TSIYON NEWS

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From Eliyahu

Let's play a little word association game together. I'll give you a word. You will need to be careful not to read beyond that word until you have closed your eyes and thought of a few other words that are associated in your mind with that word. For example: If the word is 'blue' you might say something like 'sky', 'water', 'eyes', or you might say 'sad'. The word 'blue' may be associated in your mind with any of those other words, and probably others.

OK, now that we've got that, lets add another layer to our game, by using Bible words. The first word is *authority*.

What other words come to mind for you?

Here are a few that some people associate with the word *authority:* control, dominance, mandatory, enforcement, and so on. Some also include words like brutality and abuse.

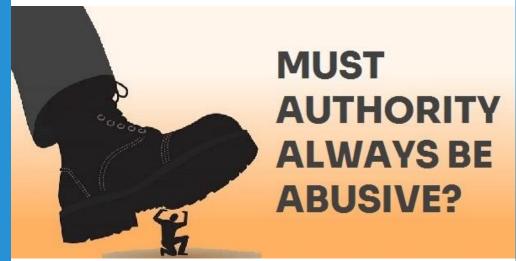
OK, now let's try this with an opposite type of word, the word is *submission*.

Here are a few words that some people associate with the word *submission*: compliance, consent, meekness, obeisance, obedience, humility, and concede. Some also include words like prostration, acquiescent, humiliation, armbar, takedown, and even guillotine. Brutality and abuse are also included.

Both words, *authority* and *submission* are morally neutral words. These words are also roughly opposites in meaning. Yet, both words tend to evoke some negative associations, and sometimes strongly so. Why do you think that is? This little word association game stimulates interesting insights into the use of words.

For example: although these two words, *authority* and *submission*, are opposite in meaning, they both evoke associations with the words 'brutality' and 'abuse' in some people. I would venture that most people do not like either of these words, *authority* or *submission*, very much.

It is likely that the words, *authority* and *submission* are both associated with negative words such as 'brutality' and 'abuse' for a very good reason. Namely, because authority is often used in self-serving ways that result in brutality and abuse to some people who are in submission to such wrongly used authority. This common failure of authority leaves those affected skeptical of authority generally, and only grudgingly in submission to those authorities over them out of fear of reprisal, at best. Obviously, this scenario brings chaos and disorder on society as a whole. To prove my point we need look no further than to various officials and politicians who are more interested in exercising their authority to benefit themselves, rather than committing themselves to justice and righteousness for the public good.



Having acknowledged all of that, am I saying that authority and submission are in any way bad in themselves? Quite the opposite. Both of these, in their pure and undiluted form, issue directly from the Divine character. Both authority and submission, rightly applied, are literally God-like in essence and in effect. Let's take a look at the Divine side of this true dynamic duo, authority *and* submission.

Surely, there is no greater authority than our Father in Heaven Himself. Is His authority justified? He is the Creator of all things. It is only right that He should be the ultimate authority over His Creation. But do most people submit to His rightful authority? Not really. In fact a simple comparison between the norms of the prevailing worldview with the Divine Commandments of the Scriptures demonstrates that the Divine Authority is mostly ignored, if not worse. Yet, despite that rejection, authority remains a quality of character intrinsically originating in Elohim.

Ah, but what about submission? While all reasonable people can easily see that God has authority, how could submission possibly be a Divine characteristic? Here, we look to the Son. He said:

"He who has seen me has seen the Father" and "..that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father." (John 14:9, 5:22-23)

Yeshua could not have rightly said these things except that He shares in the same Divine nature as His Father. This is confirmed in other verses, such as this one:

"The Son is the radiance of His [the Father's] glory, the very image of His substance, and upholding all things by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3)

All of these verses and others like them confirm that the Son shares in the Divine nature with the Father. While They equally share in that Divine nature they are also in a Father/Son relationship. Therefore, the Son displays the submission side of the *authority/submission* dynamic toward His Father. From that perspective the Son says: "...the Father is greater than I" and in prayer to His Father the Son says: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." From the submission of the Son to the Father we see a perfect example of how the *authority/submission* dynamic is meant to function. (John 14:28, Luke 22:42)

Actually, I've been thinking about this because we have recently been focusing on what happened with Joseph and Mary. It is such a good example of how delegated authority works with rightful submission. Our Father gave multiple commands to Joseph, who obeyed those commands, exercising submission toward God, while walking in that delegated authority to lead his new wife and baby in safety. Mary submitted to that loving authority expressed toward her. All were blessed by that godly exercise of the authority/submission dynamic in action.

We've heard a lot lately about Joseph, and tonight we will get more about the other party to the story, Mary. Abigail will be leading a panel discussion with three other ladies that will take us more deeply into the important role that Mary played in bringing Messiah into the world. Mary was truly an extraordinary young lady,

and I know we will all get deeper insight into Mary through this panel discussion.

Our theme for tonight will be: *Seeing Mary's Faith*. Join our live Tsiyon panel discussion tonight, August 25, 2024, at Tsiyon.Net at 8 PM, Central. This is sure to be an insightful and impactful discussion you won't want to miss.

Eliyahu Tsiyon.Org

The Good News of the Kingdom - 12 Days in September!





"In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good courage!

I have overcome the world." John 16:33

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