

## Book of Hebrews Part 61 of 63: 13:5-7; Fear; Church Authority

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/s65fd42/book-of-Hebrews-part-61>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are in the final chapter of Hebrews, and we're making our descent. I've preemptively looked at the lay of the land, and the good news is that there's nothing radical or theological that we will have to deal with. There is nothing controversial coming. Like the pilots that announce that it's clear and this should be a smooth flight with no turbulence; this should be a smooth descent as we get to the very end of this epistle.

This is the longest series I've ever done. I blew my last record out of the water. I'm going to be very intentional not to break this record. I'm not looking to take on something this mammoth again, Lord willing. I'm excited to finally get through this; it's been an awesome study. We are getting very close to the end. We probably have a few weeks left, depending on how things go. With that said, we will do a quick recap of where we ended last time.

Hebrews 13:5 – <sup>5</sup> **Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

One thing that we covered quite well was the aspect that contentment is the antidote to covetousness. It is the answer to it. Here's the deal: if you are truly content in Yeshua, that tells you by the very definition that you're not given to covetousness; Yeshua is enough.

Whereas, if you jump on the other side of the tracks and self-introspect; you start to recognize that things in your heart are drawing you to the things of the world, and you are coveting them. You still find yourself caring what the world thinks about you. You still find yourself esteeming the very things that the world esteems. Of course, when you read Luke 16:15, Yeshua says – <sup>15</sup> **... For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.** He hates them.

If you still struggle with clinging to some of the materialistic things that other people have and wish you had them, you have a problem. You are not content when the things of the world draw you in. If you struggle with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life (needing recognition by the world), you are not content. If contentment is the antidote, how do you get it?

Deuteronomy 31:6 says – <sup>6</sup> **...He – God – will never leave you or forsake you.** This is what we're supposed to cling to and believe.

It's fascinating the way Deuteronomy 31:6 starts out – <sup>6</sup> **Be strong and of good courage. Do not fear – your enemies – nor be afraid of them; don't do it. Why should I be strong? Why should I have courage? Why should I not fear? Because – the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.** – That's why.

At which point, we break new ground and the writer of Hebrews said in Hebrews 13:6 – <sup>6</sup> **So, we may boldly say.** this is coming off the heels of Deuteronomy 31:6, because God said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you”, so the writer said – <sup>6</sup> **So, we may boldly say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”** Nothing.

I love how the writer did this. This guy was brilliant as he laid the foundation of Deuteronomy 31:6 and told us what the Lord had said. He reminded us that the Lord said, **“I will not leave you nor forsake you.”** Then he propped up Psalm 18:6. Therefore, believers should rush in and say, “Yes, yes, I believe what the Lord said, **‘The Lord is my helper.’**; therefore, I will not fear.”

In the last message, we talked a little bit about the fear of God and the power it has. That power leads us to life. **The fear of the Lord leads to life.** (Proverbs 19:23). **And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.** (Prov 16:6). There's power in the fear of God.

But the fear the writer just brought to the table is not the fear of God; it is the fear of the world; it's the fear of man; it's the fear of “what does the world think about you?” If you let fear into your heart, it will sow doubt. And what does doubt do? Doubt kicks you out of the throne room. Yeshua and James mention that when you pray, you have to pray without doubting. It has to be totally run by pure faith. This is where you get your power.

But if you let fear come in and start to sow within you, it will sow doubt: fear of man, fear of the world, fear of death. You know what that will do? It will sow compromise. Fear is a master controller. Out of all the things I've seen mankind struggle within my lifetime and in stories I've read in the Bible, fear is one of the top guns of the devil to literally pull strings on your heart, your mind, and your arms and legs to get you to do exactly what he wants.

Here's the worst part: every single person in this room will be confronted with fear. I'll take it even further: every single person in this room has experienced fear at some level in a variety of different ways. Perhaps you have been fearful about your finances falling apart; having enough money to pay your bills or rent; having enough food; your health (maybe a doctor has told you that you have an incurable disease and there is nothing they can do for you); or the health of a friend or a family member. I mean, pick your poison. It comes at us from every direction. The enemy constantly attempts to sow fear in us day after day so that he can control us. This is something you will have to deal with. This is a reality.

