

THE ARMY OF GOD

Them That Are Over You

I. You have people that God has placed over you – There is rank in the Kingdom of God

A. Do you really have people who have the rule over you and who are over you in the Lord? Is this really a thing? Is it true?

1. *Hb13:7-Remember them which have the RULE (command, lead, have authority over, leader/commander, overseers of churches) over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation; 17-Obey them that have the rule over you & submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account that they may do it with joy, and not with grief for that is unprofitable for you; 7-AC-Leaders or superiors in authority; NKJV-Those who rule over you; 17-AC-Spiritual leaders; DL-The ones leading you; PH-Your rulers; MSG-Your pastoral leaders; NMB-Those who have the oversight of you; WYC-Your sovereigns*

a. Are there people who have the rule over you? Has God given someone(s) the rule over you? Has He given you spiritual leaders, ones superior in authority and has He given them oversight of you?

2. *1Th5:12-13-And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are OVER (Stand before you, that is, in rank; Superintend-Oversee with power of direction; Preside over-Set over for exercise of authority) you in the Lord, and admonish you; And esteem them very highly in love their works sake. And be at peace among yourselves; AMP-Who are in charge over you; CSB-Lead you in the Lord; LEB-Those who rule over you: PH-Spiritual leaders; TLB-Officers of your church; NASB-Have charge over you in the Lord; NET-Preside over you in the Lord; NLV-The Lord has placed them over you*

a. Has God set someone(s) over you? Has He place people over you? Who preside over you in the Lord? Who have charge over you in the Lord? Who are to lead you in the Lord? Spiritual leaders who rule over you?

3. We're all in the family of God and one does not have more right to be saved, healed, delivered, prosper, or blessed more than another, but in Kingdom service there's rank

B. If you didn't need these people over in you the Lord, then God wouldn't have given them to you

1. Many think because of their identity in Christ and because they have the Holy Spirit that they have been delivered from these verses and don't need people over them in the Lord – Is that what these verses says? Is that true
2. People use this verse to say they don't need leaders, but that's not what it's referring to- *1Jn2:26-27-AMP- I write this to you with reference to those who would deceive you [seduce and lead you astray]. But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [^a]permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being ^brooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do].*

C. Immoral church leaders who have led wrong, don't change the truth that you're supposed to have leaders over you

1. Many would say, "having someone over you," sounds cultish – These are scriptures and it's for your benefit
2. Godly leaders are will lead like God- *1Pet4:2-CSB-As God would have you; DRA-According to God; GW-Watch over it as God does*

a. God leads righteously and will never lead you to do something wicked

- 1) If somebody in leadership asks you to do something that's wicked/not scriptural don't do it

b. God is not controlling and will not force you to do anything and neither do godly leaders

- 1) God has a standard, God has accountability, He will guide, direct, correct and even correct severely (so will godly leaders), but He won't try to control or force you to do anything

- 2) If a leader is trying to control you and force you to do something you're unwilling to do that's wrong

3. Through the wicked acts of a few, the enemy has endeavored to get this rank/leadership out of the Church b/c he knows the benefits that come from it and the perils that come from not having it; He wants the church to operate with no revelation of authority and no respect for authority b/c he knows if it does it can go nowhere and so he works to get you to think there is no rank and to not respect those over you

D. The role of leadership is not to control you, but to direct you and they are in place for your care

1. Superintend-To take care of with authority; Preside over-Protector, guardian, care for aid

II. What's the function of these ones who are over you?

A. To speak the Word of God to you- *Hb13:7-KJ-Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto the Word of God; AMP-Who brought you the Word Of God; TLB-Who have taught you the Word Of God*

1. Do you need someone to bring the Word to you? Many think that because they got the Holy Spirit they've been delivered from this and don't need this because they can get whatever they need from God directly; Is that true?
 - a. The truth is that there is some revelation that God will only give to you through your leaders
2. REMEMBER THEM (That's specific people)-There are specific people who God has placed over you who are supposed to be bringing specific things from the Word of God to you, that are specific to your life and calling
 - a. The overwhelming majority of your nourishment and training in the Word of God will come from a few people God has called to you and you need to sit under their anointing and ministry consistently; Why? Because they are going to minister things specific to your life and calling that you need
 - b. People told me I need to listen to other streams so I could get balanced and it was usually because they didn't like my stream; The problem with that was my stream ordained by God to be my stream and so I'm getting what I need from my stream to do what God has called me to do
 - 1) I need teaching that aligns with my assignment (Not every preacher can give that to me)
 - c. People like to jump around from a bunch of different preachers ministering completely different things and they have no roots in the ones God has placed over them who are supposed to be bringing the Word to them and many end up getting tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine (Eph4:14)
3. The word THESE SPECIFIC PEOPLE bring to you:
 - a. Feeds/nourishes your spirit- *1Tim4:6-Nourished up in the words of faith and good doctrine*
 - 1) Many are malnourished b/c they don't feed on the teachings of the ones God placed over them
 - b. Train and equip you-*Eph4:11-12-He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers: For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body*
 - 1) Many are untrained and ill-equipped b/c they don't feed on the teachings of the ones God placed over them
 - c. Instruct, correct and challenge you-*2Tim4:2-Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove (correct, show one fault), rebuke (charge straightly and sharply), exhort (invoke, implore, admonish, warn) with all long-suffering and doctrine*
 - 1) The attitude of I just want to give you a little encouragement is wrong

