

Submit—Trust—Resist

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Study by W. D. Frazee—October 4,

Brother Foot is going to bring us a message in song on this word submission. This is a message in song that has appealed to my heart very very much. I think it will to each of you this evening.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. That is our reasonable service. He made us, so we are His by creation. He bought us, so we are His by redemption. Thank God when our choice makes us triply His.

The sixteenth chapter of Matthew, the twenty-fourth verse:

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” Matthew 16:24.

I want to read a comment on these words from *Desire of Ages*, page 417.

“Jesus bade His followers take up the cross and bear it after Him. To the disciples His words, though dimly comprehended, pointed to their submission to the most bitter humiliation,—submission even unto death for the sake of Christ. No more complete self-surrender could the Saviour's words have pictured” *Desire of Ages*, page 417.

So this frequently quoted text from which we got the song that was being sung, Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free? No, there is a cross for everyone, there is a cross for me. I say this text, that hymn, these words point us to the lesson of what? Submission. Because Jesus was talking about our choosing, our taking the cross, not having it thrust upon us, not having to bear it because we are forced to.

“If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” Matthew 16:24.

Submission. Submit to the Lord. You know, there is no conversion unless this takes place, friends. I read here in *Steps to Christ* page 43:

“The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness” *Steps to Christ*, page 43.

Never converted until this takes place.

“The soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness” *Ibid*.

I had my tonsils taken out years ago, but the doctor didn't lasso me and tie me down. He didn't send somebody out to drag me in. The morning I had those tonsils out, I went in of my own free choice and sat down where he told me and stayed there until it was over.

I have had some other surgeries, but never have I had anything done to me by a doctor unless I went after him. They never chased me down.

God has some very important heart surgery to do for you and me, my dear friends. In order that that may be done, we must submit to God. Yield. Surrender. All those words picture the matter. Submission. Yield. Surrender. Give up. Oh, it is a wonderful thing, friends, when we have settled that question. Don't you think so?

Now do you know one of the great things that God has done to help us to learn that lesson? And you know, really, the interesting thing is a lot of people think it is what makes it hard, but it is one of the very things that God has done to try to teach us how to do it.

Turn over to 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” Hebrews 13:17.

Do you have anybody ruling over you? Somebody says, “That is just the trouble. That is just my problem. That is why I have such a hard time in my Christian experience because people try to boss me and tell me what to do and I don't like it.”

You know, the interesting thing is that if we are grown up, we think that that is the reason we ought to be free of all direction. That idea seeps down to the growing children and they get the idea that the only reason that they have to put up with it is because they are little, and as soon as they are big they won't have to anymore. Some of them get rather precocious about that too.

But now you know, dear friends, that isn't the point at all. Let me read a statement from *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 130.

“No one can be truly good and great who has not learned to yield his will, first to his parents, and then to God, and to obey with alacrity” *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 130.

Do you know what alacrity is? It is moving fast.

“No one can be truly good and great who has not learned to yield his will, first to his parents, and then to God, and to obey with alacrity” *Ibid*.

You know, you might think it ought to be the other way around. But God has it in the right order. We learn first with people that we can see, then we learn with God that we can't see. And if we skipped it when we were three years old and thirteen, we had better learn it when we are twenty-three, or thirty-three, or forty-three. Hadn't we, friends? That is right.

You know, there are millions of people growing up in America today that have never learned this at all. They don't know anything about it. A few years back some famous man from England was over here and spent some months, went back to England, and he was asked what impressed him in America the most. He said, “How obedient the parents were to their children.” That impressed him. And that is making some of the problems that we have.

Do you know, last year the crime rate was thirteen percent up what it was the year before? And already the first six months of this year it is up eight percent over what it was last year. And the age of the average criminal is going down all the while. What I mean is, younger and younger people are getting into crime, serious crime.

“No one can be truly good and great who has not learned to yield his will, first to his parents, and then to God, and to obey with alacrity. Those who learn to obey are the only ones who will be fitted to command” *Ibid*.

Oh, are there some people that are fitted to command? Yes. But who are they? The ones that escape from obeying? They ones that skipped it? The ones that missed it? The ones that ran away from it? The ones that rebelled against it?

