

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY (from through the Bible Study)
BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO GOD BLESSED FOR BEING UNDER
AUTHORITY

I Samuel 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; [there was] no open vision.

I Samuel 3:2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli [was] laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, [that] he could not see;

I Samuel 3:3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God [was], and Samuel was laid down [to sleep];

I Samuel 3:4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here [am] I.

I Samuel 3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

I Samuel 3:6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

I Samuel 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

I Samuel 3:8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

I Samuel 3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

I Samuel 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

I Samuel 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

I Samuel 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all [things] which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

I Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

I Samuel 3:14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

I Samuel 3:15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

I Samuel 3:16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here [am] I.

I Samuel 3:17 And he said, What [is] the thing that [the LORD] hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide [it] not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide [any] thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

I Samuel 3:18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It [is] the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

I Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

1 Samuel 3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel [was] established [to be] a prophet of the LORD.

1 Samuel 3:21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

I. THAT SAMUEL GOT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO OBEY ELI WAS EVIDENCE OF HIS SPIRIT OF SUBMISSION:

Note some of the lessons we can learn from this account:

1. How many young people would be so quick to respond to the call of his Father or Step Father or in this case his Spiritual Father and Pastor....

What would happen if about three o'clock in the morning you thought you heard my voice on your answering service..

1 Samuel 3:4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here [am] I.

1 Samuel 3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

Notice how quickly Samuel responded to the voice of Eli..

There are very few people that make themselves available for the Lord's work like Samuel did.. It is no different today as it was back then...

2. Notice that he responded not once but three times to the call of what he thought was Eli

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1 Samuel 3:8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

1 Samuel 3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Notice each time Samuel responded the same..

Some people would have been angry at this point..

This shows an exceptional spirit of submission...

Note Samuel had no idea that this was the Lord calling him.. He thought it was Eli, yet he responded to the call of servitude with as much submission as would be pleasing to Eli as well as the Lord himself...

Some people think that they themselves would be more faithful if the Lord himself called them..

Young people as you serve your parents so you would the Lord..

Wives as you submit to your husbands so you would submit to Christ...

Men as you serve at work so you would serve the Lord

Church member as your attitude is towards your Pastor and other church members so you would do to the Lord..

Often people complain about people in the Church, don't like this don't like this or that.. gripe and that gripe.. your gripe is with Christ...

3. BECAUSE SAMUEL WAS AVAILABLE FOR HIS EARTHLY AUTHORITY THE LORD KNEW HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR HIS CALL ALSO

Samuel was faithful and available to respond to the call and need of his earthly Spiritual Authority, way before the Lord would call upon him as a prophet he was available to Eli....

A great national preacher Benny Abante would often call an emergency staff meeting 2:00 A.M. 6:00 A.M. and his whole staff would show up..... Some people would say that's terrible... that's dictatorship...

If you were at war physically and a General could not call an emergency staff meeting in the middle of the night.. when human lives were at stake you would be glad... how could the war be won without this type of commitment!

The reason that the Normandy Invasion was successful was because the Germans failed to be able to call an emergency staff meeting in the middle of the night for fear of waking Hitler..

Many a time the Lord has prompted me to wake up in the middle of the night and change my sermon..... Sometimes the Lord will speak to my heart about something 2AM 3 4 5 6 sometimes I have stayed up all night praying as God has stirred me up about something...

So sometimes I was awakened in the middle of the night .. to go to the Hospital...

Saturday 4:00 A.M. hospital calls.. car accident.. someone just died... emergency... family problems.. I do it because I am the Lord's servant and am on-call at all times..

This is the least I can do for the Lord..

I have a business, but I make sure that my business does not grow to the point that I cannot serve the Lord... Every year.. I could make more than I did... I purposely loose business.. because my church schedule is more important..

GOD IS LOOKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL BE ON CALL 24 hours a day for Him..

You never know when the Lord is going to call... Are you available?

Maybe the REASON HE NEVER CALLS YOU IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU WOULDN'T BE AVAILABLE...

God knows that any person that wouldn't be available for their own Mother or Father when they called.. or wouldn't be available if your spiritual leader called... that same person is not worthy of receiving a special call from the Lord.. Eli was Samuel's Spiritual Authority, it was easy for him to switch gears and respond to the call of the Lord because he learned to be obedient to Eli...

If I got a call from some distressed woman in the middle of the night and needed a male member of our Church to go on this emergency visit with me I wonder what would be your response.. How many of you men would respond to my midnight hour phone call? would you be available? Selwyn.. Bob Snyder.. Some here I could call and you would go...

Most of you ... I believe would be available if you were home... and I praise the Lord for you but some of you might gripe and complain about it...

Samuel didn't gripe and complain which is evident by the fact that he thought Eli called three times and each time he responded..

Say you have an answering service.. phone call... Brother... so and so give me a call it's urgent...

I say go back to bed I didn't call... If you went to bed.. and heard the call again.. and then again.. would you gripe...

II. THAT SAMUEL DIDN'T LET ELI'S FAULTS KEEP HIM FROM BEING SUBMISSIVE IS GREAT EVIDENCE OF HIS CHARACTER.....

It is one thing to obey your spiritual authority when he is admirable and desirable and fun to be with and a dynamic and charismatic person perfect in your eyes in the eyes of others....

BUT Eli was old.... Fat..... half blind... Crippled..... and his own sons were a mess....

I Samuel 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

I Samuel 2:23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

I Samuel 2:24 Nay, my sons; for [it is] no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

I Samuel 2:25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

I Samuel 4:18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

Illustration: Most of the time when people make themselves available to God's man it is because they have respect for him, they admire him, and hold him in high regard because of his achievements etc.....

It is more noble to make yourself available to your spiritual authority because you believe in doing so you are pleasing God!

I would rather you listen to me as the man of God because you believe it is commanded of God than you are convinced I am such a wonderful man of God..... If you serve the Lord out of principle circumstances will not cause you to stop serving..

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things [your] masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

David's attitude about submitting to the authority of Saul didn't change after he tried to have him killed....

As a Pastor... I have seen some people that couldn't do enough for me and the church until the day comes when I had to rebuke them personally for some sin or problem in their life... Or if they see some fault etc...

Eli was a mess his family was a mess, but still he was the anointed high priest of God and Samuel served him well and treated him with respect...

III. THE GREATEST EVIDENCE THAT SAMUEL UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLES OF SUBMISSION WERE MANIFESTED IN HIS BRAVERY IN RISKING MAKING AN ENEMY FOR OBEYING GOD AND NOT COMPROMISING THE TRUTH:

1 Samuel 3:15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

1 Samuel 3:16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here [am] I.

1 Samuel 3:17 And he said, What [is] the thing that [the LORD] hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide [it] not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide [any] thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

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1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

1. OUR FEAR FOR GOD NEEDS TO BE THE GREATEST MOTIVATOR IN OUR LIFE..

Are we submissive to our authorities because we fear our authority or are we submissive to our authorities because we fear our God?

We are to submit because we fear God

Illustration: Samuel feared Eli but he feared God even more..

Wives do you submit to your husband because you fear and love the Lord?

Children do you obey your parents because of how wonderful your parents are or do you submit because of how wonderful your Lord in heaven is?

Employees do you submit to an earthly employer because of their worthiness or your testimony as a Christian?

Church members... are you faithful because of the Pastor, the people the programs, or the fear of the Lord?

Citizens... realize we should obey government officials because the Bible says to..

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.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore [ye] must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Romans 13:6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Application and Invitation:

Are you a Samuel...

The Lord is looking for servants who are on 24 hour call for submission to His Authority...

Do you have a time clock for obedience to God?