So, we will talk about this. Considering where we're at in this generation, seeing all the fear and what's coming, I take this subject very seriously. I get around people, and I can smell fear on them; they are riddled with fear.

I will read through some scriptures to get some perspective. I want to read from the Psalms. They're so powerful to me because David was so transparent. He lets you into the inner depths of his heart and shares what's going on. Look at this psalm:

Psalms 55:1-5 – <sup>1</sup> To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David. Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication. <sup>2</sup> Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily, <sup>3</sup> **Because of the voice of the enemy** – The enemy spoke to David's heart, and he started trembling. The devil will speak to your heart. He will try to get in. **Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me. And in wrath they hate me.** <sup>4</sup> My heart is severely pained within me, and the **terrors of death have fallen on me.** <sup>5</sup> **Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me.** *(Emphasis added).*

Was David serious? Is this the David that I know from scripture? He was completely devastated in fear. Is this the guy that all the kings of Israel and Judah were compared to? David set the bar. All the kings that sat on his throne were compared to him, whether they did good or evil. If they did good, then they did as his father David did; if they did evil, then they did not do as his father David had done. Is this the same guy? David was wallowing in fear.

Let me take it a step further: 1 Samuel 21:11-12 – <sup>11</sup> **And the servants of Achish said to him, “is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another and dances, saying: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?’”** <sup>12</sup> Now David took these words to heart, **and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.** *(Emphasis added).*

Are you kidding? Are you serious? Is this the same David who as a young man stood before Goliath? He didn't blink. He went up against an invincible warrior. Nobody thought he had a chance, and David said, **“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”** (1 Samuel 17:26). David didn't even blink. He didn't go with armor or a sword, but he laid waste to an invincible warrior. As a young man, he chopped off Goliath's head and gained victory over Israel. He had no fear in that experience. And then I read this, David is absolutely terrified of this nothing pagan king. What is going on? Do you understand what I'm trying to convey to you? I don't care how righteous you think you are; you will experience fear. It's going to happen. Are you prepared?

I can take it a step further. What about Jacob? He was a guy who was chosen by God when he was in the womb. He was separated from Esau, his brother. He was favored. He was the one that got the birthright, even though it wasn't his by birth. He was the one that got the blessing. He was the one that saw a ladder with angels ascending and descending and the Most High God standing on top saying to him, **“I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.”** (Genesis 28:12). This was the guy that wrestled with Yeshua. Yeshua changed his name – **“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel.** (Genesis 32:28).

This was the guy that went to Laban, and the Lord blessed him with a massive family. Jacob left rich, with his family, and flocks and herds as the Lord took him back to his land. And on his way back, he was confronted by Esau, who was not chosen by God, but was rejected. And what does the Bible record?

Genesis 32:7 – <sup>7</sup> **So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.** *(Emphasis added).*

This was a man who saw God and was intimately involved in a deep relationship with Him, yet he had bearing down on him the fear of man, the fear of the world. There will be times when you will feel like King David and Jacob. It will hit you hard in the finance area, your health, or in your family. It will come at you from every direction: you may not have enough, or you're going to die. What will you do in that situation?

I look at the situation right now. I can't tell you how many people I talk to these days who are terrified of what they see happening in this country and around the world with these perceived pandemics and the violence that is occurring. There is despair and uncertainty as everything is erupting. The persecution of Christianity is on the rise. There is plenty to be afraid of in the flesh. The enemy has a lot to offer right now in the department of fear, more than virtually at any time in history. We know from biblical prophecy that this will only increase.

I'm going to build on this further. 2 Corinthians 7:5 – <sup>5</sup> **For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.** (*Emphasis added*).

Is this the same Paul that had such an anointing that cloths were brought from his body to people and they were instantaneously healed, and demons were flying out of people? Is this the Apostle Paul that literally saw with his own eyes Yeshua, the resurrected Lord in His glory, and went blind? Is this the guy who in Acts 14 healed a man that had never walked before in his life? It was so amazing that the inhabitants offered sacrifices and called Paul a god? This is the guy. This is Paul.

He's opening up like David. He's letting you know they had conflicts all around them, yet inside they were feeling terrified. There was fear. Is this the same guy that said, **“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”** (2

**II Corinthians 7:5-** For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts **inside were fears.**

**II Timothy 1:7-** **For God has not given us a spirit of fear** but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Titus 1:7)? (*Emphasis added*). Is he the same guy? How could this even be? Is this statement contrary to the statement **“Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.”** (2 Corinthians 7:5)? (*Emphasis added*).

