

# Spiritual Authority

Notes by Franklin

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## I. Introduction

The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY is "THE AUTHORITY."

Authority

1. The right and power to give commands and enforce them.
2. Power assigned (given) to another.

A Good Introduction is: **Luke 7:2-10** The Centurion

A centurion's slave . . . was sick and about to die. . . . **say the word**, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I also am **a man 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." <sup>9</sup> 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.**

So, we learn our FIRST and Very Important Truth:  
You DO NOT have Authority unless you are UNDER Authority

**Acts 8:12-24** Simon wanted to buy the Authority of Peter and John.

**True Authority has to be GIVEN** by a higher authority. If the authority is **NOT** given but just taken, . . . **it is REBELLION.**

Another Example: The Seven Sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest:  
Acts 19:11-17 <sup>13</sup> Some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." . . . <sup>15</sup> And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

From this we learn our SECOND TRUTH:  
Spiritual Authority is required for Spiritual Warfare.

We MUST be sure that we are UNDER AUTHORITY and that we have **been sent** (authority given) before attempting to accomplish deeds for the LORD.

“Some are Called – some are Sent – some just got up and went.”

Example: 2 Samuel 18:19-23 Ahimaaz wanted to run tell King David

II. Jesus was a Man UNDER Authority, therefore He **spoke** with **Authority** and **Power**.

How did “The Man Christ Jesus” obtain His Authority?  
**The same way we do:**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

(5) **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.**

- “Let mind be” is in the imperative mood. A Command, Authoritative

(6) **Though he was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God.** (The Living Bible) **Step One.**

Although He has given us the right to do as we please

**We must yield or give up our rights to the LORD JESUS CHRIST.** Is it His Kingdom . . . or ours?

Is He our LORD? Or, are we the lord of our life?

- Luke 6:46 **Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**
- Deuteronomy 12:8-9 You shall **NOT** do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing **whatever is right in his own eyes**
- Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; **every man did what was right in his own eyes.**
- Proverb 12:15 **The way of a fool** is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

**Philippians 2:7 He made himself NOTHING;** he took the humble position of a **bondservant** (Dt.15:12-17) and appeared in human form.  
**Step Two.** (NIV)

- All men strive for a position, Seeking Significance, Importance.
- The LORD’s way: “**Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God**” Mt. 6:33
- Matthew 20:26 **whoever wishes to be great shall be your servant**

- John 5:19-20 Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF**, unless it is something **He SEES** the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father **loves the Son**, and **SHOWS Him** all things that He Himself is doing

John 1:35-39 Two disciples followed Jesus . . . Jesus said "**come and you will see.**"

Luke 24:31 Two on the road to Emmaus . . . and **their eyes were opened** and they **recognized Him**.

Habakkuk 2:1 On my watchtower . . . I **wait to see what the Lord says**.

Psalms 5:3 Each **morning** I bring my requests to you and **wait expectantly**.

- John 5:30 **I can do NOTHING on my own initiative. As I HEAR, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I DO NOT SEEK MY OWN WILL, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

John 13:1-4; 23-26 Serving Him and Serving others begins in the place of intimacy, **listening** to HIM.

Proverb 8:34 **Blessed** is the man who **listens to me, watching** daily at my gates, **waiting** at my doorposts.

**I DO NOT SEEK MY OWN WILL, but the will of Him who sent Me.** This is the Key that opens the door to serving HIM with Authority.

**Philippians 2:8 He humbled himself by being obedient unto death even death on a cross. Step Three**

❖ Regardless of the cost, the suffering, JESUS Obeyed.

- Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, **If anyone wishes to come after Me, he MUST deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.** and we will walk in Authority & Power

**Philippians 2:9 BECAUSE OF THIS, (obedient unto death) God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name that is above every other name**

- When you follow in these same Three Steps is when THE LORD will lift you up and give you a position of His choosing.

