

Submission Brings Authority

What does it mean to be truly "undercover" in the Christian life? It's not about hiding or being secretive—it's about living under the protective covering and authority of God. When we submit to His lordship, we discover that He doesn't just cover us; He empowers us with His own authority.

What Does It Mean to Be Under God's Authority?

Being undercover means God has you covered in every area of your life. But this covering comes with a condition: you must be under His authority. This means He rules over your life, and you're looking up to Him—not side to side, not back, and not down. You're looking up because He's your leader, the one directing and guiding you.

God has a plan for your life, and He needs to be out in front. You follow Him every day, every moment, seeking His guidance for what to do next and where to go from here.

How Do We Submit to God's Authority?

The key to submission is found in God's written Word—the Bible. When you submit to the Word of God and His ways of doing things, you're submitting to His authority. But you can't submit to someone you don't know, and you can't know what submission looks like without studying Scripture.

Many people guess or assume what submitting to God looks like, often creating their own religious rules. But we don't have to guess—it's all right there in the Bible. We learn His ways so we can come under His authority and walk through life with His power.

The Power of the Name of Jesus

When you come under God's authority, He gives you His authority. Specifically, when you come under the lordship of Jesus Christ, you have the authority to use the name of Jesus in your life. Not everyone can effectively use this name—only those who are truly submitted to Him.

Jesus warned that many will say "Lord, Lord" on judgment day, but He'll respond, "Why do you call me Lord and not do the things that I say?" There are many who call Him Lord but aren't actually submitted to Him.

What Happens When We Use Jesus' Name with Authority?

Jesus promised in Mark 16 that those who believe and are born again will cast out demons, lay hands on the sick and see them recover, and speak peace into chaotic situations. When you walk into a place under His authority, you can scatter darkness, remove chaos, and drive out tormenting spirits.

This isn't about religious performance—it's about walking in the authority that comes from genuine submission to Christ.

How Jesus Proved Himself Faithful

Jesus didn't come into this world with full authority. He had to grow in authority, just like we do. The Bible says He "grew in favor with God and man" and "learned obedience by the things He suffered." He had to prove Himself faithful.

In the wilderness temptation, we see Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit, and tested for 40 days. The devil tempted Him with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—the same temptations we all face. But Jesus never gave in. He answered every temptation with "It is written," using the Word of God as His weapon.

The Result of Jesus' Faithfulness

Notice the progression: Jesus went into the wilderness "filled with the Spirit" and came out "in the power of the Spirit." What happened? He gained authority over devils, demons, and evil spirits because He never submitted to them. He ruled over His thought life, emotions, desires, and flesh.

This is our example. When we exercise dominion over ourselves and what's happening inside us—our thoughts, emotions, and desires—we position ourselves to receive greater authority from God.

How Do We Stay Filled and Led by the Spirit?

Being filled with the Spirit isn't a one-time occurrence. Ephesians 5 tells us to "be being filled" with the Holy Spirit by:

- Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord
- Praying in the Holy Spirit (speaking in tongues)
- Giving thanks always

What you fill yourself with matters. If you constantly speak negative things, gossip, or complain, you'll fill yourself with bitterness, anger, and depression. But if you fill yourself with praise, worship, and God's Word, you'll stay filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Importance of Submission to Human Authority

Even as a child, Jesus was "subject to" His parents, even though they didn't fully understand His calling. The Bible says He "increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" because of His submission.

If you're not under anyone's authority, it's doubtful you're under God's authority. God places authorities in our lives—parents, spouses, church leaders, employers—and our submission to them reflects our submission to Him.

We Are Kings and Priests in God's Kingdom

Revelation 1:6 tells us that Jesus "has made us kings and priests to His God and Father." When you come under His authority and remain faithful, you function as a king in this life. God delegates authority to you.

Your kingdom starts within you—ruling over your thoughts, emotions, flesh, and pride. From there, it extends to your household, church, vocation, and sphere of influence. When you rule well in whatever God has given you, He increases and expands your authority.

Life Application

This week, examine the areas of your life where you may be resisting God's authority or the authorities He has placed over you. Choose one specific area where you need to exercise better self-control—whether it's your thought life, emotions, words, or actions. Practice ruling well in that area by submitting to God's Word and being led by His Spirit.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I truly submitted to Jesus as Lord, or do I just call Him Lord while doing my own thing?
- What authorities has God placed in my life that I need to honor and submit to?
- How can I better fill myself with the Holy Spirit through praise, worship, and God's Word?
- In what areas of my "kingdom" (thoughts, emotions, relationships, work) do I need to exercise better dominion?

Remember: when you come under His authority, He gives you His authority. Stay undercover, stay submitted, and watch as God increases your spiritual stature, wisdom, and favor in life.

Quotes

1. When you come under the Lord's authority, He entrusts you with His authority.
2. When you come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you walk in the authority of His name.

3. Not everyone can use the name of Jesus—certainly not everyone who merely calls themselves a Christian. Submission brings authority!
4. How can you submit to someone you don't know?
5. When you submit to the Word of God—when you submit to God's way of doing things, as in Scripture—you are submitting to Him.
6. Don't forfeit this authority, this divine covering, this protection around your life for anyone or anything.
7. Temptation begins when someone is drawn away from Him.
8. Jesus was born with full authority; He grew in authority as He submitted to the Father.
9. Jesus proved Himself through obedience—just as we are called to prove ourselves through faithfulness.
10. You and I must be filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit.
11. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time experience—needs to be continuous.
12. If all you do is talk about your problems—keep rehearsing them—you will be filled with anxiety, fear, and depression.
13. One sign that you're walking in faith is joy—you're happy.
14. Jesus went in filled with the Spirit as He was led by the Spirit, but then came out in the power of the Spirit.
15. Jesus ruled first over His thought life, over His emotions, over His desires—over the flesh.
16. If you're not under anyone's authority, it's doubtful you're truly under God's authority.
17. He delegates His authority to you—so much so that you are made a king and a priest in this life.
18. You are not a king unless you have a kingdom.
19. Your kingdom begins within you: your integrity, your character, your faith, your obedience, your submission to God.
20. Rule your thoughts, rule your emotions, rule the flesh, rule pride.

Verses

1. Mark 16
2. James 1
3. Luke 4
4. Luke 4:13
5. Luke 4:14
6. Ephesians 5
7. 2 Corinthians 4:13
8. Luke 2:40
9. Luke 2:49
10. Revelation 1:6
11. Revelation 1:4
12. Revelation 1:5
13. Revelation 5
14. 1 Peter 2
15. 1 Kings 9
16. 1 Kings 9:1
17. 1 Kings 9:5

Summary

Being undercover in the Christian life means living under God's protective authority rather than hiding. When we submit to His lordship through His Word, He empowers us with His own authority. Jesus demonstrated this by remaining faithful through temptation, going from being filled with the Spirit to walking in the power of the Spirit. We stay filled by speaking psalms, singing worship, praying in tongues, and giving thanks. True submission includes honoring human authorities God places over us. As we rule well over our

thoughts, emotions, and actions, God expands our spiritual authority and makes us kings and priests in His kingdom.