



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Submitting to His Lordship

This series was preached on Sunday Morning, November 6th & 13th, 2022

After my message on Wednesday...we unwrapped the Nazarite Vow...it has stayed with me...the call for separation and surrender to God and the things of God. So, we are going to keep going...

1 Peter 1:16 – “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

“Holy” – consecrated or set apart

Many people think this simply means that you have to do right stuff and be perfect. While that is implied, it simply means that we must live our lives SET APART for our covenant partner. “I am my beloveds and He is mine.”

It is surrender...separation to Him.

NOTICE: Not a visit into this thing...a lifestyle...BE.

2 Corinthians 6:17,18

17 Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and **ye shall be my sons and daughters**, saith the Lord Almighty.

“Be ye separate”!

Matthew 10:34 – “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.”

NOTE: Not division in the church...but separation unto the things of God.

“Sons” – huios – mature sons, ready for inheritance

UNDERSTAND: Everyone wants the blessings of God...but not everyone is ready for the blessings (inheritance) of God.

It happens when you are separated...surrendered to the things of God.

BELOVED: God is calling us to be separate! Consecrated! Surrendered to Him.

He has some things prepared for us...ready for us...but it will only come to those who are surrendered.

There is a level of surrender I don't believe we have grabbed a hold of.

We have been taught, "Having done all to stand, stand, therefore..."

And it is good!

We have been taught, "persecution comes from the Word's sake..."

Which is true!

HOWEVER: Sometimes persecution and attacks come to test the Word and sometimes they come due to lack of surrender!

You are holding onto what YOU WANT TO DO and NOT what God has called you to do.

Genesis 49:25,26

25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall **ble**
thee with **blessings** of heaven above, **blessings** of the deep that lieth under, **blessings** of
the breasts, and of the womb:

26 The **blessings** of thy father have prevailed above the **blessings** of my progenitors unto
the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the
crown of the head of him that was **separate from his brethren**.

"Separated" – nazir (Nazarite).

BELOVED: Understand this...the blessings and overflow of God come to those who have
surrendered their lives to Him...those who are separated from the kingdom of darkness
and brought into the kingdom of light.

Bill Johnson uses the phrase "surrendered to the Lordship of Christ."

I think that says it about as good as anything that I could say.

God is God! He is the highest order!

Sovereignty

That leads us to a word that religion loves, the faith camp doesn't like, so we must discuss!

The sovereignty of God. Is God sovereign?

Most people say yes...but don't know what they are saying yes to.

The faith camp would say no...because they are saying no to what most people say yes to.

Most people say that God is sovereign to say this: We have very little say about what goes on in
our lives...God is sovereign and He decides what goes on. If bad things happen...God is
sovereign and decided for it to happen, it is what He wants...there is nothing we can do. If
good happens...same thing!

BELOVED: That is wrong understanding.

"Sovereign" – Highest power in a kingdom or a country. None higher. What He says goes!

THEREFORE: Is God sovereign? Absolutely! He is the highest power in existence!

HOWEVER: With one important distinction.

Psalm 119:89 – "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Psalm 138:2 – "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness
and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

As the Sovereign authority...He cannot do whatever He wants to do...He must yield to HIS OWN WORDS. If He has said it...that settles it. He cannot go against his own Word.

If HE has pronounced blessing over you...He cannot curse you!

NOTE: In the story of Balaam...we learned that very thing...but we also learned that the people of God can move out of the protection of God, by not separating themselves from the world.

THEREFORE:

Deuteronomy 30:19 – “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”

It comes down to YOU submitting to His rule and His Lordship!

It is your choice to submit to His Sovereign reign.

When you enter His kingdom and yield to His rule...it results in blessing, freedom, peace and life.

BILL JOHNSON: “Often times we don’t have a financial problem, we have a Lordship problem. We don’t have a relationship problem, we have a Lordship problem.”

We don’t have a depression problem, we have a Lordship problem. We don’t have a health problem, we have a Lordship problem.

BELOVED: One of the greatest reasons bad things happen isn’t because God wants it to happen or even made it happen (that is not Sovereignty), but it comes because of a LACK OF SURRENDER!

John 6:5,6

5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

So, a group of 20+ thousand people come to hear Jesus teach.