B. To watch for your souls, your spiritual well-being- *Hb13:17-AM-Keeping watch over your souls and continually guarding your spiritual welfare; CEB-Watch over your whole being; PH-Standing guard over your spiritual good, and they have great responsibility; ERV-They are responsible for your spiritual welfare, so they are always watching to protect you (not baby you, babying someone who is not a baby is enabling, not loving);*

1. Is this real? Do you really need someone to do this? Or are you fine on your own?
2. If you don't have it you are vulnerable b/c you're w/o a line of protection that God put in place for you that you need
 - a. For many this is the answer to why their life and spiritual walk is a mess; They have no leader or if they do have one they don't have any respect for their leader sit under their ministry and feed on and do what they say
 - b. *1Th5:13-AND be at peace among yourselves* – It's connected to your peace
3. People like to ignore scripture and pretend they don't need "leaders to watch over their souls" and that God can do it anyway without this not realizing the way God does it is through these leaders
 - a. I see stuff like this on social media: You don't have to go to church to be a Christian; Yeah and you don't have to wear clothes when you leave your house in the morning, but there are negative consequences to both

C. To admonish you- *1Th5:12-KJ-Are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; MS-Urging you and guiding you; CJ-Guiding you in the Lord, confronting you in order to help you change; AC-Warn and kindly reprove and exhort; NRV-Correct you*

1. Admonish-To caution, put in mind, warn, to reprove gently, call attention to, mild rebuke or warning
2. Might your leader sit down and admonish you? Many people if their leader did this to them would leave the church

D. The enemy has worked to convolute/twist spiritual leadership to strip it of all its benefits

1. He's dumbed it down to the place where to many a spiritual leader is someone who does weddings, dedicates kids, preaches to give me a little encouragement, shakes my hand after church, does funerals, visits me-Not wrong, not all
2. There's no revelation of leadership making deposits in me for my life, speaking the Word to me, watching over my soul, admonishing me and I'm supposed to be submitted to them, following them and esteem them very highly
3. The enemy has worked this kind of thinking in to cause the church and believers to miss the benefits of the real
4. Many don't like the Biblical model of leadership and so many preachers conform to what people like

III. What do you do with them that are over you?

A. **Know them-** *1Th5:12-13-And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord; AMP-Recognize, acknowledge and respect your leader; AC; Recognize them for what they are*

1. Know-Be aware, discern, discover, have regard for, pay attention to, cherish
2. You should be discerning and discovering who they are, be aware of who they are (GIVE ME NAMES)

B. **Submit to them-** *Hb13:17-KJ-Obey them that have the rule over you and SUBMIT yourselves (Under, beneath, inferior position, resist no longer, yield to authority, give way); CEB-Defer to; DRA-Be subject to; ERV-Be willing to do what they say; GW-Accept their authority; ICB-Be under their authority; PH-Reconize their authority; JUB-Do not resist; NIRV-Put yourselves under their authority; NIV-Submit to their authority; YLT-Be subject*

1. To recognize a person's God-given place/rank/authority and your inferiority in rank/place/authority and therefore put yourself under their authority
 - a. Many don't think they are inferior in rank to anybody (God, Jesus, HS, them) and that's why they don't submit
 - b. People think because of who they are in Christ they are not inferior in rank to anyone – NOT TRUE
2. Submission is voluntary act of your will to put yourself under another's authority
 - a. Nobody can force you to submit, you have to submit yourself and if you don't it won't happen
 - b. You either recognize the God-given authority and submit or you don't and rebel
3. Submission is something you have to learn
 - a. *Heb5:8-Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered-He's not learning it on the cross, he learned it before the cross and the suffering was not doing what he wanted to do-Hb2:18-Suffered being tempted*
4. Submission is not easy It wasn't easy for Jesus and it won't be for you-*Lk22:40-Not my will, but yours be done*
5. Submission is not agreement-*Lk22:40-Not my will, but yours be done*
 - a. The opportunity to display submission comes when you disagree; If you agree, then it's what you wanted to do and that requires no submission

