

# THE ARMY OF GOD

## The Benefits Of Spiritual Leadership

### I. You have people over you in the Lord and they are there for your BENEFIT (NOT to do whatever you want)

#### A. Is it true that you have people who are over you in the Lord?

1. ***Hb13:7-Remember them which have the rule (have authority over, overseer) over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation; AC-Leaders or superiors in authority***
2. ***Hb13:17-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 & not w/ grief for that is unprofitable for you; AC-Spiritual leaders; DL-Ones leading you; NMB-Have the oversight of you***
3. ***1Th5:12-13-We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And esteem them very highly in love their works sake. And be at peace among yourselves; CSB-Lead you in the Lord; NAS-Have charge over you in the Lord; NET-Preside over you in the Lord; NLV-The Lord has placed them over you***
4. 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. This idea of people being over you is a foreign concept to many Christians

1. ***Is this the Bible? Are there people who have the rule over you? Is this verse true?***
2. Many if they have heard the concept of this before they don't function in the reality of it – They don't do what the scripture tells them to do with their leaders or in regard to their leaders

#### C. Why would the Lord put people over you? It's for your benefit (***Eph4:8-He gave gifts unto men; Ps103:2-Forget not all his benefits***)

1. ***Keith Moore-Most of my people are not receiving the full benefits of my gifts***
2. ***Many don't know the purpose of them that are over you and don't know what to they are supposed to do with them that are over them and so there are many benefits that believers are supposed to be deriving from these gifts that they are not***
3. ***There are things that God ordained that you receive through these people that you can receive no other way***

### II. What are the functions of these people who are over in you the Lord?

#### A. To speak The Word to you-***Hb13:7-Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto the Word; AM-Brought; TL-Taught***

1. ***The word they bring feeds/nourishes your spirit- 1Tim4:6-nourished up in the words of faith and good doctrine***
  - a. The word is milk (1Pt2:2) and meat (Hb5:12) and good faith teaching nourishes you; A big part of the shepherds job is to feed the flock- ***1Pt5:2-Fed the flock of God which is among you***
  - b. ***A fed and strong spirit will enable you to resist the enemy, to not yield to the flesh, to fight the fight of faith and win, to not break under pressure, to walk in victory, to be used of God-Pr18:14,1Tm4:8***
  - c. ***Many are missing out on this benefit and are malnourished in their spirit b/c they don't feed on the teachings of the ones God placed over them; Their spirit is weak and you can't function spiritually with a weak spirit***
2. ***The word they bring will 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***
  - a. 2Tm3:16-17-The Word was given to us so that we would be equipped for every good work
  - b. ***As these over you bring the word to you, you begin to develop and get trained more and more to do more and more for the Lord, to be used of Him in a greater degree and capacity, equipped to win in life's battles***

- c. Many miss out on this benefit and are untrained and ill-equipped for their calling, for life's battles because they don't feed on the teachings of the ones God placed over them and victory and prosperity alludes them

B. To watch for your souls (Life, hear, mind soul; Thayer-Life)- *Hb13:17-CJB-Keep watch over your lives; CEV-They are watching over you; CEB-Watch over your whole being; AMP-Your spiritual welfare; PH-Standing guard over your spiritual good*

1. They are line of protection keeping watch to help keep your life be good and go well (Through prayer & teaching)
2. This is the answer to why many believers' lives are a mess; There was a line of protection that God put in place to help them that they don't have because the ones over them have no place in their lives and so they're vulnerable to the enemy and susceptible to stuff that this line of protection is designed to keep out

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. This guiding, these urgings and warnings keep you safe, keep you from going down a wrong path and falling into trouble that the Lord wouldn't want you to fall in

D. Think about what happens to a believer who lives their life with no leadership

1. If God set the system up for you to receive THESE things from those who are over you, then you won't be able to get them any other way; Without them that are over you, you won't be nourished like you should, trained like you should, prosper like you should, protected like you should, be used like you should, your life won't be what it should
2. There are always answers as to why people are in the shape they are in spiritually
3. Do you and I need these people over us in the Lord? Or is this more of an optional thing? If you say no you don't need them you disagree with scripture and reject the system God put in place for you to help you

III. The enemy has worked endlessly for centuries to rob us of revelation of *them that are over you* and twist and convolute spiritual leadership because he knows the benefits that come from it and the perils that come from not having it

A. (1) Satan brought immorality in leadership (leaders who led people to do unrighteous things and leaders who led in a controlling manner) in attempt to get people to reject this all together

1. Immoral church leaders who have led wrong, don't change the truth that you're supposed to have leaders over you
  - a. Godly leaders are will lead like God (1) Righteously (2) Not controlling- *1Pet4:2-GW-Watch over it as God does*
2. Satan's even trained people to hear teaching like this and call it "cultish" (Why? If it is they don't have to accept it)
  - a. Many hear submit, them that are over me and throw it out, call it cultish and it's b/c of these immoral leaders; The reality is if people saw this the way God designed it, they'd clamor for it

B. (2) He's always tried to water the role of leadership down through the traditions of men

1. He's endeavored to turn spiritual leadership into someone who does weddings, funerals, baby dedications, shakes hands, cuddles carnality, feeds poor people, visits hospitals; It's to the point that a lot of Christians think that's what spiritual leadership is and have no revelation of feeding, training, watching, warning
  - a. The enemy has worked this kind of thinking in to cause the church and believers to miss the benefits of the real
  - b. The real benefits and power of this are still alive and working today for those who will receive it
2. This is one of Satan's MO's, to water stuff down, pervert it from it's true purpose, drain it of power and then shove it down The Church's' throat like it's gospel (The first awakening has to come in church leadership; I refuse to let you turn this holy God-ordained position into some watered down nothing)