JESUS knows these people have been traveling to Jerusalem and are tired and hungry...so He decides to see if the disciples have learned anything.

He asks, “How are we a going to feed all these people.”

It is interesting what the disciples did...

* **PHILIP** immediately starts figuring out what money they have in their budget.

Vs. 7 – “Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.”

* **Andrew** (and I am sure the other disciples) begin looking for supply from among them.

Vs. 9 – There’s a kid who has a small snack everyone could share!

THEN realizes that was a bad idea!

As soon as they entered a challenging season...they went to work, figuring out how they could DO what needed to be DONE!

WRONG ANSWERS!

What should they have said?

Ezekiel 37:3 – “And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.”

Matthew 8:8 – “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.”

They should have surrendered...instead of strive!

Being Led by the Spirit of God

When we look at Romans 8...that is exactly what the Apostle Paul is trying to tell us...submit to His Lordship! Allow Him to lead us and call the shots.

Romans 8:1-8,14

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, ***who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

To those who are submitted to His Lordship!

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Notice...there are two kingdoms and two laws.

KINGDOM OF GOD: law of spirit of life in Christ.

KINGDOM OF WORLD: law of sin and death.

UNDERSTAND: You are a part of one of those kingdoms.

ILLUSTRATION: Two cities...one city under ONE LEADER and the other city under an other leader. Once city allows anything and everything...if it feels good, do it. You are the highest order. In the other city GOD IS the highest order. It is your choice to live in whatever city you want to live in. So, you take up residence in both cities. Is it GODS fault when you have repercussions of the law of sin and death?

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, ***who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

5 For they that are ***after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.***

BELOVED: That is Lordship...minding...obeying!

6 For to be ***carnally minded is death***; but to be ***spiritually minded is life and peace.***

AGAIN: Who is your Lord? Who are you following? It depends on life and peace or death!

7 Because the ***carnal mind is enmity against God***: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the ***flesh cannot please God.***

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the ***sons of God.***

AGAIN: We see huioes of God...mature sons...ready for inheritance...connected to being separated from the world's system. Being surrendered to God!

BELOVED: Who are you listening to? Who are you surrendered to?

* Circumstances?

* The worlds system?

* Your own mind, will and emotions?

That is NOT yielding to the Lordship of Christ...you have made those things Lord!

That is NOT surrender.

THEREFORE: You have taken up residence in a land with the law of sin and death!

BELOVED: What made Jesus successful in life?

John 5:19,20

- 19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.
- 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

John 12:49 – “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.”

That is why when HE SPOKE things happened! When HE DID THINGS powerful things happened!

Thy Rod and Staff

Psalm 23:4,5

- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

“**Rod**” – a type of the Word

“**Staff**” – a type of the Holy Spirit

A shepherd never operates without either of them...they go hand in hand!

QUESTION: What is the purpose of the rod and staff?

ANSWER: To comfort (ease and rest). To understand that NO MATTER what you are going through you need to stick with the Shepherd.

BELOVED: When you are going through battles...tough times...valleys that seem daunting...

LISTEN...follow the Rod and Staff!

They are given to you to PROTECT, CORRECT and DIRECT!

UNDERSTAND: This applies when things are good or bad in life...but we usually are *more willing* when things are good...it is when things seem scary that we go our own way.

QUESTION: Who do they protect, correct and direct?

ANSWER: Psalm 23:1 – “The Lord is MY SHEPHERD.”

Those who are surrendered to the Lordship...leadership...of God! Those who are separated unto His fold...set apart and consecrated to Him.

Not everyone will know this!

That is why many people think that sovereign means the shepherd will do good or bad to you!

BELOVED: Are you listening to your Shepherd? Yielding to Him?

* He isn't leading us into a problem...He is leading us through a problem to the promises
He has prepared for us!

* Through valley of shadow of death.

* In presence of mine enemies (he isn't getting rid of them)

* A table prepared for you (prospering you in the middle of the enemies)

YOUR SHEPHERD is preparing GOOD THINGS for His sheep!

He is providing safety, protection, direction and correction along the way.

He is NOT taking them to danger...He is taking them to blessing! You gotta trust your Shepherd and yield to Him.