I want you to listen to me carefully. It is not contrary at all. Do you understand what Paul means when he says, **“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”**? Paul is not telling you that you will not deal with fear once you become a believer. He's telling you what the Spirit of God is and what it is not. So, when you feel the fear of the world bearing down on you, and you fear death and all the different things that this community and everyone else fears, you can know this is not of God.

If it was the Spirit of God that you were feeling, you would have power. If it was the Spirit of God, you would be filled with perfect love. We know what perfect love does. **Perfect love casts out fear.** (1 John 4:18). The Spirit of God gives you clarity of mind, not an anxious spirit. When you suffer anxiety and fear, it's hard to think, isn't it? It's hard to think clearly because it's bearing down on you; it's so weighty.

You will face fear as believers. It is coming in a way you haven't experienced yet. My question is: Are you ready? What do you do? Do you know how to deal with this? Well, let's begin to deal with this:

Acts 18:9-10 – <sup>9</sup> **Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision. “Do not be afraid** – The backdrop is that Paul was in Corinth and had just begun to preach the gospel of Yeshua. The next thing we read is that the Lord gave Paul a vision in the night, **“Do not be afraid.”** Why does Yeshua say that? Because Paul is terrified. We are not given the details as to why. There could have been certain men, perhaps violent men, there that were really intimidating. We have no idea what was going on there, but since the Lord knows the hearts of all men, the Lord knew to come to Paul and tell him, **“Do not be afraid.”** –

but speak – as in the gospel – and do not keep silent. <sup>10</sup> **For I am with you and no one will attack you to hurt you, for I have many people in the city.** (Emphasis added).

Isn't that interesting? This is exactly what Deuteronomy 31:6 says. In fact, it's so crazy because the Lord Yeshua has already spoken these words. You can read them in the Torah, Deuteronomy 31:6 – <sup>6</sup> **Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them – your enemies – For the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.**

Keep in mind Paul was an expert in the Torah. When Yeshua spoke these words, Paul would have recognized them instantly. They would have been familiar to him. Keep in mind, what did Paul hear? Yeshua spoke and Paul heard the word of the Lord. Where I'm going with this is that it is the Word calling the Word to remembrance that will give you the strength that you need. We need to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. If you want to fight fear, keep going back to the promises of the Lord. This is what we do. Amen.

Psalm 56:3 – <sup>3</sup> **Whenever I am afraid,** – I thought believers don't ever get scared. I thought they were supposed to be superheroes running around and fearing nothing. That's not even reality; that's ludicrous; that's setting people up for failure; it's delusional. That's why it says – <sup>3</sup> **Whenever I'm afraid,** – Dealing with the fear is not the problem. The problem is: what is the answer? What do we do? – **I will trust in You.**

I will go back to His words. I trust His word when He says, **“I will not leave you nor forsake you; I will be your God and you shall be my people.”** (Deuteronomy 31:6, Leviticus 26:12). That's what we trust in. And guess what will happen? You will be given the strength to overcome.

Psalm 23:4 – <sup>4</sup> **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me** – David understood the concept: He will not leave me; He will not forsake me. Where did David draw his strength? As he was in the valley of the shadow of death; it was terrifying. David knew it was terrifying, and he struggled with fear, but he said, “I'm not going to give into it. I will not fear.” David knew his God was with him. He knew Yeshua was at his right hand, therefore he could trust.

Let me take this conversation to a very uncomfortable level. When we start talking about this, we need to look at this:

2 Chronicles 15:2 – God sent his prophet Azariah, the son of Oded, to meet Asa – <sup>2</sup> **And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you.** (Emphasis added).

Let that sink in for a second. The Lord is with you, while you are with Him. Have you ever had that feeling in the pit of your stomach as you're thinking about your faith, and you feel like: “Man, my relationship with God isn't like it used to be.”? And you say, “You know, Daniel, I know the Word says that God will never leave me or forsake me, but I don't feel He's here; there's an absence; I don't feel Him at all; I feel like I'm abandoned.”