James 4:10 **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, **and He will exalt you.**

Proverb 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, **honor and life.**

John 12:26 If anyone **serves Me**, he **must follow Me**; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, **the Father will honor him.**

It was now, after HIS Crucifixion and Resurrection that JESUS said:

- **All authority in heaven and on earth HAS BEEN GIVEN to me.** <sup>19</sup> Therefore **go** (delegated authority) and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **TEACHING THEM TO OBEY** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20

JESUS regained the Authority that Adam lost or gave away, and **delegates Authority** to us as we obey His command, His will.

**When we GIVE UP OUR RIGHTS - SERVE HIM & OTHERS and HUMBLE OURSELVES is when we will earn trust and authority will be given to us.**

**Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of JESUS** every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

- Example: Luke 10:1-3, 9, 16-20 . . . I have given you authority

**True Authority has to be GIVEN** by a higher authority. If the authority is **NOT** given but just taken, . . . **it is REBELLION.**

Romans 13:1-2 Every person **must submit to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except by God . . . So those who **refuse to obey the laws of the land ARE REFUSING TO OBEY GOD**, and **punishment** will follow.

Our Third Truth: To **rebel** against what HE has ordained is **to rebel against the Lord** and PUNISHMENT WILL FOLLOW!

- So this makes us stop to consider the laws of the land: Stop signs – speed limits – taxes, and the list goes on.

III. The **first rebellion** against the authority of the LORD GOD was by His created angel, **Lucifer** (Isaiah 14:12-16; Ezekiel 28:12-19).

Lucifer tried to TAKE authority that was NOT GIVEN to him and **rebelled** against the LORD GOD.

Lucifer's **punishment**: name change / lost his position / cast out of heaven to the earth; and ultimately to Sheol and the Lake of Fire.

Rebellion against authority is a **satanic principal** and will result in discipline or punishment.

**Satan's goal** is to bring as many as possible to follow him in REBELLION. His first victims were Adam & Eve and myriads since.

### **The Second Rebellion: Adam & Eve:**

The LORD GOD gave **Adam & Eve** AUTHORITY over the earth (Genesis 1:28). They chose to REJECT the LORD's Word and be their own authority after they LISTENED to and OBEYED the REASONING of the serpent. In so doing they **became his slaves**.

- Romans 6:16 **Do you not realize that you become the slave of whoever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.**

Adam & Eve **gave what they had authority over - the earth** - to the one they **obeyed**, the **evil one** who kills, steals & destroys. This is verified by his satan's statement to JESUS.

- Luke 4:5-7 **The devil led Him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And said to HIM, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup> So if you worship me, it will all be yours."** NIV

The LORD **disciplined** Adam & Eve and put them out of The Garden (a type of the Kingdom of God) - **They were still the LORD's** (He covered them with skins, blood was shed. Genesis 3:21) - but now they **lived in the "domain (the kingdom) of darkness"** (Colossians 1:13) **controlled** by the **"ruler of this world"** (John 12:31; 16:11).

And that is where all mankind live today **until** receiving the SALVATION of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- Colossians 1:13 **He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**

Please recognize – be Very Careful about - who you LISTEN TO and who YOU OBEY.

The only way you can be sure the evil one is not deceiving you with “The Word,” as he tried to with JESUS, is to KNOW THE WORD.

- Psalm 119:11 **Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.**
- Matthew 7:13-14 **Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. (following a rebellious crowd) <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it (following the LORD). Psalm 1; Proverb 4:14-23; 10:9**

Who are you following? The crowd? Or the LORD?



#### IV. There are CONSEQUENCES to REJECTING AUTHORITY – SOME VERY SERIOUS.

##### The Example of King Saul Disobeying his Authority:

##### 1. HIS CHILDREN LOST THE HERITAGE THEY COULD HAVE HAD

1 Sam 13:13-14 Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for **now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever**. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, **because** you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

##### 2. HE LOST HIS POSITION and MINISTRY

1 Samuel 15:10-11 Then the LORD said to Samuel . . . "Saul **has turned back from following me** and has **AGAIN refused to obey me**."

