

THE ARMY OF GOD

Acknowledging Authority

I. You have people over you in the Lord and they are there for your benefit NOT to use at your disposal

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

1. ***Hb13:7-Remember them which have the rule (oversee) 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; CSB-Lead you in the Lord; NET-Preside over you in the Lord; NLV-The Lord has placed them over you***
4. This idea of people being over you is a foreign concept to many Christians
 - a. Is this the Bible? Are there people who have the rule over you? Are these verses true?

B. Why would the Lord put people over you? It's for your benefit (***Ps103:2-Forget not all his benefits***)

1. Keith Moore-Many of my people are not receiving the full benefits of my gifts (Eph4:8-He gave gifts unto men)
2. 3 benefits of leadership: 1-They bring the word to you that nourishes/feeds and trains/equips 2-The watch for your life as a line of protection to help your life go well 3-They admonish you to keep you from falling into trouble
 - a. There are things that God ordained that you receive through these people that you will receive no other way
3. They are there for your benefit NOT to use at your discretion and disposal – If you're leaders doing whatever you want them to do, then they're not the leader you are
 - a. Some try to treat their spiritual leaders like hirelings; You're supposed to do this for me, it's your job, like something is owed; Many even try to guilt them into it, shame them into it and many leaders cave
 - b. To be a servant is not to baby people, wait on them hand and foot or do whatever they want you to do; To be a servant is to serve God by doing what He directs which manifests in serving people the way He leads
4. Many don't know the purpose of spiritual leadership or what they are supposed to do with spiritual leadership and so there are benefits that believers are supposed to be deriving from these gifts that they are not

II. There are things you must do in regards to your leadership to experience the benefits of it

A. Know them – This sounds overly simple, but you need to know who your leaders are

1. ***1Th5:12-We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord***
 - a. Know-Be aware, perceive, discern, discover
2. Know THEM-These are specific people – You should be able to name names
 - a. Many do not know who their leaders are and don't care to find out because they believe they don't really need leaders and they believe a lie – Timothy had Paul, Elisha had Elijah, Joshua had Moses but you don't need leaders?
3. You don't select your leaders or decide who they are, but God selects them for you and it is for you to discover and discern who He has hooked you to
 - a. ***1Cor12:18-But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him***
 - b. It's imperative you acknowledge the Lord placed these leaders over you and that you acknowledge these leaders as being sent by God, anointed by God to lead you in the Lord-AMP-Recognize, acknowledge

B. Respect them

1. **1Th5:12-Know (have regard for one, pay attention to) them which are over you in the Lord; GNT-Pay proper respect; CEV-Show them great respect**
2. It's not about respecting flesh, it's about respecting the one who sent them and gave them the place
 - a. **Jn13:20-Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receives whomsoever I send receives me; and he that receives me receives him that sent me; Lk10:16-He that hears you hears me; and he that despises you, despises me; and he that despises me despises him that sent me**
 - b. God takes in personally how you treat the one He sends and so if He sent leaders into your life and you treat them with no respect God takes it personally – How you treat the one God sends is how you treat Him
3. God either did or did not send them to you and if He did then you need to get to showing some respect
 - a. They are somebody to you and you treat them like they are somebody
4. A big part of respect is paying attention – Their words means something to you; Many pay no attention to their leaders, because there is no respect

C. Esteem them very highly – Should we value the ones God sends?

1. **1Th5:12-13-Know (cherish) 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**
 - a. Esteem very highly means to place a great value on them, you set a high value on them
2. We esteem them because God sent them – They are gifts from God to you – Are you esteeming His gifts?
 - a. **Eph4:8-When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men; He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers**
 - b. We esteem them because of the things God does for us through them
 - a. Our feeding, equipping, prosperity, safety, growth, assignment, well-being is connected to them and if you value these things at all, then you value the ones God sends to you; I value you my life, my nourishment, my equipping, missing traps set for me so I value them
 - b. **2Kings2:2-Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you**
4. This is not about them feeling appreciated; It's about you receiving the full benefit your leaders
 - a. Preachers and believers alike should not be wrapped up in being appreciated by people (Pic of Jesus)
 - 1) **John5:41-KJ-I receive not honor from men; CEV-I don't care about human praise**
 - b. If you don't value them, you'll give them no place in your life, you won't pay attention to them and you'll miss what God wants to do through them and so esteeming them is for your safety and good

D. Submit to them – If you rebel against leadership you'll miss the benefits of it

1. To submit is to recognize a person's God-given place/rank/authority being higher than yours and therefore you put yourself under their authority
 - a. **Hb13:17-KJ-Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves; NIRV-Put yourselves under their authority; ICB-Be under their authority; PH-Recognize their authority; GW-Accept their authority; DRA-Be subject to; CEB-Defer to; ERV-Be willing to do what they say; JUB-Do not resist**
 - b. Submit-Under, beneath, inferior position, resist no longer, yield to authority, give way
2. Submission is voluntary act of your will to put yourself under another's authority because you recognize and acknowledge their God-given place

- a. You either recognize authority and put yourself under it or you don't: Nobody can force you to submit, you have to submit yourself and if you don't it won't happen
- b. God doesn't force people to submit to Him and so a godly leader won't try to force people to submit
- 3. Submission is doing what the one in authority wants and not what you want
 - a. **Lk22:42-Not my will, but yours be done;** He has a will (desire, what one wishes to be done) and it's different than the Father's; What He wants and what the Father wants are different
 - b. This is submission in a phrase – Not my will, but yours be done
- 4. Submission is not agreement; If you agree, then it's what you wanted to do and that requires no submission
 - a. The opportunity to display submission comes when you disagree
 - b. Will you be asked to do things by those the Lord has placed over you that you don't agree with? When you are we will find out if you truly are submitted to them
- 5. Submission is something you have to learn and you learn it by not getting to do what you want, but instead doing what the one in authority over you wants
 - a. **Hb5:8-Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience (submission) by the things which he suffered; Hb2:18-Suffered being tempted**
 - b. Jesus didn't learn submission on the cross, but before the cross by not doing what he wanted to do
 - c. Submission is not easy on your flesh – It wasn't easy for Jesus and it won't be for you
- 6. If you're not submitted to the one God sent, you're not submitted to Him and now you got bigger problems-Js4:7

