

Basic Disciplines of a Believer: A Mature Believer Yields to Authority

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION (Be a Sponge!) – I am filling myself with God's Word

Joshua 1:8 – *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

1. **Bible Reading** – Familiarization – Knowing What the Bible Says
 - **Public Reading** – reading the Bible out loud in a group setting
 - **Personal Reading** – reading the Bible each day for ourselves
2. **Bible Feeding** – Instruction – Learning What the Bible Means
3. **Bible Treasuring** – Memorization – Saving What the Bible Says into My Heart
4. **Bible Deepening** – Meditation – Thinking About What the Bible Says
5. **Bible Keeping** – Application – Doing What the Bible Says

Discipline #2: CONTINUAL PRAYER – I am always talking to God.

Colossians 4:2 – *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

Praying Is Talking to God (P.A.T.)

*We pray because we **can**. | We pray because we **should**. | We pray because others **prayed**. | We pray because of **good***

Yielded Followership Key Passage:

Romans 13:1-2 – *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

One of the most foundational concepts of a believer's growth is to learn the importance of authority and submission. Every relationship created by God has both authority and submission. Learning to submit is fundamental to our proper response to God, to having a godly marriage and raising godly children, to having a Biblically functioning congregation, and to our proper response to government and those without. Romans 13 presents the truth that all authority comes from God. To resist authority is to resist God (unless any given authority bypasses God's higher authority).

New Testament "hupo" Words:

Several words are used in the NT for submission, and each has similar meanings with slightly different emphases:

- (1) **hupotasso** (ὑποτάσσω) – means "to place under; to submit to"
- (2) **hupotage** (ὑποταγή) – the noun form of hupotasso = "submission"
- (3) **hupakouo** (ὑπακούω) – means "to listen under and be responsive to"
- (4) **hupakoe** (ὑπακοή) – the noun form of hupakouo = "obedience"
- (5) **hupeiko** (ὑπείκω) – means "to yield to; to give way to" (only in Heb 13:17, from *eiko* [εἴκω], to give place or to yield, used only in Gal 2:5 in a negative sense – not to give in to those that demand keeping the Law)

Observations:

- Each word involves "under" (hupo) – Yielding or submitting is being "under" others. This is God's idea and requirement.
- Each word is something the follower does – the commands are given to the follower!
- Each word requires us to willingly yield to and follow another.
- Each word assumes disagreement of decision or direction. It assumes that we would do something else if we were in charge. At a minimum "submission" assumes disagreement by virtue of differences of opinions as to what is the best decision or best direction. It can also involve choosing righteousness over sin.
- Each word is present as a command. Submission itself *is* righteousness. Not yielding is sin, even if the circumstance or choice does not involve a sinful decision or direction (and disobeying one authority is allowed only when one is obeying a higher authority, usually God).

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Realms of Yielded Followership:

A. Believer’s GOD-WARD Submission Responsibilities

1. Believers Are To Submit To God

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is **subject** to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. (1)

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily **be in subjection** to the Father of spirits and live? (1)

James 4:7 Therefore **submit** to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (1)

2. Believers Are To Be Obedient To the Truth

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you **should obey** it in its lusts. (3)

Rom 6:16-17, 19 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to **obey** (4), you are that one's slaves whom you **obey** (3), whether of sin *leading* to death, or of **obedience** (4) *leading* to righteousness? But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed** (3) from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.
¹⁹For your **obedience** (4) has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

2 Cor 7:15 And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the **obedience** (4) of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.

2 Cor 10:5-6 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the **obedience** (4) of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your **obedience** (4) is fulfilled.

2 Thes 3:14 And if anyone **does** not **obey** our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (3)

Phile 1:21 Having confidence in your **obedience**, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. (4)

1 Pet 1:14 as **obedient** children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; (4)

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in **obeying** the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, (4)

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (3)

B. Believer’s FAMILY Submission Responsibilities

1. Wives Are To Be Subject To Their Own Husbands

2. Children Are To Submit To Parents (and Parents Are To Have Their Children in Submission)

C. Believer’s CHURCH Submission Responsibilities

1. Believers Are To Submit To Spiritual Leaders

2. Younger (Leaders?) Are To Submit To the Elder

3. Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service

4. Women Are To Learn In Silence with All Submission

5. Believers Are To Submit To One Another

D. Believer’s OUTWARD Submission Responsibilities

1. Believers Are To Be Subject To Government Authorities

2. Servants Are To Submit To Their Own Masters