

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Lesson 8 w/Answers

The Discipline of Submission

We continue our study of the spiritual disciplines with the last of the "outward" disciplines, namely the Discipline of Submission. Specifically, we will be examining what it means to be "submissive", and what the Bible regarding about how we should exercise this discipline.

As with everything in our Christian walk, Christ is our model. This lesson will be no exception, as we look at how Christ shows us what living the submissive life looks like and the blessings that come from it.

Consider the following scriptures and all that they tell us concerning the Discipline of Submission.

1. What is submission? How can we define it? How does the Bible define it? Read Romans 13:1-3 and note what it indicates to you about submission. What is it? How is it manifested?
 - a. ANSWER 1: We are all to submit to God's authority. No one is exempt—not even Christ—as we will see shortly.
 - b. ANSWER 2: If we do not submit to God's authority, we will face judgment.
 - c. ANSWER 3: Being submissive to God's authority frees us from our fears and anxieties, and results in commendation from God—not condemnation and judgment.
 - d. ANSWER 4: We can conclude then that submission is trusting in God's providence in our lives and in the lives of others. As such, we are to place His will before our own.
2. How did Christ model submission? See Hebrews 5:7-8.
 - a. ANSWER 1: He recognized God's authority by praying to Him. In doing so, he acknowledged that only God had the power to save him from death.
 - b. ANSWER 2: God heard his prayers because He saw Jesus sincerely submitting to His will.
 - c. ANSWER 3: Jesus exercised obedience through his suffering.
3. Today, who do the angels, authorities, and powers submit to? See 1 Peter 3:22.
 - a. ANSWER: They submit to Christ, who himself completely submitted to God and now sits at God's right hand with the angels, authorities, and powers submitting to him.
4. Read Psalm 30. What does it tell us concerning submission?
 - a. ANSWER 1: When we exercise submission, we put our hope in the Lord and we wait on the Lord. These represent the two key pieces of being submissive: hope and patience.
 - b. ANSWER 2: When we submit to God, our desire is to serve Him and to place His will above ours in all things.
5. The 23rd Psalm is a great Psalm about the submissive life. What are some of the highlights of this Psalm as it relates to submission?
 - a. ANSWER 1: When we submit to God, we will lack nothing.
 - b. ANSWER 2: God will guide us, keeping us on the right path—and keeping us off the wrong one.
 - c. ANSWER 3: God will protect us and reassure us when we are having times of great trouble.
 - d. ANSWER 4: We will "live in the house of the Lord forever".

6. In order to submit to God, we must know Him, and we must seek Him out. What do the following verses tell us regarding this aspect of submission?
- a. Deuteronomy 4:29
 - i. ANSWER: We are commanded to seek Him with all of our heart and soul, because half-hearted attempts at seeking God and serving Him will not work.
 - b. 1 Chronicles 28:9
 - i. ANSWER: We are to willingly serve God with wholehearted devotion. God knows our heart, and He knows whether we genuinely love Him and are serving Him out of love.
 - c. Psalm 14:1-3
 - i. ANSWER: God is always looking to find those who are seeking Him, but man is not looking for God. Believing that there is no God, they are corrupt and fools, blinded by their unbelief.
7. How did David model the discipline of submission? See Psalm 63:1-3.
- a. ANSWER: He earnestly sought God above all else. Notice that his "whole being" *[NIV]* longed for God. Also notice that his submission manifests itself in glorifying God.
8. What does the Bible tells us about submission and pleasing God? What is the first thing that we must have? See Hebrews 11:5-7.
- a. ANSWER: Faith. We must believe that God is God, and that He can do all things. Without complete faith in God, we cannot please him.

Let us pray that this week, like David and Christ, that we will seek God with all of our heart, mind, and soul; and that we will submit to His will in our lives.

Thanks for studying with us!

In Christ,

Wes