authority**

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Before authority is granted to the believer; Brokenness, humility and submission must be found.

Ro 13:1 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.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

(Respect and submission to God’s delegated authority is an umbrella of protection of love and understanding)

1. WITH AUTHORITY COMES ADDED RESPONSIBILITY
   1. God has granted to men civil or governmental authority.

Civil authority is a type of spiritual authority, for “they are God's ministers,” exercising power on God's behalf. When we resist their authority, we are actually resisting God.

Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

2Co 1:24 **Not** for that we have dominion over your faith, but are **helpers of your joy**: for **by faith ye stand.**

1Pe 5:2 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**; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

(Respect and submission to God’s delegated authority is an umbrella of protection of love and understanding)

It is only by working under obedience to authority that we can work in accordance with the Will of God.

Only after we have known God’s authority can we learn obedience.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Mt 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Lu 9:1 ¶ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Lu 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Pr 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

# Our faith is directly proportional to our submission to authority

# The authority we walk with is directly proportional to our submission to authority.

The greater our level of submission in exercising our faith, God will ordain or delegate the greater to the least authority.

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a **kingdom** which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for **they watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Obedience to the Lord requires obedience to God’s delegated authorities

### To obey God's command, we must be subject to His delegated authorities.

### All authority is instituted by God

### God establishes his rule in the church through people he has delegated to be his authority

### Rebellion against God’s delegated authority is rebellion against God

### Rebellion to authority opens one up to the demonic realm resulting in deception

1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

### People should live by the principle of obedience rather than their own natural reasoning.

### Nu 23:23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Ne 9:16 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,

“hardened their necks, and hearkened not” - (unbelief, rebellion, stubbornness, ignorance and self-willed)

17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

Ne 9:29 And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

(God warns us to not be like Israel)

Zec 7:11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Life consists much in a contest between the goodness of God and the ingratitude and rebellion of men; and though, in answer to their cries, he often delivers them from their troubles, they as often forget his mercies and trample on his commands.

God's mercies always contends with the people, Mt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

* **Servants** are appointed by God to help in your full growth in Christ and to seek and manifest the fullness of joy of the life of Christ.  
  Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

* A pastor is to be an example of truth, love, and godliness for God's flock to follow.

1Ti 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

* A pastor is “the steward of God” and he is answerable to God for his leadership.

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

There are various levels of authority in any person's life, and each of these levels may involve different people in different positions of authority.

The highest authority is God, The GodHead is the Supreme Authority.

Everything that exists was created by God. God has ultimate authority, or sovereignty, over all things.   
Ac 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, holds all authority and He delegates authority .

Because of our sinful nature, and abuses or failures of authority that we have experienced, most people struggle on occasion with submitting to authorities.

God established authority within the home.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Eph 6:1 ¶ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Titus 2:9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.  
God gave authority for the sake of order and growth (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The early church recognized the authority of the apostles and submitted to their teaching and direction (Acts 6:2, 15:2).

Next to the apostles in authority were the elders, or pastors, of the churches.

As Paul and Barnabas established churches in their missionary journeys (Acts 14:23), they ordained elders in every church. These elders (presbyters) were responsible for teaching (pastoring), supervising (being a bishop), and being examples to the church (1 Peter 5:1-3).

* As spiritual leaders, these elders have a greater responsibility to God (James 3:1) and must meet the qualifications God has established (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7).
* Believers are to acknowledge and respect those who are over them in spiritual matters (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) and even to support them financially (1 Tim. 5:17-18).
  + In matters of authority, the underlying guiding principle is submission and humility.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

In God's matchless wisdom, He has chosen some to hold authority and others to be under that authority. Perhaps the most surprising thing is that He has also taught that one of the highest qualifications for those in positions of authority is humility.

Mr 9:35 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.

This is the example that Jesus, the highest spiritual authority, gave when He became the humblest of all and submitted to die in our place (Philippians 2:7-11).