May I make a suggestion? If you feel that in your heart of hearts you are not connected, then something's going on with your relationship with the Lord. If you don't feel that He's there with you, the problem might be that you're not with Him. The problem isn't that He isn't with you. You need to step

back and ask, “Am I with him?” because as we continue to read in 2 Chronicles 15:2 it says – **but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.** (*Emphasis added*).

You have this reality, and this is where you need to be right now. You need to think about where you are at in your relationship with God. Is there a disconnect? Is there an emptiness? Are you clinging on to the truth: I know the Lord is with me? If you are not drawing on that strength, it's because you went back to the very beginning; you have the world in your heart; you've left. Covetousness has come in, and you have attached your heart to the world. This is not okay. This is a bad thing.

I've seen this side where people say, “I don't feel it, Daniel. I'm not seeing it.” Then on the other side of the tracks, I have seen radical fist pumping, foot stomping on the devil's head, and people that will absolutely tell you, “Yes, Jesus is at my side. I'm His warrior.” You perceive that there is no fear in these people. Then I think of Proverbs 25:19 – <sup>19</sup> **Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.** Both sides are scary.

Proverbs 25 links to Matthew 7:21-23 – <sup>22</sup> **Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord ...’** – and Yeshua responds – <sup>23</sup> **...‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’** They were unfaithful and yet they called Him out and said, – <sup>22</sup> **...‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, done many wonders in Your name?’**

These people in Matthew 7 are confident that they are getting into the throne room, and they are stunned when He doesn't let them in because – **Confidence in an unfaithful man in a time of trouble is like a bad tooth.**

These two polar opposites are doing the same thing. One is saying, “I'm not feeling it. I just don't feel connected.” because they're unfaithful. The other one is overly confident and thinks he's connected. He struts around like he's a warrior for God and he's unfaithful. Neither of these will make it.

We are coming into a season where the line is being drawn in the sand, and you have to **choose you this day whom you will serve.** (Joshua 24:15). You have to shed all the stupid thoughts and the vanity you are concerned about. It's all sending you to hell, every bit of it.

We should be consumed with the thought of who Yeshua is; what He has done; His power; and His wisdom. We should be enraptured with His love. This is where we should be as believers.

Let's bring this full circle. Matthew 10: 28 – <sup>28</sup> **Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.** Why does Yeshua say these words? Why does He warn us not to fear them? Because He knows we're in the flesh, so naturally we will experience that fear. So, He sends out the warning not to fear and instead tells us how you deal with the problem – **But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.** (*Emphasis added*).

This is where we need to be. This brings us right back to where we started today. It's all about fear. If you want to fight the fear of the world, you need to have the fear of God. One of the most powerful forces in the universe is the fear of the world, but fortunately for us there's a greater power; it's the fear of God. If you cater to the fear of the world, it'll take everything from you. It won't leave anything behind; there will be nothing left; it will ravage you right to your death.

Look at Hebrews 13:6 – <sup>6</sup> So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” Again, in Psalm 118:6 – <sup>6</sup> I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

These are the very same words Yeshua spoke in Matthew 10. It's the same words we read in the Torah. The entire canvas is covered in this truth for us to pick up at no better time than the time we're in right now.

The writer of Hebrews jumps in a totally different direction in verse seven. Hebrews 13:7 – <sup>7</sup> **Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.** (*Emphasis added*).

The first thing I want to mention is that this passage is explicit. We are not dealing with secular governing authorities as we read about in Romans 13. That's not what this is. This is specifically about the church, the actual functionality of God's holy assembly. It's very specific.

**There are three points are made that I want to cover one by one:**

**The first point is** – Hebrews 13:7 – <sup>7</sup> **Remember those who rule over you.** (*Emphasis added*).

Obviously, in this first statement that is made, we see the church is to be governed. It is to be an organized authority structure with judges. It is not to be a random assembly, filled with a bunch of men and women, who run around trying to build their own kingdom trying to stand on their own island by doing the dictates of their own heart.

Moses warned Israel about this in Deuteronomy 12:8 – <sup>8</sup> **You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in their own eyes.** Everyone was on their own island and not subjecting themselves to the authority of God.

When this happens, it is the death of every community. Right now, the demons are working because pastors are writing article after article, posting videos, and freaking out because their flocks are falling apart. They are going to the wayside. Many pastors are asking, “What do we do? How do we prevent this? How do we stop this? We are being picked apart.”