“Those who learn to obey are the only ones who will be fitted to command” *Ibid*.

Do you know why that is, friends? Well, I will tell you. There are several reasons. The greatest and most important reason is this—no person who issues command in this world issues by inherent right, all his authority is delegated authority. Which means, that he has to obey too, the person that is given command, he has commands to meet too. That is always true. There are no exceptions.

There is always somebody higher up the rung. And beyond all human superiors is the Great Superior, the great God. And you know the lovely thing is, friends, to learn to love this way, the way of obedience, the way of submission. To love it. Why, unless we do, we are out of gear with the universe. That is serious. Out of gear with everything in the universe. The one who has not learned to obey, to submit, that is the reason that such a person is a misfit everywhere he goes.

Some poor souls haven't any better sense then to sympathize with such people. They think, "Oh, poor fellow. He hasn't had a chance. Nobody understands him."

God understands him, and He says, Submit. Learn to submit. Submit yourselves.

"No one can be truly good and great who has not learned to yield his will, first to his parents, and then to God, and to obey with alacrity. Those who learn to obey are the only ones who will be fitted to command" *Ibid*.

Now let's go to the second chapter of Luke. We have a most wonderful picture here. It is about the child Jesus. You remember that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth. The time came when He was twelve years of age when He went with Joseph and Mary down to Jerusalem, and there in a new way there dawned upon Him the mystery of His mission. He became fully conscious of the fact that He was the Son of God, that Joseph had no relationship to Him other than that of a foster father.

He not only recognized His past, He recognized His future in the slain lamb upon the altar He saw Himself. He knew that He was destined to hang upon the cross in salvation for a lost world. He knew that precious to that must come a time of public ministry. All that was opening to His mind there in the temple courts.

You remember that the third day after the parents left and they came back and found Him there in the temple, that He made clear to Mary, His mother, that He sensed all this. Pointing upward He said, "I must be about My Father's business."

But now the 51st verse:

"And He went down with them..." Luke 2:51.

Who with? Joseph and Mary.

"...He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them" Luke 2:51.

Subject to who? Joseph and Mary. What does that mean subject unto them? Why that means that they decided when He went to work in the morning. Isn't that right? And when He quit at night. They decided what there was on the table for breakfast, and what there was for dinner. They decided a thousand things.

It is true, He had some opportunities to make some decisions, but they fitted into the family plan. Is that right? Yes.

Now I read here in Sons and Daughters of God, page 129, commenting on these verses in Luke.

“With the knowledge of His divine mission, and of His union with God, He did not resist the authority of His parents. At their request He returned with them as a faithful, obedient son, and aided them in their life of toil. He buried in His own heart the secret of His future mission, waiting submissively until the period of His public ministry should commence before announcing to the world that He was the Messiah” *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 129.

Conscious of His mission, yet submissive. Submissive. With a sense of mission was a response of submission in the life of Jesus. He didn't say, “Well now, look here. I am the Son of God and I have a great work to do. This carpenter shop can't hold me like this all the time. I have got something more important to do. I have a great work to do. Oh, I may put in a little time there to get some exercise, but I have got a lot to do. Very important things. Far more important than Joseph and Mary have any idea of.”

Now, was it true that He had more important things than they had any idea of? Yes. But one of the most important things that He had to do for eighteen years after this was to do what? Submit.

“He submitted to parental restraint, for the period of eighteen years after He had acknowledged that He was the Son of God, and lived the simple, common life of a Galilean, working at the carpenter's trade... For thirty years He submitted to parental restraint. It is common for children, even of Christian parents, when not over twelve years old, to feel that they must be allowed to follow their own desires. And parents are ready to be led by their children, rather than to lead them” *Ibid*.

I wish this weren't present truth, but I am afraid it is.

“For this reason many youth come up with habits of selfishness and idleness. They are vain, proud, and headstrong” *Ibid*.

Why? Because parents do not sense this point. They do not sense that in allowing their children to choose their own way, independent of the parents, they are preparing them to choose their own way independent of God.

“Jesus was no less the Son of God in His lowly home, in His submission to His parents, than when God spoke from His eternal throne, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son.’” *Ibid*.

