

Authority 9

Recognizing and honoring authority is essential for us to experience life in order that we might live and not die. Our Father wants us to live and have a heart that recognizes Him and honors Him and knows that whenever we speak against authority, we speak against Him. Even in the nations, people who recognize authority recognize God and so they can possibly be worthy of entering the nations. If a person does not recognize and honor authority, he is not fit to live to procreate descendants forever and ever (Eph 3:21); he is not worthy to continue to live a second life in the nations (Rev 21:8; 22:11). He will be judged (Rev 20:15; Jude 8,13-20), just as we are judged to determine whether we will live a second life in the kingdom. Therefore, we must learn obedience to authority.

Our Master Yahshua learned obedience. He did not know it until He learned it. Our children do not know how to obey until they learn obedience. Also, we must learn obedience to all authority. We have to recognize authority in every realm and every level of the Edah. Our Master learned obedience through what He suffered. The suffering He endured called for His obedience. The suffering that we must endure will call for our obedience. When our Master was born on the earth as a human being, He did not know how to obey. He had to learn to obey His parents; they had to train Him up. He did not bring obedience naturally to the earth, but He learned it through suffering. It does not matter how much we have suffered; what matters is whether we have learned obedience through our suffering. Those who learn obedience in this way will be obedient in every respect and will have their heart of stone replaced with a heart of flesh. As long as our hearts are still hard we will continue to suffer.

Suffering brings about a soft and obedient heart. The rebellious will go on with a hard heart forever and ever. Even though they acknowledge Yahshua as Sovereign, they will go on being rebellious (Rev 22:11). Our Master learned obedience by going through suffering after suffering after suffering unto death. We learn the way He learned. He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him the way He obeyed the Father in heaven (1 Jn 2:4-6; Heb 5:9; Acts 5:31-32; John 14:15-17,21,23,24,26; 16:7).

Occurrences of Authority in the Old Testament

Lev 10:1-2 — Aharon was the high priest. He was the one in authority because he had authority delegated to him. Nadab and Abihu offered *unauthorized fire*, strange fire to the Sovereign. The fire they offered was contrary to His command, so fire came out from His presence and consumed them.

Nadab and Abihu served as priests. They were priests as we are all priests. They belonged to the family which God had chosen since they were chosen in Aharon's family. Aharon was the chief; the anointing oil had been poured out on his head; he had received the anointing. His sons were his helpers, serving in obedience to authority. They were not to serve in their own initiative, independent of Aharon. They were under authority, in obedience, as we are, as our children are. We come when we are called and go where we are sent. All else is lawlessness, not paying attention to the Word. Independent action in the Body is lawlessness. There is no independent action in your hand or little finger apart from the order of the head. This is how God created man. He is going to bring all men back into obedience but first He has to bring His people into obedience to His headship (verse 8).

As high priest, Aharon offered sacrifices and his sons were at his side helping him. If Aharon made no move, his sons made no move. There was no independent action apart from the head. Everything began with Aharon who was the head. If his sons were to have offered sacrifices by themselves, they would be offering unauthorized fire because it was not under delegated authority. And this is what they did. They thought they could offer sacrifices by themselves without Aharon ordering, commanding them to. The meaning of *strange fire* here is to serve without an order, just as Christians serve without an order, not under headship, not under authority, doing whatever they think God's will is. But we do not function that way, doing what is right in our own eyes. Before we were in the Body, we did what seemed right to us, but the end of that way is death.

Nadab and Abihu had watched their father offer sacrifices. They thought it was a simple thing, just bringing in some fire. They thought they could do it themselves. They failed to see that Aharon represented God's authority.

They did this at the cost of their own lives. They failed to recognize who represented God's authority. They failed to distinguish between the flesh and the spirit. Judgment will come someday to whatever we did in the Body, whether we were obedient to authority or not, whether we received authority or not.

Mal 3:3 — We are going to be purged until we offer acceptable sacrifices — until they are authorized, until we are obedient to authority, until our Father can have a royal priesthood of true Levites (Mal 2:4-9). We are all learning how to offer authorized fire. Our Master offered authorized services and ministry. If it is not authorized, it is not acceptable; it is like offering a sick animal (Mal 1:6-10; 12-14 — contrast with verses 11 and 5).

Strange fire originates from man alone. If our fire originates from man only and not from delegated authority (from God), our sacrifice is not acceptable. When we are not purged from the flesh in serving, we serve to our own glory or to gain recognition for ourselves and not to bring glory and recognition to the head. But the head has no need of recognition and glory. The glory goes to the head who is befitting of the glory (Jn 7:18). The one who is sent does not seek his own glory but the glory of the one who sent him and delegated his authority to him. Only through a person like this can you receive our Master and therefore be reconciled to the Father. The Holy Spirit cannot be communicated through someone who seeks his own glory. Even singing does not minister if it is done in the flesh. The flesh profits nothing. Only what is done in the Spirit profits. Our Master taught us this in John 17 when He showed us true obedience. The Spirit cooperated willingly with Him because He loved the commander. Our Master loved the One who gave the command. He willingly obeyed the Father. Those to whom He gives His authority obey Him only because they love Him. Any obedience that does not come through love is forced; we do not want this kind of obedience. Those who love Him will obey Him.

Unauthorized fire does not require knowing the will of God. Rom 12:2 talks about a person who knows the will of God. Knowing the will of God requires the annihilation of our own sovereignty. Our Father does not grant it to anyone to know His will unless he has surrendered his own sovereignty. He does not disclose His will unless he is in obedience and accord as in Rom 12, without wanting recognition and glory for himself (Dan 12:2,3,10). In the judgment at the last day, those who are true and those who are not will be recognized. There will be a great difference between those who know the will of God and those who do not, between those who are in obedience and those who are obeying, but not out of love.

