

The Enemy's Strategies Against You (3)

6. He tempts you to be misaligned with authority

In this next section we will explore how the enemy attempts to get us to violate a universal law that God has put in place. This is the law of submission to authority. God has created this world by His authority and has established various houses of authority for our own protection and blessing. How we relate to this system is crucial in warfare and life. Can you confidently say that you respect authority? Are you fully submitted to God; His ways and His Word? Do you often usurp the authority you have delegated? When we talk about authority, we are also talking about authority you establish under you. All authority is delegated. Do you punish your bosses by procrastination, gossip or a closed heart? **Remember that submission is tested in disagreement. It is easy to say that you are submitted to authority until you disagree with that authority.** For those of you in authority, are you easy to submit to? Do you have characteristics of one to whom it is easy to submit? How are you relating to those in authority over you? Have you become bitter or critical? **If staying somewhere is causing you to sin, sometimes it is better to move on and remain with a clean heart.** A lot of conflict is conflict due to status issues. We do not accept our status as under someone else. In this message I will share with you 12 key points describing the technology of this universal law of submission to authority.

1 Peter 2:11-21 *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to **every human authority**: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. **Show proper respect to everyone**, love the family of believers, **fear God**, honour the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, **but also to those who are harsh**. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

A. We are called to submit to every type of authority that God has established.

Leadership is not always easy. **Be careful of taking over and making decisions for your leaders.** **You are called to rather to warn them of the consequences of their decisions.** This passage shows us that there are different dimensions of authority. As you walk through life you are always walking in a place where you are either in authority or under authority. There are some people who hold positions of authority in their workplaces, then, when they come to church and are told to park in a specific place by a security guard, they get offended. When I am in my house, I am in authority as the head of my household. However, the moment I take my kids to school I am under the authority of the governing body of the school. A lot of people do not know how to switch gears from being in authority to being under authority. Angels understand authority and demons also understand authority. The kingdom of darkness is very organised, even though it is for the wrong reasons. Authority comes from God and there are different dimensions of authority. There is authority in the church and there is the authority of civil government, family, schools, corporations etc. Authority is not a bad thing, but abuse of authority is what is negative.

The word "submit" is the Greek word **hypotasso and is primarily a military term, which means to rank under (hupo, under, tasso, to arrange) and denotes: to subject oneself, to obey, be subject to.**

The opposite is the Greek word anupotaktos speaks of: **independent; undisciplined, disobedient, rebellious; unsubjected; (actively) that which cannot be subjected to control, disobedient, unruly, refractory. Refractory = stubborn or unmanageable. Resistant to control or authority. In technical language something is described as refractory when it is resistant to a process or stimuli.**

In the same way that Lucifer rebelled and moved out from under God's authority, he entices many to the same. **Do you know people who have a contrary spirit?** You instruct them to go left and they go right. I am not talking about having "yes men", I am talking about operating as one man because people are willing to yield. Judges 20:8 (NKJV) "So all the people arose as one man, saying, 'None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house.'"

What is your post in the kingdom of God? The moment you pull out of that, you are no longer under cover, you are no longer under arrangement. A common way people are enticed by the enemy is when they trespass in the spirit. This is where you usurp the responsibility of a leader. Be careful of imposing a future blueprint onto a current scenario. Sometimes god gives you a blueprint for something you will establish later but you try to impose it now on your current leaders.

B. There are consequences when we are misaligned with God given authority.

Numbers 12:1-10 (NIV) 1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) 4 At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you." So the three of them went out. 5 Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, 6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.

7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face,

clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them. 10 When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease....

This is the impact of familiarity.

C. The primary authority in your life should be God.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

You will walk in authority to the degree to which you are submitted to God's authority.

Colossians 3:18-24 "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working

for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

How different would your work life be if you did everything as unto the Lord? There are different levels of loyalty. **If your organisation forces you to do things that are not ethical, and you comply, it means your loyalty is first to the organisation before it is to God. It is blind loyalty.**

D. Misplaced authority has an impact on angelic activity.

1 Corinthians 11:10 *For this reason the woman should have (a sign of the man's) authority on her head, because of the angels.*

In the Greek language there is no differentiation between the word "woman" and the word "wife", so the context here is a married woman. The key thing here is the presence of angels. There is angelic activity that takes place when we are gathered in prayer and worship. So when you are not under proper arrangement I believe that you expose yourself to demonic activity but also it means angels cannot do certain things on your behalf. Angels are believed to be present and observing when believers gather to worship, and their presence calls for reverence, order, and adherence to God's design for authority.

Revelation 8:2 – 4 *Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.*

Do you see here the involvement of angels in prayer related activities.

1 Tim 5:21 *I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.*

We need to teach our children the blessing of being under authority from a young age. They should listen to those with delegated authority over them (e.g. teachers, helpers at home).

E. Sincere submission to God-given leadership benefits you and makes their work a joy.

Hebrews 13:17 *"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."*

F. Staying submitted to God's authority has many benefits.

Job 22:21 *"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you."*

G. Jesus modelled for us the virtue of submission.

Luke 22:42 *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*

In what aspects of your life do you need to also say, "not my will but yours be done?"

H. Submission to authority is central to our witness to the world.

Titus 2:5 *"to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."*

I. Submission to authority is something we have to be continuously reminded of.

Titus 3:1 "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,"

J. Fear is often a barrier to submitting to authority.

1 Peter 3:5-6 "For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

In what ways does fear stop you from being submissive?

K. Our submission must be Godward and mutual.

Ephesians 5:21-25 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

It is very easy for a woman to submit to a husband who she knows loves her so much he will die for her.

Single people, your spouse should be your hero; someone you both admire and adore.

L. We are called to submit to the governing authorities God has instituted.

Romans 13:1-7 "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience."

Has your conscience become seared with regards to how you relate to government authorities?

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to submit to authority? Why do you think that is?
2. How does your relationship with authority figures (e.g., bosses, parents, church leaders) reflect your relationship with God's authority?
3. Have you ever experienced bitterness or criticism toward authority? How has this impacted your spiritual walk?
4. How do you handle disagreement with those in authority? Do you find your submission tested in moments of conflict?
5. Are you guilty of undermining authority through procrastination, gossip, or a closed heart? How can you realign yourself with God's design for submission?
6. How would your work ethic change if you approached every task as if doing it for God, rather than human authorities?

7. In what ways do you think fear prevents you from submitting to authority in your life? How can you overcome this fear?
8. Have you ever tried to impose a future blueprint on a current scenario? How did that impact your relationship with your leaders?
9. How does a lack of submission to authority affect spiritual protection and angelic activity in your life, as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 11:10?
10. In what areas of your life do you need to say, "Not my will, but yours be done," in terms of submitting to God or human authority?