C. **Obey them-** *Hb13:17-OBEY (To assent with authority, trust, yield, listen to, comply with) them that have the rule over you; CEV-Do what they say; DL-Be obeying the ones leading and be yielding; GNV-Obey them that have the oversight of you; GN-Follow their orders; MS-Be responsive to your pastor leaders; VO-Listen to; WE-Do what they tell you*

1. When submission is in place obedience is the evidence; Submission has to be proved with obedience
 - a. *Mt8:9-For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, go, and he goes; and to another, come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel* – This is what submission looks like
 - b. Most people don't have an obedience problem, they have a submission problem – They are their own boss
 - c. Without this in place no army, no team, no church, no organization can advance
2. To submit and obey there must be trust or faith
 - a. Jesus called this submission and obedience great faith – There was trust in that
 - b. *Hb13:17-NRV-Trust your leaders; NIV-Have confidence in your leaders;* You must trust your leader, trust they hear from God
 - c. If you believe God has given them place over you, then you just have to trust Him when you disagree w/ them
3. Hb13:17-When you don't obey and submit they can't lead with joy and that's no good for you

D. **Have respect for them and pay attention to them-** *1Th5:12-Know (have regard, pay attention to) them which are over you in the Lord*

1. This isn't just about respecting flesh-This is about place, authority, anointing and the one who gave them place

2. You have respect for them because of you respect the One who gave them the authority and place

3. If you don't respect the one God sends you don't respect God who sent them

4. Many people pay no attention to their leaders, because there is no respect

E. **Esteem them very highly- 1Th5:12-13-Know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And esteem them very highly in love; AMP-Hold them in the highest esteem; CEV-Show them great respect; PH-Hold them in the highest honor**

1. Esteem very highly means to place a great value on them-Them and their place should mean something to you

2. If you don't value them/their place you won't pay attention to them and you'll miss out on what God wants to do for you through them – This is not just so they can feel appreciated, it's for your safety and good

IV. Numbers 16-This issues of submission is one that God takes very seriously

A. **Their attitude that many believers have towards those in authority is, Who put you in charge? You're no better than us, we hear from God too – This too is the attitude of rebellion**

1. *TL-We have had enough of your presumption; you are no better than anyone else; everyone in Israel has been chosen of the Lord, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to put yourselves forward, claiming that we must obey you, and acting as though you were greater than anyone else among all these people of the Lord? MS-You've overstepped yourself. This entire community is holy and GOD is in their midst. So why do you act like you're running the whole show? VO-You've taken this leadership way too far. How can you presume to be better than any of us*

2. 4-Moses knows just how serious this type of attitude is

B. **You take too much on yourself when you endeavor to take place that God didn't give you**

1. 3,7-They accused Moses of taking too much on himself, but he said to them they were doing that

2. 9-Their place was to do the service of the tabernacle, but they wanted Moses' place

3. They thought they could do what Moses could do, but they couldn't b/c they didn't have the anointing to do it – Many just need this revelation YOU ARE NOT IN CHARGE, YOU ARE NOT THE BOSS

C. **When you come against/rebel against the authority that God put in place you're coming against, rebelling against God**

1. *11-MSG-It's God you've ganged up against, not us-God gave Moses this authority, anointing and place*

2. 12-Moses asked them to come up and talk about this and they said we will not – Look at the spirit/ugliness of this

D. **Rebellion always fails to recognize that it was God who gave the authority and place**

1. There was a failure on their end to recognize who gave Moses this place of authority; Moses didn't make himself the leader over them God did; *13-AMP-But you must also make yourself prince over us?*

2. One mark of rebelling is to accuse leadership of being boss or controlling; CJB-You arrogate to yourself the role of dictator over us; CEV-Now you also want to boss us around; EXB-Now you want to order us around

3. 28-They thought Moses was just doing what he wanted to do and trying to control people, but the reality was Moses was hearing from God and therefore to rebel against Moses was to rebel against God and this was serious

E. **When God gives calls you to lead, he gives you the anointing and place to lead and it's not about who's smarter or maybe more naturally qualified, it's about the anointing and place and if God didn't call you to lead then you don't have the anointing or place to lead**

