

## **Discipleship 101      Chapter 07      Submission to Christ**

Opening prayer and insights from last week.

Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

The saying is: 'If Jesus had to pray, we have to pray.' Jesus came with a purpose defined for him from the beginning that he had to fulfil. God has a purpose for us in his kingdom but it is up to us as to how much of that purpose we want to fulfil. There is a scripture written: 'Many are called but few are chosen.' We are rewarded for whatever portion we desire to fulfil. That releases a lot of burden from us of feeling obligated and yet knowing we are rewarded for whatever we do according to his will is a great feeling. Comment on this concept of serving and a reward we cannot see.

Hebrews 6:1-3 Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement. And God permitting we will do so.

We are not leaving basic teachings but going to cover them. Discuss your understanding of basic concepts spoken of above at this point. Some are more important than others.

1 Peter 5:5-7 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older, all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Jesus was very submissive but did not just go along with whatever people wanted of him. He stood firm on what he knew God's will to be. Comment on what being 'submissive' means to you. It brings humility.

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Peter 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of this world by knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

Comment on what you understand at this point of the command above – that you may grow up -, and the warning given after. Remember the sower and the seed. We will come to that again.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 “and now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

These passages show what God is looking for in his people. It takes time for God to work in you these characteristics that are part of his Spirit. As you become full of ‘grace and truth’, you must have resolve to focus on submitting yourself to the Lord on these qualities. Comment on the difficulty of this struggle.

James 1:22-24 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James was a teacher in the early church and was portraying ‘listening’ to God. It is of a man being shown what he looked like before God but went away and did nothing about it. Comment on difficulty of facing our shortcomings. It is good to stop and someone lead the group in a prayer asking the Lord to help you ‘see’ the weaknesses and help you surrender them to the Lord.

Acts 15:28, 29 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

This is the short list of do’s and don’ts in your walk with God. These things will spiritually affect you. Isn’t it great to know that there are no great burdens God is placing on you – just guard your heart and mind to keep from being overcome by the corruption around you. Comment on this freedom.

Hebrews 12:7 (memory) Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Hebrews 12:12,13 (memory) Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled but rather healed.

Hebrews 11:6 (memory) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

As you trust in him and seek him, he is molding you. The more you give over to him and ask for help overcoming, the stronger you grow in him. Move forward with the resolve of a soldier, to put off every attitude that comes up against faith in God. Comment on implications above.

Hebrews 13: 17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage for you.

(This is self explanatory.) Pray for group as you understand the needs.