



# Berean Christian Fellowship

## DEVOTIONAL 145.0

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### Submitting to Jesus

**“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (John 3:36).**

When people say they “believe” in God or have “faith” in Him, many simply mean they accept that God exists. This is not the meaning of the Greek word for “believe” in Scripture, which is “to be persuaded of, have confidence in, and trust in.” It means to absolutely trust that God is who He says He is and is capable of doing what He says He will do. To believe in God is to take God at His Word—persuaded that everything He says is true.

Jesus connected “belief” to “obedience” in John 3:36. You cannot “believe” in God and live a life of disobedience to Him. When Jesus told the Jews who claimed to believe in Him that they had to continue in His Word to be free, they told Him they were free already and not enslaved to anyone. But they WERE slaves, for Jesus told them, “*everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin*” (John 8:34), “*for the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot*” (Rom. 8:7). A slave submits to the will of his master and cannot serve another. “*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey?*” (Rom. 6:16a) Paul spoke often of the “*obedience of faith*” (Rom. 1:5). How can anyone claim to believe in God when they ignore Him? You cannot have faith in the Lord Jesus and disregard Jesus as lord of your life—to do so is to reveal your obedience to your true master, which is sin.

When we put our faith in Jesus, we obey Him, and submit to His lordship in our lives—“*If you continue in My word, then you are*

*truly disciples of Mine*” (John 8:31b). If we submit to Jesus, we must submit to the authority of His Word—the Word of God.

Are we submitting to Him as slaves, against our will? No, for while we WERE slaves to sin, God the Father has made us His children and heirs. Paul says, “*having been set free from sin, [you] have become slaves of righteousness*” (Rom. 6:18)—“*I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father*” (Gal. 4:1-2). We have received “*adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God*” (Gal. 4:4-7).

Therefore, “*as obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance*” (1 Peter 1:14). We submit to God the Father’s authority because we are His adopted children—it is good and right for children to obey and have confidence in their parents.

At the same time, true Believers in the Church are Bride to God the Son, and as His betrothed, “*the church submits to Christ*” (Eph. 5:24a), and she “*must see to it that she respects her husband*” (Eph. 5:33b), for He “*loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish*” (Eph. 5:25-27). The Church will be joined to Jesus, and through her union to Him will share in His eternal, infinite inheritance of “*all things*” (Heb. 1:2) from His Father.

For the Church, to believe in God is to obey the heavenly Father and submit to Jesus. She submits to God’s Word and continues in the Word of Christ! Even so, Amen.

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