How is it that the pagan world and the secular world that are filled with sin understand there has to be an authority structure to have a civil society? You cannot have a functioning society without authority. It's impossible unless you live in the America today that is right now being usurped by communism. And notice what it is doing; it's going after authority by stating that it's time to defund the police. They want the authority out of the way so the wolves can ravage the land.

I'm telling you; it is no different with the church. When the church doesn't have functioning leadership, shepherds, or elders, understand what will happen. The devil will come in and implement his elders and his leaders; the wolves will take charge. So, authority is absolutely critical.

In Deuteronomy 16:18, the Torah says – <sup>18</sup> **You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates which the LORD your God gives you.** No matter where you settle in the land, you establish leaders within your gates, immediately. There has to be shepherds, caretakers, who care about the people and want to guard and protect them.



As the gospel of Yeshua went out, this was the first thing that was established. We know this from Paul's letter to Titus 1:5 – <sup>5</sup> **For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.** (*Emphasis added*).

When we set up churches, the first thing we need is eldership. We need that authority structure set up because again, if we don't, the wolves will come in and run the church. They would be happy to do it and they will not spare the flock as Paul tells us in Acts 20.

Let's look at an example in 2 Chronicles 19:4-5 – <sup>4</sup> **So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Yerushalayim/Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim,** – and what did he do? – **and he brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers.** (*Emphasis added*).

Jehoshaphat stirred revival, and the people experienced *teshuvah* (repentance); they were turning back to God. Once they turned back to God, the first thing you read is – <sup>5</sup> **Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.** – everywhere.

That's the first thing they did because the judges are the vital organ of the community. They're the watchmen; the shepherds of the community; and the gatekeepers. They need to be the ones responsible for cultivating an atmosphere of righteousness.

Deuteronomy 25:1 – <sup>1</sup> **If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked.** (*Emphasis added*).

When judges, elders, shepherds, pastors, and teachers go forth and do exactly what is being said, they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked, that community will have the Spirit of God. God will not dwell in a community that is building up a bunch of leaven. It's not going to happen. When God's authority begins to be imposed, not for the sake of dictatorship and oppression, but for the sake of righteousness, it puts the fear of God into the people.

Let me give you an example. Deuteronomy 19 says that if a witness begins to testify against his neighbor, the judges are to investigate the matter. During their investigation, if they find this witness is a false witness, the Torah commands that you do to the false witness as he thought to do to his neighbor. See, it's eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth; you will reap what you sow. It continues in Deuteronomy and says that the rest will fear when they hear of that judgment. They will know that unrighteousness and lawlessness will not be tolerated in the community.

That doesn't mean elders are breathing down people's necks. That's not what it's about, but it's to know that there is a standard, and it's Yeshua. We are all trying to work, and nobody's perfect, and there's always grace, but when the elders rise up, when the leaders lead in Israel, it is powerful; it's safety.

Going back to Titus 1:9 – <sup>9</sup> **holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught,** – This is the commission for the elders. These judges are to be set up in the cities and hold fast the faithful word as they've been taught – **that he may be able, by sound doctrine.** Does it say according to his own heart; or by what he feels; or by an elder who has a personal vendetta with one of his congregants? No, it says by sound doctrine. It is 100 % pure word of God so that he is Holy Spirit inspired to be able to by sound doctrine – **both to exhort** – meaning you reason with people to do what is right – **and convict those who contradict.** (*Emphasis added*). Again, this is what has to be done lest the ravenous wolves come in.



2 Corinthians 10:8 – <sup>8</sup> **For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, – Paul himself is an elder. He's a shepherd. – which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed.** *(Emphasis added).*

I put this in here because with all due respect, some of you have been burned. Maybe some people that watch us online have been burned. If there are shepherds that are dictators and abusers of power, that is not a safe place for you to be. I absolutely suggest you find a different place to worship, and I certainly don't mean our in-house community. But anyone watching this: pastors are not given free license to go around waving a dictatorial wand. They're given a responsibility, and it's not for destruction; it's for building; it's for edification; it's to encourage everyone to walk in righteousness. It is not a position to be abused.

