

SUBMISSION? *#@!

(Matthew 7:21-29)

Submission facilitates maturity if practiced regularly. But it's an unpopular idea...

Q: How can submission help us mature?

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" ²³Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

²⁴Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

²⁹because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

A: The practice of SUBMISSION...

- **ASSURES US of a relationship with Jesus (21-23)**

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Beware of confusing submission (obedience) with performance:

SUBMISSION	PERFORMANCE
1. Those that submit see themselves as accountable and acceptable	1. Those that perform see themselves as accountable only
2. Submission occurs in the context of a relationship	2. Performance seeks to earn a relationship
3. Habitual submission leads to inner peace	3. Habitual performance leads to inner turmoil
4. Submission is completed with the act itself	4. Performance isn't completed until feedback is given (affirmation or criticism)
5. Submission is usually simple (though not always easy)	5. Performance can be very complex

- **PROTECTS US through the storms of life (24-27)**

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Human nature is programmed for fulfillment through obedience.... If we will not take God's words as our stepping stones to walk by, they will become our stumbling blocks, over which we trip and fall. (J. I. Packer, *God's Words*)

- **FREES US from needing to be in charge (28-29)**

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

True freedom, true ability to choose and do what one really wants to do, comes paradoxically in entire submission to God as His obedient servants. (Wayne Grudem, *First Peter*)

Every [spiritual] discipline has its corresponding freedom. What freedom corresponds to submission? It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way. (Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*)

Will you ask each day, “Who’s in charge of *me* today?”