

The Facts of Spiritual Life Part 12

Hebrews 12:2a (CEV) *We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.*

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV) *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.***

1 John 5:1-5 (NLT) *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NKJV) *Now faith is the **substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. **By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,** so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) *Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*

Hebrews 11:1-2a (Msg) *The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that **makes life worth living.** It's our handle on what we can't see.*

Faith is being fully persuaded that God is in control of the outcome of my future and a stubborn determination to see His will happen in my life, regardless of what I am going through today.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*

Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Definition of Submission: To willingly place yourself under the authority of another for the purpose of accomplishing the same mission.

- Submission to authority is ultimately about faith.

Biblical Example - The Centurion

- An act of submission is an act of faith.

Luke 7:1-10 (NKJV) *Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.*

Several things we learn from the Centurion about Authority:

- He recognized the Authority given to Jesus.

Luke 7:6 (NKJV) *Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "**Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.***

John 5:30 (CEV) *I cannot do anything on my own. **The Father sent me, and he is the one who told me how to judge.** I judge with fairness, because I obey him, and I don't just try to please myself.*

John 5:36 (NLT) *But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. **The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.***

John 5:43 (CEV) *I have come with my Father's authority, and you have not welcomed me. But you will welcome people who come on their own.*

John 8:28 (NLT) *So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I am he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me.*

John 8:42 (NCV) *Jesus said to them, "If God were really your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come by my own authority; God sent me.*

John 10:18 (NLT) *No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."*

- He recognized his position in relation to Jesus.

Luke 7:7a (NKJV) *Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.*

Luke 7:3 (NKJV) *So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.*

- He demonstrates his understanding of how authority works.

Luke 7:8 (NKJV) *For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

- He shows that he grasps both the responsibility and benefits of authority.

Luke 7:2 (NKJV) *And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.*

Luke 7:7b-8 (NKJV) *But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

Luke 7:4-5 (NKJV) *And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."*

- He also recognized that authority does not have to be in proximity to be respected or dismissed.

Luke 7:9-10 (NKJV) *When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.*

Romans 8:14-17 (J.B. Phillips) *All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father". The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory.*