**The second point is – Hebrews 13:7 – <sup>7</sup> Remember those who have rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you.** *(Emphasis added).*

One of the most important functions of any shepherd, elder, etc., is to teach/preach the word of God. It's vital. In fact, in Acts 6, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews that their widows were being neglected. So, the apostles set men over these matters, but Peter and the apostles saturated themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. If you want to have a healthy community that's built on power and is connected to the Lord, where men hear from God, the men have to be immersed in His word. They must have a prayer life like no one else. It needs to look like Elijah and Daniel the prophet.

I love what Paul says in 1 Timothy 5:17 – <sup>17</sup> **Let the elders who rule well – not who rule foolishly – be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.** *(Emphasis added).*

It's the most critical thing. Again, for the online community, if you're looking for a community to hang your hat in, and you want to be with believers as you should, this has to go to the top: Are the shepherds connected? Do they pray? Do they fast? Are they clothed in the word of God? Do they labor in it? This is huge for determining what community you want to go to.

All this brings stability; it brings hope; it brings strength; and it brings faith. I can't think of anything better to do than inundate you with the word of God because **faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.** (Romans 10:17). To get through what we're going through right now, you need to be inundated with the word, because you need to have your faith increased. Increase our faith, Lord Yeshua. Amen.

Proverbs 11:14 – <sup>14</sup> **Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.**

You have no idea how true this scripture is. I have had several people, by word of mouth, tell me how this community is going to start over here, but they do not have any eldership or leaders. Then we hear the stories that their communities are being ripped apart. They don't survive; they fall because where there's no counsel, guess what? The people fall. That's what will happen.

**The third and last point – Hebrews 13:7 – <sup>7</sup> Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you – the last point is – whose faith follow,** *(Emphasis added).*

Proverbs 13:20 – <sup>20</sup> He who walks with wise men will be wise.

Proverbs 12:26 – <sup>26</sup> The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Yes, it matters who your sphere is. It matters about the people you allow to speak into your life. It makes a difference. You want to walk in power; you want to walk in the word of God; and you want to have an awesome prayer life. Find men and women that actually have that and do that. Cling to them; pray with them; fast with them; and read the word with them if you want to become like that. If that's not your desire, (again, going back to covetousness) you have a problem. This needs to be your desire because it's pure, holy, and beautiful.

**The third point continued** – Hebrews 13:7 – <sup>7</sup> Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you whose faith follow, **considering the outcome of their conduct.** *(Emphasis added).*

In other words, if you have responsible shepherds in the community doing what they're supposed to be doing, then step back for a moment and ask, "What is their outcome? Where will they be when it hits? What happens when they die? They will be the ones on the side of the sheep. They will be at the right hand of Yeshua. They will be the ones that Yeshua will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant." They will be the ones that will not taste judgment or death. This is what you want to consider. We can go to scripture all day long and look at all these beautiful righteous men. Look at Hebrews 11 and consider the outcome of all those men's faith.

Jumping ahead to Hebrews 13:17 – <sup>17</sup> Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. – We'll get into that when we get there, but this is what I want you to see – **Let them do so with joy not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.** *(Emphasis added).*

In other words, it is to be done with a willing heart. There's to be a submissiveness, not to man but to God, and an understanding of what God has established.

I love this passage. It shows you what this looks like. 2 Chronicles 30:12 – <sup>12</sup> Also the hand of God was on Yehuda/Judah to give them **singleness of heart** – singleness of heart to do what? – **to obey the command of the king and the leaders at the word of the LORD.** *(Emphasis added).*

Not at the word of man. Not according to the dictates of man's own heart who are waving their dictatorial wand around just to make people do what they want because they're in a position of authority. Not at all.

So, when the writer of Hebrews said that we are to obey and submit to those who rule over us with joy; it's a Holy Spirit thing. When the Holy Spirit moves, He puts it into the hearts of the people to have that joy, and He puts it into the hearts of the leaders to lead righteously. It's what you would call the Acts church; it is an absolutely beautiful example of what we see here.

We'll close with this. Judges 5:2 – <sup>2</sup> when the leaders lead in Israel, **when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD!** *(Emphasis added).*

When the leaders lead in Israel by walking in righteousness doing the work of the Lord and are good in His sight, and the people willingly offer themselves, you can praise the Lord. You are in the right community. This is the sign of a healthy community.

We will close here for today.