Oh, think of it, friends. Day by day, for eighteen years, that divine Son of God, conscious of His mission, went in and out of that home and that carpenter shop at Nazareth. Every day living a life of what? Submission. Obedience.

Eighteen years! Think of it, friends! Five times as long as the total period of His public ministry. Five times. I think it is wonderful, don't you? That is not popular today. It isn't merely the young people in the world that are in rebellion against God, there are thousands of fathers, and mothers, and teachers, and ministers, and young people believers, youth workers, that have the idea that young people in their teens, they are largely to make life's choices for themselves. And the world is going to seed fast on that program, I can tell you.

Oh I thank God that there are some children and young people here tonight that have learned a different way and are learning a different way. I invite every one of you, children and young people, to the happy way. The happy way. The lesson of submission. Then you are in gear with the universe, otherwise you are out of gear with the whole universe.

But any child or young person that tries to travel that way will find that along the way are those who tell him that he ought to get out and cut the strings, cut the ties that bind him to parental control and leadership. Or it may be to those who are taking the place of parents. Every youth needs to be integrated, tied in with leadership which will lead him in the ways of God.

Oh let us cherish this holy principle.

But now I come back. If some where along the way we missed it when we were children or youth, is it too late now if we are grown up physically? In our twenties, or thirties, or forties? No. It isn't too late. Thank God, I can still learn it. Can't I? Yes. The lesson of what? Submission. We will have to pray about it, I am sure, because it is a hard battle for the unconverted heart. But we read here that if we come to God and seek Him with all our heart, *Steps to Christ* page 43, the whole heart must be yielded to God then the change can be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness.

Why you know, as Jesus practiced submission to His earthly parents, He was preparing for that public life of utter resignation to His heavenly Father's will. And all through those three years and a half of public ministry, He was guided by just one thing, "What does My Father want Me to do?" Isn't that right? Yes. And when people suggested this or that or the other thing that was off the road, He said, "No. My hour is not yet come. My time is not yet come." He said, "I am not going to do anything except what My Father has planned for Me." And it made Him happy, friends.

"Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness:
therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of
gladness above thy fellows" Psalms 45:7.

And you know if we learn these lessons as children and youth, it is so much easier to carry them out in institutional work, in our church responsibilities and in all our work for God, for this lesson of submission, obedience, cooperation is fundamental.

Very well. Now I have another word that I want to study with you. This other word is another lovely word. I think you will like it. You have heard it many times. But I want us to think of it again tonight. It is mentioned, along with many other places, in the twelfth chapter of the book of Isaiah. The second verse:

“Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid” Isaiah 12:2.

So that word “trust.” Submission, and then trust. And they come in that order. You cannot fully trust unless you fully submit. In fact, dear friends, to attempt to trust without submitting is presumptuous. It is like thinking that you are going to get to Chattanooga when you haven’t even gotten on the bus. It is perfectly all right if you get on the bus to rest back in your seat and say, “Well, I am going to get to Chattanooga.” That is alright if you are on the bus, but if you are not on the bus, to think that you are going to get there is pure presumption. And so trust follows submission.

And the deeper our submission, the higher can be our trust. Every day God intends that that submission shall go a bit deeper. And our trust, now, a bit higher. Thus we learn the joy of having done with this world and being connected with heaven.

In *Messages to Young People*, page 112, I read:

“Satan may whisper, ‘You are too great a sinner for Christ to save.’ While you acknowledge that you are indeed sinful and unworthy, you may meet the tempter with the cry, ‘By virtue of the atonement, I claim Christ as my Saviour. I trust not to my own merits, but to the precious blood of Jesus, which cleanses me.’” *Messages to Young People*, page 112.

Where is our trust? It is reaching up and laying hold of the merits of Jesus. The One to whom we submit is the One we trust. Our Lord Jesus.

““This moment I hang my helpless soul on Christ.”” *Ibid.*

Don’t you like that?

