

We began our study with the centurion who made Jesus “marvel” (let that sink in for a minute). I find this amazing, and it is the foundation for our series this year. The centurion understood authority. He said, “I am also a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go’ and he goes; and to another ‘Come’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this’ and he does it.” Jesus told those who followed, “I have not seen such great faith, not even in Israel!” In our session we will explore this link between faith, submission and authority. We will do so by looking at several examples of great Bible characters who exhibited attitudes of submission in their lives. We will look at these characters as role models, which are people whose behavior, example or success can be emulated by others.

What new fact did you learn last night about faith, or what point stuck out thus far in our study? _____

Define disposition (attitude) in your own words: _____

List a few of your role models: _____

What characteristics do these people have that you would like to emulate?

Now define submission in your own words: _____

Now let's define “An attitude of Submission” as the predominant or prevailing tendency of one's spirits to yield to the power or authority of another.

Heb 11:1 Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We have been able to quote this verse for years but what does faith have to do with submission? What does “evidence of things not seen” refer too? Is it not a promise that God has made or the belief in something we can see, touch or feel? With each of the examples, we will note it starts with a promise. Each person believed the promise of God whether it seemed logical or not. This is the key to authority. Do we believe in God's Word to the point we say “If God says it, it will happen whether I understand it or not”? Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Do you believe “that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”?

Humans tend to want to judge whether something is right based on logic. It has to make sense to me before I will obey. We will notice that many of these Godly examples followed through with God's command when it didn't make sense to them and in some cases was completely incomprehensible.

Humans also tend to equate submission with weakness.

Was Jesus weak or less important when He faced the cross? Mt 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; **nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

With our "role models" the pattern is simple:

- A promise is given
- Our "role model" believed in God's supreme authority over all things
- This faith caused each person to act on (or submit to) God's Word

I. Noah – Hebrews 11:7

- a. Promise: By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen.
- b. Faith: He believed and was moved with Godly fear
 - i. Believed things never seen
 - ii. Preached in the face of a wicked world (II Pet. 2:5)
- c. Action (submission): prepared an ark for the saving of his household by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness.

II. Abraham Moves – Hebrews 11:8-10

- a. Promise: Genesis 12:1-3, 7 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- b. Faith: By faith Abraham obeyed ...
 - i. He didn't know where he was going.
 - ii. He didn't know what trouble might await him there.
 - iii. He dwelt in a foreign land in tents.
- c. Action (Submission): It simply reads, "By faith he obeyed God, he went out not knowing where he was going."
 - i. Think of how hard this was to leave an established life for tents.
- d. Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

III. Abraham Offers Isaac – Hebrews 11:8-10

- a. Promise: Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called."
- b. Faith: By faith Abraham believed God's Promise (seed and nation)
 - i. Is there any logical way that the promise could be fulfilled if Abraham obeyed the command?
 - ii. He concluded that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead
- c. Action (Submission): It simply reads, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac."
 - i. Did Abraham's submission take strength? What about those who say submission means you're weak?
 - ii. Did any of this make sense to the human mind? Wouldn't this make it even harder to be submissive?
 - iii. What a great role model of submission!

IV. Israel moves camp "by the command of the Lord" – Number 9:17-18

- a. Promise: Lev 20:24 But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.
 - i. Ex 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.
- b. Faith: Ex 19:8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."
- c. Action (Submission): At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp
 - i. We don't understand leaving out not understanding whether we are going north, south, east or west.
 - We key our destination into our GPS .
 - ii. We are a people who love a schedule.
 - iii. We can't imagine not knowing when or where we are going.
 - iv. Also think about the work needed to set up the Tabernacle, how would you like to set it up and the cloud to move the next day?
 - v. What does this teach us about submission? _____

V. Rechabites Jeremiah 35

- a. Promise: Don't drink wine nor build houses that you may dwell long in the land where you are sojourner. (Jeremiah 35:6-7)
- b. Faith: "Thus" we have obeyed the voice of our father Jonadab the son of Rechab.

- i. This command had been given some 300 years earlier as we read of Jonadab the son of Rechab in the days of Jehu King of Israel.
 - ii. Do you even know your Grandfather's name that was alive nearly 300 years ago? (much less still keep a command he gave)
 - iii. This is submission!
 - c. Action: In a situation where they were invited to the House of the Lord, they rejected the offering of Jeremiah the Prophet.
 - i. Again submission is strength not weakness.
 - ii. God uses this story to contrast Israel's failure to listen to Him with this family's still keeping the command of their "Father" many generations earlier.
 - iii. God assures them, "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever."
- VI.** What about us? We have seen these examples, and we could list many more: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, Rahab, Abel, etc. Is there a paper out there that might list your name as someone's role model? Have you been a "role model" of submission, first to God and then in your earthly roles?
- a. What role does submission have in the following? Notice how you have to be strong and stand up against the worldly? Is submission the same as weakness?
 - i. Repent (Acts 2:38) _____

 - ii. Baptism (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15-16) _____

 - iii. Confession (Matthew 10:32-33) _____

 - b. Living a faithful life is rooted in submission.
 - i. We will spend much time today studying our different roles in life— Christian, child, spouse, parent and member of a congregation. However, this same attitude of submission to God's Word must drive us in our everyday life.
 - ii. In a time where so many have added what is emotionally stimulating as worship, will we submit to God and not go beyond the worship he prescribes?
 - iii. In a time where everything in the world is judged by "if it feels good do it," will we submit to God and let him guild our dress, language, premarital relationships and our daily life?

Will you be the next generation's role model?