E. Obey them

- 1. **Hb13:17-Obey them that have the rule over you; CEV-Do what they say; DL-Be obeying the ones leading and be yielding; GN-Follow their orders; VO-Listen to; WE-Do what they tell you**
 - a. Obey-To assent w/ authority, yield, listen to, comply with, to trust
 - b. A godly leader takes this very seriously and will not ask you to do something they didn't hear from the Lord
- 2. Submission must be proved with obedience; You can say you're submitted, but if you don't obey when you don't want to, then you are not submitted
 - 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**
- 3. When submission is in place obedience is the result
 - a. The reason people don't obey is because they are not submitted – They are their own boss

III. Satan will attack you on the level of your spiritual leadership endeavoring to get you to unhook and rebel so you miss out on the vital things God ordained that you get through your leaders

A. The enemy knows if he can create a divide between you and your leaders you are ripe for the picking and so he works endlessly to get you to unhook from the ones you're supposed to be hooked to

- 1. He doesn't want you to know who they are, respect them, esteem them, submit to them and obey them because he knows that if you do you'll be fed, equipped, protected and forewarned about trouble he has set up for you

B. Many believers are sheep without a shepherd and often times it's because the enemy created a divide

- 1. When you disconnect/unhook from your spiritual leadership you become a prey, meat to the beasts of the field

- a. ***Ez34:5-They were scattered because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered...8 My flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherds***
- b. ***1Pt5:8-Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour*** – He’s looking for sheep without a shepherd
2. Sheep without a shepherd bewildered, harassed, distressed, dejected and helpless-***Mt9:36-When He saw the throngs, He was moved with pity and sympathy for them, because they were bewildered (harassed and distressed and dejected and helpless), like sheep without a shepherd***
 - a. Many Christians are harassed, distressed, dejected and being devoured by the enemy because they have no shepherd, no leadership and if they know who that is, there’s no respect, submission
3. People say, “Jesus is my shepherd” and don’t realize Jesus uses under shepherds to shepherd his flock-***1Pet5:1-To the elders which are among you I exhort you...2 feed the flock of God which is among you taking oversight thereof...4 And when the chief shepherd shall appear*** – You need me

IV. To rebel against the leadership God gave you is to miss out on the benefits you’re supposed to derive from it

A. It is the nature of the flesh to dislike authority and to rebel against it

1. Your flesh doesn’t like to be told what to do and your flesh doesn’t like it when someone else is the boss
2. Rebellion is the result of Satan’s influence and working
 - a. ***Eph2:2-Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (rebellion)***
 - b. He rebelled against God and so he works to inspire and move others to rebel
3. When leadership tells you to do something that you don’t like, challenges you and you start having all these feelings about how you don’t want to do what and don’t like that – You need to resist that and submit
 - a. The feelings are real, they are strong because Satan wants you out of there
 - b. ***Eccl10:4-If the spirit of the ruler rises up against you leave not your place***

B. Num16-To unhook, disconnect, rebel against the leadership God put over you is to sin against yourself

- ***Num16:3-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.***
 1. Rebellion fails to recognize it is God who gave this person this authority and place
 - a. ***Num16:3-You take too much upon you...wherefore then lift up you yourselves above the congregation of the Lord***
 - b. They are failing to recognize that it was God who gave Moses the place – “Who put you in charge?”
 - c. They are accusing Moses of give himself this position of authority, doing what he wants and controlling them
 - d. 28-Moses makes the point that I didn’t give this place to myself, I didn’t decide to do these things of myself
 2. Rebellion always fails to recognize anointing
 - a. ***Num16:3-All the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them***
 - b. They thought they could do what Moses could do, but they couldn’t b/c they didn’t have the anointing to do it

- c. The gifted leaders were rebelling-When God gives calls you to lead, he gives you the anointing to lead and it's not about who's smarter, more gifted or more naturally qualified, it's about the anointing and if God didn't call you to lead then you don't have the anointing to lead and so you can't lead it
- 3. Rebellion fails to recognize who it is actually rebelling against
 - a. When you rebel against the authority that God put in place you are rebelling against God
 - b. They think they're coming against Moses-**11-MSG-It's God you've ganged up against, not us**
 - c. You have to be so cautious b/c people think they just have a problem with this person, but really it's the Lord
- 4. The spirit of rebellion is an ugly thing
 - a. 12-15-Moses endeavors to extend some grace and mercy to them; There's so much in this phrase: *We will not come up*; Such disrespect and rebellion; Won't even talk to him
- 5. 31-35-This is a really severe response to rebellion
 - a. Why does God take this rebellion so seriously? Rebellion is the nature of Satan himself and the result of rebellion is always destruction and God hates destruction
 - b. Has he changed? Does He still feel the same way about rebellion today? How should we feel about it?
 - 1) We need to be on guard against it b/c you will be tempted in this area
- 6. 38-By rebelling against the leadership God put in place they were actually sinning against themselves
 - a. 38-40-God has them take the censers of that rebellious people and making a covering for the altar as a memorial and a warning to not be like Korah and His company
 - b. 41-45-People are so dumb they come against Moses and Aaron the next day and God is so serious about this rebellion that he's starts taking them out and 14,700 more left