

Discipleship Series for New Believers

Lesson 4: Importance of Yielding to God

By Kristin Bone

Importance of Yielding to God-Why

A new believer needs to learn about yielding to the Spirit in obedience because this is how we as Christians crucify the flesh and walk in the Spirit. There are so many “gospels” out there that teach us that it is okay to live however we want and God will bless us. But these messages defeat the very purpose of the cross. Jesus came to set us free from the power of sin and to crucify our flesh so we can live our lives hearing from and obeying His Spirit. The earlier a believer learns to listen to God and surrender what He is asking them to surrender, the quicker they will advance in the Lord.

Obedience helps bring a believer out of being a carnal Christian. Carnal Christianity so limits what God can do in our lives. If believers are live carnally, they will continue not to know the voice of the Lord for themselves, they will not truly live lives of faith, and they will not be led by the Spirit of God. Teaching a new believer to yield to God in obedience will begin to break down the flesh so the Spirit can become more and more powerful in their lives. This will lead the believer into knowing God’s voice for themselves, walking by faith, and being led by the Spirit and not their flesh.

Importance of Yielding to God-How

A longing of the Christian is to be led by God’s Spirit and to know the plan He has for their lives so they can perform this plan by His grace. Many people desire to know God personally and hear Him for themselves. God has made provision for this in His plan and His Word. Not only do Christians want to hear God’s voice, but God also longs that we know Him and hear His voice. The scripture says in John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ who You have sent.” Knowing God is part of the inheritance God gives us, and it is eternal life.

However, there is a hindrance to hearing the voice of God that the scriptures point out in Romans 8:5-8. People are not able to receive revelation by the Spirit of God when they live their lives led by the flesh and not by the Spirit of God. Paul shows this by saying, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” It can be seen from the above verse that if we do not yield to God, but rather follow our own ways, known as the flesh, we will not be able to receive from God’s Spirit or obey God.

How then do we remove the problem of living in the flesh so we can follow God’s Spirit? Galatians 5: 24-25 states, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions

and desires. If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit.” This Scripture shows that we need to take all the desires of our flesh (flesh meaning things contrary to what Jesus would do, sin, or things that are not God’s will for our lives) and allow God to kill those things in us.

Exactly how does God expect us to crucify our flesh? Romans 13:14 demonstrates, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” There are so many ways we can set ourselves up to live in our flesh. Many times we can entertain sinful desires or temptations simply because we hold onto the source of our temptation. But as Christians, one way to keep ourselves from walking in our flesh means not giving ourselves opportunities to sin. For example, a recovering alcoholic would not want to keep cans of beer around the house. This would be allowing the person daily an opportunity to fall into sin. Another example is that someone who struggles with lust would probably want to guard themselves from temptation by not having cable television. This would again set that person to fall into lust. What are some areas in your life where there are opportunities to sin lurking around the corner? How can you put on the Lord Jesus in that situation and make no provision for the flesh?

Paul also shows us another way to crucify our flesh in Romans 6:19. He says, “For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, or lawlessness, leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness.” When it comes to yielding to God and obeying God, we should not hold anything back from Him. Before we knew God, we completely served ourselves and sin. We did not hold anything back. In the same way, we should give everything to God and to righteousness.

Crucifying the flesh and being in true submission to God goes deeper than just surrendering areas of sin to God. We also have to surrender our rights we think we have to live our own lives, our own ambitions, dreams and pursuits. Even good things that are not sinful can cause us to continue to live in our flesh and to continue to not hear God’s voice and obey Him fully. We need our priorities to be balanced and in order. Here is a principle God has given us that shows we have to lay everything down before Him. God wants to be the first passion in our lives. “For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:32-33). If we put God and the work of God before our own needs and desires, God will provide for us what we need to survive. Seeking God’s will first takes us out of living in our flesh and into a life led by God’s Spirit. However, sometimes surrendering our desires and what we think we need is difficult.

A common problem believers often have is difficulty trusting God. But God shows us that His kingdom works differently than the way the world works. In the world we have to look out for our own needs and interests, but in God’s kingdom we have to submit everything to God or we will lose the life He wants to provide for us. Luke 9:23-24 states, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.