Exodus 13:17-18

- 17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:
- 18 **But God led the people about,** through the way of the wilderness **of the Red sea:** and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

God took them to the DREADED Red Sea...dangerous! Or they thought!
It was just a place of trust! Not a place of arrows flying and death!
He took them that way to protect them.

Too often when we are going through the valley of the shadow of death we focus on the shadow...or what COULD GO WRONG! What we imagine is lurking.

NOTE: Cast down vain imaginations!

HOWEVER: Our focus should be on the LORDSHIP OF GOD...The Rod and the Staff! The protection, corrections and direction of our Lord!

DO THIS...why, it doesn't make sense.
GIVE THIS...why, it doesn't make sense.
SAY THIS...why, it doesn't make sense.
GO HERE...why, it doesn't make sense.

QUESTION: What is the result when you yield Lordship to God?

Vs. 5 – cup runneth over

Vs. 6 – goodness and mercy will pursue you to have their way with you.

THEREFORE: You learn...I will stay in this place of Lordship forever!

John 10:10 – “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

(AMP) – “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).”

Yielding to His Lordship will always lead to overflow...running over!

The Rod = The Word

REMEMBER: Psalms 119:89 – “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

God, our Sovereign King, has spoke it...that settles it!

Ecclesiastes 8:4 – “Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?”

The rod of the shepherd was his power...weapon!

BELOVED: When you have the Word of a King in your mouth...you carry the authority of the King!

THEREFORE: When things are missing or even if they are right...when the Word of a King is in your mouth...it becomes TRUTH to your situation and things change!

Luke 1:37 – “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

“With God” – with the King

“Nothing” – No means no...thing is the word “rhema”! Living Word inside of you!

THEREFORE: When the Word of the King is alive inside of you...it makes the impossible possible!

Joshua 1:8 – “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

NOTE: The KING has said it, but it is your hands whether or not you submit to it and work it...if you do, YOU will make your way prosperous and have good success!

BELOVED: That is the authority that we walk in...“speak the Word only!”

Matthew 8:7-10

- 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: **but speak the word only**, and my servant shall be healed.
- 9 For I am a **man under authority**, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.
- 10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

UNDERSTAND: The reason this man understood the authority of Jesus...understood his authority over men (situations), was that he was submitted to authority himself.

BELOVED: When we are under and yielded to the Lordship of God...then we will use HIS WORDS in our mouths...that is when EVERYTHING changes!

The Staff = The Holy Spirit

REMEMBER: A shepherd is never caught without both of these things...they work together!

The shepherd's staff was used to keep in alignment...to bring back into the pack...to save and secure the sheep...to direct them.

So, when you are going through the valley...the temptation may be to go off the path and find grass or water or something you deem better.

Your Shepherd will lovingly use His Spirit to bring you back on path.

In the New Testament the Word used for Spirit is pneuma!

It simply means, breath or wind!

It is literally God breathing on His people.

John 16:7 – “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

John 14:12 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

The Spirit of God is that Rod that directs you!

That is why before Jesus ascended into Heaven he told his followers...don't make a move until I send you this gift.

Go to Jerusalem and WAIT!

UNDERSTAND: Without the Holy Spirit directing and leading them...they would have done a lot of things...but many of them would have been futile!

Acts 2:2 – “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.”

NOTE: It was a sound...so there was wind...it was just in the unseen!

They stepped out of that building NOW and things went WILD!

Things happened!

They were surrendered...God moved!

The breath of God...

Genesis 2:7 – “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

God breathed into man...and from that moment on when God breathed...Spirit moved...things were changed!

Exodus 14:21 – “And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.”

When the breath of God blew...He opened up a path where there wasn't one! He took out their enemies! He took away the muck and mire they would have gotten stuck in!

They had to submit!

Ezekiel 37:9 – “Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

When the breath of God blew...dry bones came together. Revival came!

It came when submission was there!

BELOVED: God has given us His Spirit to listen and to guide us. So we move towards success and increase and blessing!

HOWEVER: We must be yielded and surrendered to Him.

Conclusion

PROBLEM with “new christianity” is that it seems to free people from church, from prayer, from the Bible, from holiness!

BELOVED: You are missing the point! Your love for God should make you separate yourself from the world and TOO the things of God.

When you feel pressure to go to church or to read your Bible or to pray...it is because you have allowed too much WORLD into your life. You haven't separated yourself!