

Submission
Ephesians Part 31

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. - Ephesians 5:21

Mary Lou and I went to Destiny Family Worship Center this past Sunday night. We had a great time with Pastor Jonathan and his wife Kamili. Pastor Jonathan's overseer from Agape Fellowship in Rahway, Pastor Lawrence Powell, spoke. Most of his message was focused on how the church must re-present the Kingdom of God here on earth. During the message he made this statement, "Things exist in the church that are not of the Kingdom. There is still hate, anger, greed and envy. There is still sickness, hopelessness, and lack of power and confidence in Christ. But there is another thing the church, in the Kingdom, lacks. There is a lack of true submission and you will never know true submission without some sort of conflict."

You see, we can all say we are submitted and committed but the evidence shows up when there is a conflict between what you want to do and what the Lord wants to do. It will also show up when there is a conflict between what you want to do and what your leader or leaders want to do.

Jesus taught us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus prayed, "Here I am - it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will O God" (Hebrews 10:7). I believe the secret to living a victorious life comes from one's ability to submit. Submission is willingness to follow Christ and be led by church authority. The author of Hebrews points out: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (13:17).

It is a hard thing in our generation to train the will to be obedient but nothing is impossible with God, "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

Jesus did not live temptation-free, He just lived free of temptation. He never allowed His will to do anything that would disappoint the Father. He never gave in to desires that were not from above. I am convinced He did not waste time on unproductive thinking but took every thought captive. I love what Corrie Ten Boom says, "Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around the core of fear." I know Jesus experienced fear but I don't believe He gave in to the "inefficient thoughts" that fear produces. Why? He had His will under control.

Why is submission hard for you? What are the temptations that you wrestle with? What are some fears that cause you to be out of His control? How can you train your will to be more obedient? Remember, He asked us to pray that His will would be done here on earth as it is in heaven.