Verse: 22-23 Samuel said, (to Saul) "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in **obeying** the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey** is better than sacrifice, and to heed (to pay attention) than the fat of rams. For **REBELLION IS AS THE SIN OF WITCHCRAFT**, (the use of magical powers obtained especially from evil spirits, giving the evil one a legal claim) and **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry**. Because you have **rejected** the Word of the LORD, **He has also rejected you from being king**. (Deut.18:10+)

Saul's continual **DISOBEDIENCE** resulted in the loss of his position, (**not eternal life**) and WAS BECAUSE HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT HIM than what the LORD thought of him.

Verse 24 . . . **because I feared** the people . . .

You will obey whom you fear.

**If love** is not a sufficient **motivation** to obey, then **fear** must be.

Proverb 16:6 **By the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.**

Parents, as our Heavenly FATHER, we must also both **love** and **discipline** - instill fear if necessary - in our children to teach them to obey



Saul's **DISOBEDIENCE** to the WORD of GOD (Authority) **cost him**:

1. His position! 2. Many problems!

Because **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft** Saul had stepped over into Satan's kingdom, he had not truly repented and confessed his sin, therefore:

1 Samuel 16:14 **the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.**

- In the O.T. the Holy Spirit was given to empower and give Authority to those the LORD chose to serve Him. The Holy Spirit departed when they no longer obeyed.
- Proverb 17:11 **A rebellious man seeks only evil, so a cruel messenger will be sent against him.**

This was the **SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE**, or **RESULT**, of King Saul **NOT OBEYING** The LORD, the Authority over him.

- Saul belonged to the LORD, therefore the "evil spirit" could not torment Saul without the LORD's permission.
- Saul was refusing to OBEY and **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft**, and **you become the slave of whoever you choose to obey** so the "evil spirit" had a legal right. And therefore the LORD allowed the torment.
- Because of the LORD's GREAT LOVE for His people, and our responsibility to be His witnesses, His ambassadors on this earth, He disciplines us. "To deliver us from evil."

As "*children of God*," an "authority" has no authority over us unless allowed by "The AUTHORITY."

As stated by JESUS: **Pilate said to Him . . . Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?** **Jesus answered, You would have no authority over me if it were not given to you from above.** John 19:10-11

- We can make the same statement. What is true for “JESUS The Son of God” is true for us also, “the children of God.”
- An earthly or spiritual authority can have no authority over us if it were not given from above. Selah

Therefore I strongly suggest that we: **SUBMIT therefore to God.**  
**RESIST the devil and he will flee from you.** James 4:7

- This also explains: Matthew 18:21-35 (“tormentors” vs 34)

**It is a question of: who do you OBEY? Who do you submit to?**

**What happens to you, to a large degree, is determined by:  
 Who do you resist? And who do you obey?**

### 3. HIS PHYSICAL LIFE WOULD BE SHORTENED

1 Samuel 28:19 Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore **tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.**

For a person given a high place of Authority over the LORD’s people, to become detrimental through continual disobedience or rebellion, the LORD just may call him home.

Proverb 29:1 A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

There is a direct correlation between obedience to God and a long and healthy life:

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> **Honor** your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: <sup>3</sup> that **it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.**

Proverb 3:7-8 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, **fear the LORD** and **turn your back on evil**. Then you will gain **renewed health and vitality**.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 . . . For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. **That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died**. But if we examine ourselves, we will not be examined by God and judged in this way. But when we are judged and disciplined by the Lord, we will not be condemned with the world. NLT

We have a Strong Warning in **1 Corinthians 10:1-13** referring to Israel after being redeemed out of Egypt. <sup>(11)</sup> **Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for OUR INSTRUCTION**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Israel REBELS against the Authority over them and refuses to obey and enter the land:

Numbers 14:22-25 Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet **have put Me to the test these TEN TIMES** (a persistent attitude or behavior) and have **not listened to My voice**, <sup>23</sup> shall **by no means see the land** which I swore to their fathers, **nor** shall any of those who **spurned Me see it**. <sup>24</sup> **But My servant Caleb**, because **he has a different spirit** and has **followed Me fully**, I will bring into the land he **and his descendants** shall take possession of it.

