



Life on the Rock

Part Four – The Discipline of Submission (Faith)

Message by Pastor Andrew Kulasingham 15th March 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-25

Our series of messages is focusing on our call to be disciples, In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissioned the disciples, and as an extension, we the church to:

- “make disciples” – not converts – calling for devotion not mere decisions
- “baptise them” – immerse them into an intimate, ongoing relationship with the triune God – pickled not dipped
- “teaching them to obey” – discipleship is a lifelong learning programme – it’s training ourselves and each other in the daily life of following Jesus

Today, the first of a few disciplines I want to focus on in our series, is The Discipline of Submission.

Submission is not bad.

We may have had bad experiences with submission but that’s not Biblical submission. Biblical submission never oppresses; it always liberates.

Submission is not popular

Charles Spurgeon said this:

“A lack of submission is no new or rare fault in mankind. Ever since the fall it has been the root of all sin...From the moment when our mother Eve stretched out her hand to pluck the forbidden fruit and her husband joined her in setting up the human will against the divine, the sons of men have universally been guilty of a lack of conformity to the will of God.

They choose their own way and will not submit their wills. They think their own thoughts and will not submit their understanding. They love earthly things and will not submit their affections. Man wants to be his own law and his own master”

Biblical submission is not bad, it is not popular, but it is essential.

Submission is essential for successful discipleship training

Back to the drawing board - The first disciples and the first Gospel message
Acts 2:37-38 (NKJV)

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“they were cut to the heart” – Submission is a heart issue.
Submission to Christ makes no sense to the intellect, because it appeals to the heart.

John’s Gospel is an appeal to the heart, not an intellectual discourse. It focuses on seven miracles he calls signs. It begins by tracing these activities of Jesus:

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:5 (NKJV) **His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”**

Imagine the life transforming impact when they saw wine instead of water pouring out.

The Cleansing of the temple

John 2:19 (NKJV) **Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”**

Put yourself in the apostles’ shoes when they finally realised what Jesus meant.

John 2:22 (NKJV)

Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Nicodemus

John 3:7 (NKJV) **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**

He stands up for Jesus in John 7; He was with Joseph of Arimathea at the burial of Jesus.

The Samaritan woman

John 4:25-26 (NKJV)

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

She was transformed, and her entire village too.

John 4:42 (NKJV)

Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

You submit to Jesus Christ as Lord not merely with the mind – it must go deeper – deeper than the mind, the emotions – it must pierce to the very inner most being – “cut to the heart”.

John 20:30-31 (NKJV) **And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**

Submission is a heart issue.

Three things about submission that are drawn from this passage:

1. THE PREQUEL TO SUBMISSION – “Repent”

The question: “what must we do to be saved?” – The answer: repent.

Repent is the Greek word *metanoia* – to think differently.

“to form insights and habits of the mind so that it stays directed toward God” - Dallas Willard

Our minds are not fixed on God. We need to train our minds – direct our thoughts toward God.

Jesus at Gethsemane - “...**nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**” You don’t get to that place of submission unless you have trained your mind so it stays directed toward God.

Submission requires a change of mind – repent.

2. THE PRACTISE OF SUBMISSION – “and be baptised”

Submission does not come naturally. You train yourself to submit.

> Read Romans 6:1-14. The apostle Paul is addressing a mature congregation of Christians in Rome. He takes them back to the event of baptism in all their lives and reminds them that the symbolic act of being baptised was a declaration to all that they were entering into a lifestyle of dying to the old and walking in the new.

The life we now live is a daily life of “baptism” - Lived out through daily choices (vs 11-14)

Romans 6:11 (NKJV) **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- **STEP ONE:** We must **reckon** ourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – NLT (consider); NIV (count)

The word “reckon” is the Greek word *logizomai* – from the word *logos* (words).
Logizomai means to take an inventory of your words.

Call it what it is – it’s not a weakness, it’s not a slight problem, NO – anything that effects my relationship with God is sin – take inventory, call it what it is.

Don’t become “frenemies” with sin – break the friendly relationship with it. The Amplified Bible translates it beautifully - “**Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin [and your relationship to it broken]**”

- **STEP TWO:** Do not present self to sin

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

Do not let sin reign – don’t obey lust, don’t give in to the longing of the flesh.

> HOW? - Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin.

- hurtful words when angry – stop presenting the tongue, walk away from that conversation.
- constantly in debt – buying things even when you can’t afford it – cut the credit card, don’t go window shopping – don’t present yourself in a position to be tempted.
- lust – don’t expose your eyes to temptation – guard the eye gate.

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin,
but present yourself to God.

“but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God”

Present your parts (limbs) as instruments (tools).

Do not just stop doing something – replace it with a God action

Offence and unforgiveness – Stop talking and thinking badly is not enough – the hurt will fester bitterness – bless them – my forgiveness prayer (antibiotics)

Peter said – be baptised - “for the remission of sins.”

“remission” – *aphesis* (gk) – freedom, pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty.

The act of baptism reminds us we are daily speaking death into our sinful life and activating every member of our body as tools to God

The prequel of submission – repent - submission requires a change of mind.

The practice of submission – be baptised - submission involves the training of every part of us to become instruments of God.

3. THE POWER OF SUBMISSION

Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift of God Himself in all His power.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Submission is for our own good

- Submitting to God positions us to receive God the Holy Spirit in His fullness.
- With Him comes the power to transform our lives, the power to influence others toward Christ.
- Submission enables us with the power to transform communities, cities, nations.

SUBMISSION REQUIRES A MIND DIRECTED TO GOD

SUBMISSION IS BECOMING INSTRUMENTS OF GOD

SUBMISSION ACTIVATES THE POWER OF GOD