

Mt. Lebanon Church | Big Isaac Community Church

Teaching Ministry

3.1.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

A Submissive Heart/ A Heart of Submission

Acts 8:26-37

Do we understand that our life as a believer is more than just an outward appearance of obedience unto God. So, let me explain what I mean by that. Often time, we get so wrapped up in conforming to the traditionalism of the promises and commandments of Gods word, that we no longer live our life in Christ with a willing, joyful desire to do his will. We have lost that inward attitude of humbly listening unto God, through his spirit. So, how to we get back to living a life that has a submissive heart unto God. A life where we surrender our personal desires, a life where we put our complete faith and trust in him, a life of heartfelt surrender with a daily desire to simply just say yes Lord, to his authority. So, does this mean that having a humble submissive heart is a choice that we must make daily, a choice to submit ourselves unto God, so that the Holy Spirit might work within us, to conform us into the image of his Son, Christ. Sure it does.

Luke 9: 23,....he said to them all, if any man will come after me. Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me....

So, every day, as believers, in order to live in the image and likeness of Christ, we must surrender our own will and desires, which means those selfish ambitions that do not align with God's purpose and plan, and we must embrace life's challenges, by making an active choice to endure sacrifice and hardship for the sake of following Christ. This ongoing commitment is to follow after the teachings of his love, and the sacrifice that he made for all of mankind, where we make him the Lord of our life, and not just a guide to live by. Therefore, the result of living life according to this process will bring us into a deeper, more spiritual fulfillment in a life that is rooted and grounded in Christ.

So, we are going to go to the book of Acts and see what it means to have a heart of submission unto God.

Acts 8: 26 – 37,....the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip saying, arise, and go toward the south....which is desert....and he arose and went, and behold, a man of Ethiopia....had come to Jerusalem for to worship....was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet....then the spirit said unto Philip, go near and join thyself to this chariot....and Philip ran....and heard him read....and said, understandest thou what thou readest....he said how can I, except some man should guide me....and he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him....the Eunuch....said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet....Philip....preached unto him Jesus....as they went their way....the Eunuch said....here is water, what doth it hinder me to be baptized....Philip said, if thou believest with all thy heart....he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God....

So, one of the first things that we must understand is that God's plan is to make sure that the gospel of his saving grace is spread throughout all the world, and unlike us, God has no cultural boundaries, no boundaries of religious or manmade rules, because he prioritizes the individual soul above all else. We on the other hand set limitations and boundaries for ourselves, therefore, hindering our ability to maintain a heart that is completely obedient and submissive unto God. This means that often time; in order to test our spiritual readiness, the spirit will lead us into desert places, to see if we will react without hesitation when God speaks. The spirit not only will prepare us to go but will ensure that the message will fulfill God's purpose.

1 Timothy 2: 3 – 4,....this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior....who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of truth....

A genuine submissive heart follows after God's love, his compassion, and his desire for all of mankind to be saved. Therefore, we are encouraged to pray, to teach, to live our life as an example, so that we might reveal and extend the truth of salvation to every individual, without exception. As believers, likened unto the image of Christ, we should desire for one another salvation over judgement, which allows opportunity for repentance in our life. So, rather than becoming complacent with a conservative nature, we are called to use our time wisely to share with others the gospel of Christ. For God is merciful, giving unto all of mankind ample opportunity to repent before his return.

Acts 8: 29 – 30,....the spirit said....go....join thyself....Philip ran....and said, understand thou what thou readest....

So, living with a heart of submission means always having the willing desire to say yes to God, without hesitation, and without excuse. We receive the command to go, and with love and compassion we accept the instruction of his purpose and plan. Now, with the commitment of a willing, joyful heart we carry our service unto him. So, here is how this works. The spirit brings people into the word of God, there he directs those believers, who are walking according to his obedience, he uses us as an example to reveal Christ as the savior of the world. So, the Holy Spirit takes the lead in showing that those who truly have a submissive heart are essential in guiding others to the Lord.

2 Timothy 2: 21,....if a man therefore purge himself....he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work....

So, as believers, it is our responsibility to choose to remove ourselves from any and all association with the sinful desires of the world. For when we allow these sinful desires to hinder our relationship with God, even though we are saved, we may be unusable for certain tasks, due to the spiritual impurities in our life. Therefore, we are encouraged to pursue righteousness, focusing on setting ourselves apart from the world, so that we might be an effective instrument for the work of the Lord.

Acts 8: 35, 37,....opened his mouth....preached unto him Jesus....said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God....

The entirety of the word of God is centered upon Christ. The Old Testament points to a Messiah who will first suffer and die and then bring salvation. The New Testament is the fulfillment of that salvation, a new covenant, so that all of mankind might have the hope of eternal life. Therefore, all of mankind finds the meaning of life through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, which is given unto us through Gods word, for it bridges the gap between man and God, reveling unto us the understanding of salvation. The spirit prepares the heart of the hearer for the truth, so that as believers we might actively take the initiative to point others unto Christ.

1 Corinthians 9: 16,....for though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, for necessity is laid upon me, yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel....

First of all, all lives are meaningful, and of importance to God, but as believers, our life is the fulfillment of his divine purpose, for our active, loving relationship with Christ represents him. We are called to bring glory unto God, showing his eternal value to the world, through the actions of our life. Our life is meant to be a reflection of the characteristics of God. Therefore, a life that is lived in God, through Christ Jesus is not wasted, but we find in him a true, lasting purpose and peace, which cannot be found in any other. Therefore, a heart of submission is the means by which we fulfill our daily calling, and experience the hope of our eternal life.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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