- Fathers, your attitude, your spirit, will have a great influence over the attitude and spirit of your children.

**Korah's Rebellion against Moses** - the Authority over them. Korah had already been a participant in the "ten" rebellions against the LORD's Authority, Moses.

Numbers 16:32 . . . and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with their possessions.

Moses – rebelled against The LORD, did not obey.

Exodus 17:2-7 In the wilderness soon after they came out of Egypt: They **quarreled** with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you **quarrel with me**? Why do you **put the LORD to the test**?" <sup>3</sup> . . . they **grumbled** against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" <sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD , "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready **to stone me**." <sup>5</sup> The LORD answered Moses, ". . . take in your hand **the staff** with which you **struck the Nile** (a rod of judgment) and go. <sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by **The ROCK** at Horeb. **Strike the rock**, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses . . . called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" NIV

- This is a type or picture of the **Crucifixion** of "THE ROCK." After "THE ROCK" is struck, blessings of life and provision, flow out to HIS people.

1 Corinthians 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and **the rock was Christ**.

After they **rebelled** and **refused** to enter the Promised Land they are back in the wilderness.

Numbers 20:1-13 In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh . . . <sup>2</sup> Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered **in opposition to Moses and Aaron**. <sup>3</sup> They **quarreled** with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Why did you bring the LORD's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? <sup>5</sup> Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!" <sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>8</sup> "Take **the staff**, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **SPEAK to that rock** before their eyes and **it will pour out its water**."

- After the crucifixion of THE ROCK - a type of JESUS Christ - judgment and justice was fulfilled, all you need to do now **is speak** to THE ROCK and the blessings of Life and provision flow. Another crucifixion or sacrifice is not needed.

<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the **staff from the LORD's presence**, just as He commanded him. <sup>10</sup> He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of **THE ROCK** and Moses said to them, "Listen, you **rebels**, must we bring you water out of this rock?" (Moses was angry) <sup>11</sup> Then Moses **raised his arm and STRUCK the rock twice with his staff**.

- Moses rebelled and disobeyed. However . . .

Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

- It was Moses' rebellion, not the people's.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe me (**failed to be trustworthy**) enough to **HONOR ME AS HOLY** in the sight of the Israelites, **you will not bring this community into the land I give them.**"

- The consequences of Rebellion or Disobedience:
  - His life and ministry were cut short.
  - He did not reach and see The Promised Land.
  - Moses is definitely in Heaven because of the blood Covenant of the Passover Lamb.
- Therefore: **Let not many become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will INCUR A STRICTER JUDGMENT.**

James 3:1-2

Luke 12:42 **Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his service . . .**

- The LORD is looking for those He can trust with His Authority.

Luke 12:48 **From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.**

## V. 4 Structures of Authority Ordained by the Lord

### 1. Family: JESUS > Father > Mother > Children

1 Corinthians 11:2-4 But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head** of every man, and the **man** is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. NASU

- The LORD holds the man responsible for those under him.

Example: when Eve suggested and encouraged the sin, The LORD spoke to ADAM about it (Genesis 3:9-12).

Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man . . .

Colossians 3:20 **Children**, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. NASU

Ephesians 6:1-3 **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), (3) SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. NASU

Proverb 6:20-21 My son, observe the commandment of **your father** and do not forsake the teaching of **your mother**; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. NASU

Proverb 30:17 The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures. NIV

Proverb 15:5 Only a fool despises a parent's discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise. NLT

The way a teen-ager responds to his parents' authority will soon be the way he responds to all authority.

Parents MUST both love & discipline their children when they disobey.