““This moment I hang my helpless soul on Christ.’ The Christian life must be a life of constant, living faith. An unyielding trust, a firm reliance upon Christ, will bring peace and assurance to the soul”” *Ibid.*

Isn’t that nice? With my will I surrender. Then with my will I trust. Oh, I rejoice in that tonight, my friend. I have given myself to Jesus, and I believe He gives Himself to me. I have submitted and now I trust. I yield all. Now I take all. I have surrendered, now I know, I believe with all my soul that He is my Savior. That is the duet that submission and trust sing. It is the song of peace. The song of rest. Thank God, friends, every one of us can enter into that experience tonight. Just with

those two simple decisions, those two sweet choices. I will submit, I will trust. I will yield, and I will take. I will give myself, and I will believe that He takes me and accepts me. That is it.

I will believe. My Father knows. He is taken care of me. Well, you know, friends, if we need help, all we have to do is look to Jesus. And the more we see His love, the more we want to submit. Isn't that right? And if we have trouble with doubts, unbelief, fears, all we have to do is look to Jesus. And the more we see that love, the more we see we can just rest in His arms and trust. Don't you think so? Yes. Looking unto Jesus.

Now I have one more word. You will find it in James 4:7. We started in James 4:7 and we come back now.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7.

What is the word? Resist. But I want to tell you something, friends, you will never have much success in resisting the Devil unless you have done these—submit and trust. The Devil is too big a foe for you to resist him by yourself. You will never defeat the enemy by yourselves. You might make a big noise but you wouldn't scare him at all. You might push but he would just push you over.

No. James has it in exactly the right order. First you submit to God, and then you can resist the Devil. But do you some people overlook this last part. They suppose that if you submit to God and trust Him, that you don't have to resist the Devil. There is some teaching on that line. But the truth of the matter is that when you have submitted to God and trusted Him, when you are submissive to God and you are trusting Him, then you are prepared to resist the Devil successfully. And you will have to.

The battle is not over when you surrender to God. You are enlisted then as a soldier and He expects you to fight the good fight of faith.

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” *Ibid.*

Messages to Young People, page 114.

“The Christian will feel the promptings of sin” *Messages to Young People*, page 114.

A Christian? Feel the promptings of sin? Yes. Don't you? “Yes,” somebody says, “I do, and that is what makes me wonder sometimes.” You don't need to wonder about it. It is right on the road. Elijah did. Moses did. David did. Paul did.

“The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; but the Spirit striveth against the flesh, keeping up a constant warfare. Here is where Christ's help is needed” *Ibid.*

Are you in the warfare? Do you feel it? Do you sense it? Are you resisting? That is the point. Are you resisting?

“Be not discouraged because your heart seems hard. Every obstacle, every internal foe, only increases your need of Christ. He came to take away the heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh. Look to Him for special grace to overcome your peculiar faults” *Ibid*, page 112.

Now listen.

“When assailed by temptation, steadfastly resist the evil promptings” *Ibid*.

When assailed by temptation, don't run and flee. Don't get down in the dump. Don't say, “Oh, I thought I was a Christian, but I guess I am not.” No. Don't do any of that.

“When assailed by temptation, steadfastly resist the evil promptings; say to your soul, “How can I dishonor my Redeemer? I have given myself to Christ ; I cannot do the works of Satan.” Cry to the dear Saviour for help to sacrifice every idol, and to put away every darling sin. Let the eye of faith see Jesus standing before the Father's throne, presenting His wounded hands as He pleads for you. Believe that strength comes to you through your precious Saviour” *Ibid*.

There it is. A-B-C. R-S-T. Resist, but first, submit and trust. And you have got to just keep going round all the time. Just round and round. Wherever your are on the triangle tonight, just keeping moving to the right. If you are at trust, you will have to resist. And as you resist you will be weak and you will have to submit to God, and trust Him. Keep working around like the hands on the clock. Resist—Submit—Trust. Submit—Trust—Resist. Trust—Resist—Submit. That is the way of victory. That is the way of life. And remember, the way we get the power to do all three of them is by looking to Jesus.

As we look to Jesus, we want to submit. As we look to Jesus, we love Him and we believe He loves us. We can't help but trust Him. And as we look to Jesus, we gather the strength to resist the Devil. That foe of God's and of ours who took the Son of God and nailed Him to the cross, we don't want anything to do with him, we don't want him around. We want to resist him. Thank God, we can have the victory. This is it. This simple way of victory that we have studied tonight.

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