



## **FIRM FOUNDATION** Series

### **Spiritual Authority**

**The church is built upon the authority of Jesus Christ.**

- Jesus is the Head of the Church  
**Colossians 1:18** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*
- Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the Church  
**1 Peter 5:4** *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*  
**1 Peter 2:25** *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*
- Jesus is the Cornerstone of the Church  
**Ephesians 2:20** *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.*
- Jesus is the High Priest of the Church  
**Hebrews 3:1** *Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.*
- Jesus is the Purchaser of the Church  
**Acts 20:28** *The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*
- Jesus is the Example and Leader of the Church  
**John 13:15** *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*
- The Church of Jesus Christ is not built upon personalities and ministries, it is built upon Jesus Christ and His authority.

**Jesus began to show that the authority He had would be delegated to men.**

**Luke 9:1** *Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.*

**Luke 9:2** *And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.*

**The persuasive call of Peter to feed the flock of Christ... FEED MY SHEEP**

**John 21:15** *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

## All Authority is of GOD

**Romans 13:1** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

**Romans 13:2** *Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

The ordinance of authority is of God!

## The work of the spiritual leadership

**Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

**Ephesians 4:12** *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

### Guidance in doctrine.

**Ephesians 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

**Acts 20:28** *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

**Acts 20:29** *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

**Acts 20:30** *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

### Guidance in growth and disciplines.

**Ephesians 4:15** *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

### Guidance in ministry.

**Ephesians 4:16** *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

*How do we get this body fitly framed together? Can everyone just decide where they fit?*

## Biblical understanding of spiritual authority.

- I. They are examples/guides to the saint.

**Hebrews 13:7** ***Remember** them which have the **rule** over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

*Hegeomai - to lead*

*1. to go before*

*2. to be a leader; to rule, command, have authority over*

Consider and remember the leaders that have guided you into truth. Follow their example. Considering the end of their course and the testimony of their life.

**1 Peter 5:3** *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being **ensamples** to the flock.*

Ensamples - Pattern in the path to Godliness

Pattern in spirit, attitude, teaching.

2. Obey as a matter of dutiful yielding to the Lord

**Hebrews 13:17** ***Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:** for they watch for your souls, **as they that must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with **grief**: for that is unprofitable for you.*

*Peitho - be persuaded*

*1. to be persuaded*

*2. to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with*

Grief is a groaning. Lord it pains me to say, they would not listen. I tried to give them direction from your Word for their lives, yet they took advice of ungodly counsel.

### a. Understanding the mindset of obedience.

- i. Obey when you know they are right
- ii. Obey when your natural will inclines you to the opposite direction.
- iii. Obedience will always cost you something.
- iv. This obligation is to extend past personality differences.
- v. This obligation is to extend past difference in methods.
- vi. **This obligation to submit and obey is NOT to extend past contradictions to the Word of God.**

### b. Obedience is Willful Submission

**1 Corinthians 16:15** *I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)*

**1 Corinthians 16:16** *That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.*

### 3. Esteem the laborers of spiritual authority.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12** *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

**1 Thessalonians 5:13** *And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

### 4. Spiritual authority is based on a dual submission.

#### a. Authority will not “Lord” over the flock.

**1 Peter 5:1** *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:*

**1 Peter 5:2** *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

**1 Peter 5:3** *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

**1 Peter 5:4** *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

*katakryieuo - Dominion, Lordship, overcome*

#### b. The flock will reverence the Lord in submission.

**1 Peter 5:5** *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

**1 Peter 5:6** *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

**If there is anything that Satan can't duplicate, it is submission with humility.**