## 2. Government: National Leaders > Local Leaders > Citizens

1 Peter 2:13-14 **Submit** yourselves for the Lord's sake to **every authority** instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, (14) or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. NIV

Romans 13:1-7 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. (2) Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. (3) For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; (4) for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. (5) Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. (6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. (7) Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. NASU

## 3. Church: JESUS > Church Leaders > Church Members

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 But we request of you, brethren, that you honor those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

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 to you. NIV

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. NASU

1 Peter 5:1-3 I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. NASU

#### 4. BUSINESS: JESUS > Employer > Employees

Colossians 3:22-25 Servants, **obey** in everything those who are your earthly **masters**, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him.

23 Whatever may be your task, **work** at it **heartily** as for the Lord and not for men,

24 Knowing that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will **receive** the inheritance which is your [real] **reward**. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah).

25 For he who deals **wrongfully** will [reap the fruit of his folly and] be punished for his wrongdoing. And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master]. AMP

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, **be submissive** to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but **also to those who are unreasonable**. NASU

1 Timothy 6:1-2 Christians who are servants should give their masters **full respect** so that the name of God and his teaching will not be shamed. If your master is a Christian, that is no excuse for being disrespectful. You should **work** all the **harder** because you are helping another believer by your efforts.



VI. God's Will For Our Life - His Guidance - is often revealed to us through the AUTHORITIES He has placed over us.

**FOR THE ADULT:**

God assures us that He can turn the heart of those over us:

Proverb 21:1 The LORD controls the mind of a king as easily as he directs the course of a stream. TEV

**FOR THE YOUNG PERSON:**

Proverb 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Proverb 6:20-22 My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. When you walk about, **they will guide you**; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.

Many youth today are drifting without clear direction and are continually making WRONG DECISIONS **because** they **reject** or **rebel** against the **authority** of their parents.

To escape the authority of their parents many young men **run** away and join the Army. Then learn Authority the hard way.

To escape the authority of their parents many girls **run away** and get married only to find that now her husband is as demanding or even more so.

WHAT DOES THE LORD SAY ABOUT RUNNING FROM AUTHORITIES?

Genesis 16:9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "**Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority.**"

(Hagar was running away from Sarai, Abraham's wife.)

To see that **our character** becomes like that of Jesus, the Lord will use whatever Authority is over us to 'chip away' at the rough edges of our character, like a jeweler cutting and shaping a diamond.

The Authorities God has placed over us are

**the tools** He uses to Perfect the multitude of

**Character Deficiencies** in our lives.

Example: Joseph – His **pride** had to be severely dealt with before he could be given Authority under Pharaoh.

Proverb 8:13 **Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.**

## VII. Four Causes of Disobedience:

### 1. Stubbornness

1 Samuel 15:23 **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** NKJV

Romans 2:5 **But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,** NASU

Jeremiah 7:24 **Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsel and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward.** NASU

Jeremiah 18:12 **But they will say, 'It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'** NASU

## 2. Rationalism

1. Reliance on reason as the best guide for belief and action.
2. The theory that the exercise of reason, rather than the acceptance of authority or spiritual revelation, provides a good, or the best, basis for action or belief.
3. To devise self-satisfying but incorrect reasons for one's behavior.

**Reason**, motivated by his **fear** of man, rather than the acceptance of God's authority caused Abraham to lie.

Genesis 20:11 Abraham said, "Because **I thought**, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

Fear of man produced Jacob's **rationalization** and he deceived Laban.

Genesis 31:31 Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because **I was afraid**, for **I thought** that you would take your daughters from me by force.

3. **Love** for the Lord or respect for the person (the authority) is weak.

Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me.....

John 14:21 NLT

All those who love me will do what I say. John 14:23 NLT

Anyone who does not love me will not do what I say. John 14:24

4. **Fear** of the Lord, or the person, is weak.

Therefore we depend more on . . . our **self!** Our **Rationalism!**

## VIII. Responding To Authorities

No matter how inconsistent or unfair those in authority may be, we are responsible for our responses to them.

God can use those who are hardest to get along with to motivate us to develop MATURE ATTITUDES.

God is not nearly as concerned with what we suffer through, as He is with our RESPONSE to what we go through.