Strange fire does not require obeying authority because you do not know authority. Many people can feign obedience for a while out of their own zeal but will not stand the great testing. Nadab and Abihu worked independent from God's authority. Our Father wanted Nadab and Abihu to serve *under* Aharon's authority. He gave authority to Aharon. Aharon's sons were to work under authority and know and meet authority as we do with husbands, elders, parents, training teachers, crew heads, everyone in the Body.

God Himself inspects the nature of the fire offered up to Him. He looks at our singing, our voices, our breaking of bread, all of our service offered in the Body. He inspects the fire. Anything that is done in rebellion changes the nature of the fire. Such work which is not commanded by God (just as the work which was not commanded by Aharon) is strange. God did not *recognize* it as something that came from Him. He did not recognize it.

It was not done in obedience to Him out of their love for Him. It was done in their own initiative, for their own glory. Our Father wants (in order for the Stone Kingdom to be raised up) recognition of authority until the year of Jubilee. We must not be indifferent or rebellious to authority, elders, husbands, etc., or to the words of the prophets. We must follow; we are sheep, not striving for a position in the Body, but always maintaining a minor role (Mt 19:30; 20:16; Mk 10:31; Lk 13:30). Our Father will select leaders. They will know, love, and be obedient to authority just as Aharon and Moses followed God. Our Master has been delegated all authority in heaven and on earth and He gives it to whomever He chooses. To speak against that authority is to speak against God, and if you do that you will die. Our Father will make this more and more clear to us as we go on.

Ps 15 — Who may dwell in the kingdom? He whose walk is blameless and does what is righteous and speaks truth from his heart, who is not a hypocrite, who does his neighbor no wrong because he knows they are created in the image of God who despises vile, worthless, rebellious, foolish, arrogant, proud men who are beyond redemption because they are despicable to God as well. But He honors those who fear the Lord (vile men do not

fear Him), who keep their word even when it hurts them, who lend their money without interest. [We teach our children not to associate with other children who do things — anything — that their parents would not want them to do. They are to go right to their parents and tell them. They are to have nothing to do with a vile person who does not fear his parents.]

Nadab and Abihu were out of order. They became vile so God destroyed them. They were out of coordination with Aharon and so rebelled against him. Those who violate authority will be consumed by God. We know that all Christianity is going to be consumed by fire forever and ever with all of those who despise authority. [Aharon wanted to grieve over the death of his sons but he was not supposed to even shed a tear over them because he was high priest.]

Moses came to realize how serious it is to speak against delegated authority. There is a reviling of authority by Aharon and Miriam in Numbers 12: Miriam was the instigator of speaking against Moses delegated authority, but Aharon was in on it also. That sin incurs divine wrath, which comes upon people who come against God's authority. Miriam and Aharon were not happy about their brother marrying the Cushite, the Ethiopian woman, and they spoke against him. Moses had married this woman (a daughter of Châm) because he was not in Israel; he was out of his land for 40 years and there was not anyone else to marry. We will do the same if we are in a situation like this. Under normal circumstances, he should not have married a daughter of Châm, but since Moses was in the desert for 40 years, this was acceptable to God.

When Miriam opened her mouth to speak against Moses in Num 12:2 and 8, she touched something. It was just like when David touched the hem of Saul's robe and because of it his heart smote him. She touched the work of God; she brought it down — not building but tearing down. She was speaking from the evil one, challenging the position of Moses. Miriam and Aharon spoke against Moses. They asked, "Has not the Lord spoken through us as well?" Certainly the Lord *had* spoken through them, but Moses was different from them (verse 18). God had entrusted His delegated authority to Moses. We see this in the work of Moses, delivering the children of Israel from Egypt. God sent Moses to lead them, but Miriam despised his leadership and so came directly against God. It was just like spitting in His face. Miriam and Aharon did not judge themselves and were therefore judged by God. We must judge ourselves in everything. If not, we will be judged.

Spiritual authority is not gotten by striving and effort but is given to whom He chooses. Natural authority is gotten by striving and working for it. Spiritual authority is given for obedience. We have to be aware of ourselves lest we offend God's authority. Rebellion is manifested in leprosy. Like a leper, you should let your hair down loose so you do not talk to someone and defile them. Many people considered themselves obedient to God, but at the same time knew nothing of being subject to God's delegated authority. They never came to know Him in that way. We are to obey delegated authority in every circumstance in the Edah (Heb 13:17). Num 12:8-12 — Why were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? That is a provocative question. Why did she not remember it? Why did she not confess it? She did not recognize soon enough; there was something lacking in her. She was standing on natural ground, not spiritual (1 Cor 3:1). If she could conceive rebellion in her (for to speak against authority proves that there was a rebellious nature in her), then special attention is to be paid to such a person. Watch her; keep an eye on her (Titus 3:10; 2 Ths 3:14). The spirit in Miriam was rebellious and would show in unguarded moments when something affected her that was very dear to her (her family).

There are some who speak against elders and those above them and do not recognize the seriousness of it. From now on in the edah, those who speak against authority in the edah are to be recognized as leprous. This is a matter of great concern because it is a matter of God's instituted authority. Whoever has died on account of this now knows the seriousness of that which he did not judge and now sees it as God sees it and will be disciplined accordingly so that he can enter the Holy City. However, we know that it is no use praying for such a person, for you cannot pray someone out of purgatory. Whoever has died now sees his rebellious or secret words as sin that God condemns, even the ones he spoke in his own tent. For while he thought no one else was watching, God heard it and cut him off. These secret words come out of the overflow of the heart. If they are in the heart and not judged, it will come out sooner or later and God will hear it. That is why we must be in constant communion

with the Sovereign (1 Jn 3:6). If you are abiding in Him, rebellious words will not come out of your mouth.