

## Discipleship 301 Chapter 12

Open with insights on what you believe God is doing in your life.

This chapter is a summary of moving under God's authority and having his authority. The ability to move under his authority by his Spirit is learned. It is developed early on as an individual and is similar to a body of believers as well. You learn to move as a group (united body of believers) in a way that an individual does as God's Spirit leads. His will is not always obvious and you have to seek him for it. Your ability to receive is dependant on you believing the basics of God's will in scripture. It starts with foundational truths.

Hebrews 5:11-14, We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1-3, Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,<sup>[a]</sup> and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about cleansing rites,<sup>[b]</sup> the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so.

People who are having trouble with growing in maturity, and we all do, have to look at where they are refusing to acknowledge God on foundational truths. These are in black and white. The work of the Spirit in taking you to maturity is dependant on your rounded acceptance of truth on the basics. Many people are stunted in their growth spiritually. Discuss why this may be.

If you can't believe God at his word on foundational truths that are in black and white, you can't believe God on the things of his Spirit that you can't see. Those things that take you to maturity that you can't see will be beyond your grasp. You will never find God through your intellect. If you can't submit to the authority of God that you can't see, you won't submit to the authority of God that you can't see. Discuss these concepts.

You are now going to take a few minutes in group prayer. One lead and anyone who feels to pray briefly may add. You are going to pray and ask the Lord to anoint you all with understanding of how to move in authority, to train you in moving in authority and a heart to submit to his authority as well as a greater faith to stand in his authority.

Now pray briefly in the same manner for wisdom and discernment of his will and his ways by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:6-15, We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived"<sup>[a]</sup>—  
the things God has prepared for those who love him—  
<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

For a new believer, let's look at the gift of helps. This is named in the list of ministries in the church (1 Corinth 12:27-31). When people first come to the Lord and desire to serve him, they are looking for how they can do that. God's Spirit can open up simple tasks that allow them to know they participate in the kingdom and are learning to be led by his Spirit. This same principle applies to a body of believers learning to move under authority.

When the Lord calls a new group together to start a church or ministry it comes under his authority. The covering of his Apostolic mantle is put over it. It is the same mantle put over his church at its inception on the day of pentecost. However that mantle, though having all the attributes of the Apostolic Anointing, it doesn't have the same power. The level of power given is dependant on that group's ability to act under his authority. This can be developed as you pursue the Lord in faith to serve him. The next Discipleship series will deal with the Apostolic mantle of authority over God's church.

You can take time now to pray as a group. Pray as you feel you should for each other and as a group that you come to maturity and he is able to fulfil his purposes in you

God bless you in your walk with the Lord.

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