In all that He designs or allows us to experience, His chief concern is that our ATTITUDES become consistent with those of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Learning to **understand** what those in authority are **really trying to achieve IS IMPORTANT.**

- Listen carefully
- Try to see through their eyes

Especially when we are commanded to do something which

**VIOLATES SCRIPTURE OR MORAL CONVICTIONS.**

The FINAL WORD: **We must obey God rather than men.** (Acts 5:29)

But HOW we RESPOND is VERY IMPORTANT.

Our Example is **Daniel**

He was captured by a godless foreign government, taken away from family, home and country and **commanded** to do things that were against The Word of The LORD.

Daniel 1:8 **Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself**

Daniel also displayed **mature attitudes** to those in authority over him. His attitude brought him into **favor**. He did not refuse to obey.

When commanded to eat and drink that which violated Scripture, Daniel discerned that the **basic intention** was not to violate his convictions but to make him healthy and wise. He suggested a **creative alternative** which would not violate his moral convictions and would also allow those in authority to achieve their objectives.

Notice the **respect**, **creativity** and **careful choice of words** in Daniel's request to the authorities over him:

Daniel 1:12-14 *Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water, At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's rich food. Then you can decide whether or not to let us continue eating our diet. So the attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days.*

When our attitude is right and we have politely and carefully made our request we must then stop and wait for their decision.

We must give the LORD time to "change their heart."

Proverb 16:7 *When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

Proverb 21:1 *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

Even though Pharaoh continued to harden his heart the LORD increased the pressure until he agreed to let Israel go. Meanwhile, Israel became strong as they obeyed those who were ruling them:

*There was not one feeble person among their tribes.* Psalm 105:37

The LORD "works all things for our good" when we obey the authorities over us, endure patiently problems and sufferings & REFUSE to rebel.

When the authorities demanded the apostles stop preaching, Peter replied: **We must obey God rather than men.** (Acts 5:27-32) and be ready to suffer the consequences, perhaps crucifixion as did JESUS, our example.

## IX. Seven Steps of Action when asked to do something you think is wrong.

### 1. CHECK OUR ATTITUDE

- An independent spirit is the basis of disloyalty
- A condemning spirit is the basis of self-righteousness
- An ungrateful spirit is the basis of pride
- A lazy spirit is the basis of dishonesty and poverty
- A bitter spirit is the basis of selfishness
- An impure spirit is the basis of self-indulgence

### 2. CLEAR OUR CONSCIENCE

- Correct those attitudes which have offended
- Fulfill the wishes and unfinished directions of those in authority
- Acknowledge that we were wrong and ask forgiveness
- Make any corrections necessary to restore a right relationship
- Learn to limit your freedom to avoid offending another

### 3. DISCERN BASIC INTENTIONS

- Ask the person what their goals are wishes are
- Try to understand why they are making this command
- Ask them to help you understand

### 4. DESIGN CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES

- Remove any resistant spirit in order to be creative
- Use difficult situations to expand your frame of reference

- Gain insights for difficult situations from Proverbs
- Design an alternative which he will see can reach his goals

#### 5. APPEAL TO OUR AUTHORITY

- Have the spirit of a learner and a servant
- Explain personal convictions without a spirit of condemnation
- Present the creative alternative
- Explain how it will reach his goal
- Leave the final decision up to him

#### 6. GIVE GOD TIME TO CHANGE THEIR MIND

- Expect God to bring outside pressure on the authority
- Expect him to place extra pressure on you
- Realize that God will use His pressure for our ultimate benefit
- Build right responses which will be a basis for his changed decision

#### 7. SUFFER FOR NOT DOING WHAT IS WRONG

- Disciples were to be willing to be rejected by family rather than to deny the Lord Jesus (Matthew 10:32-39)
- Disciples were to proclaim the Gospel even when forbidden by government officials and religious leaders (Acts 4:19)
- Daniel was willing to be killed rather than cease his worship of God to worship the king (Daniel 6:12-16)

Reference for this last segment:

Research in Principles of Life – Basic Seminar Textbook  
Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, Inc.