

## **Submission To Authority & Peer Pressure**

### **Know Pain Know Gain series #2**

**by Chris Famisaran**

All right, well, good morning, everybody. How are you all? I missed you all. So good to be home. Thank you. Oh, what a couple of weeks. Lots happened in the last couple of weeks. Those of you don't know I finally got to get away after a very, very long time. I took off and came back from Hawaii a couple of years ago, and then the whole world disaster (COVID) decided to shut down. And then finally this last couple of weeks, my wife and I, we finally were able to get away. Overall, for the most part, it was great. I had two things in life that I wanted to do in the two weeks that I was away to eat a lot of great food and to sleep a lot. I accomplished both. I was able to gain gained five pounds. And yeah, it was nice for the most part, I was able to get some good rest and it was nice to finally have the ability to kind of put things in perspective sometimes. When you go go go and you get tired it's it's hard to think clearly. So when you can take a break. Somebody is texting me. Really ridiculously someone I'm going to silence them.

All right, let's pray. Father in heaven, Lord as we continue our journey through the book of Peter, may you lead and guide us help us to take what you want us to learn. Help us and all that we do in Jesus name, amen.

Back in 2017 the Philadelphia Eagles were on a roll. Can't always say was like that forever. However, former quarterback of the Philadelphia Eagles and Super Bowl MVP, Nick Foles got to play late in 2017 due to an injury because their starter Carson Wentz went down with a bad injury. And after surprising everybody with their Super Bowl win, guess what happens? The starter Carson Wentz was ready to play in week three of the 2018 season. And Foles who was the MVP, who had taken the team, the distance was suddenly relegated to being a backup again. Do you remember the story? I was reading, I was like, What are they doing? They got a great quarterback.

You know, a lot of us probably in that situation would be very, very upset. There was a lot of debate, should Foles be the backup should he not? I mean should the Super Bowl MVP really be relegated to being a backup. Many people gave their two cents maybe \$2 worth actually from fans prefer former current players coaches. They were all adamant in their decision. Carson Wentz for Foles was the right one was a smarter one. But Foles made a comment or statement that surprised many people. He took his demotion, relegation, whatever you want to call it, pretty well. In fact, in his book in 2018 that came out it was called I believe it Foles Rights. What they saw as a riches to rags sports story I saw as God's plan. I've said all along that my desire is to play for God's glory, not mine. And that's exactly what I plan to do. My unique path from backup to Super Bowl MVP to backup again is a powerful message to share with people. And God has given me an ideal platform to do that from to cheerfully return as a backup role. After reaching the pinnacle of the sport contradicts everything the world tells us about success, fame, money and self worth. To me, it's a tangible reminder that we're all called to humility and a life of service. Some People might think I deserve a better deal. But it's not about what I deserve. It's never been about that. The truth is that I've already been given far more than I deserve a wonderful family a job I love, grace and forgiveness, great friends, and coaches and teammates. Everything I have is a gift

from God. And I am thankful for all of that. I am more I am now because of God's grace. And I'll continue to follow wherever He leads.

I honestly could say I think that's it. We're done for the day. What a powerful, humble attitude, amen. He achieved the highest peak, something that he'd been dreaming. Since he was a boy, he achieved that not only did he did they win the Super Bowl, but he was named the Super Bowl, MVP, the most valuable player. And then the next season in week three, you're back to being a backup. Not many people would take that? Well. Some would question Well, I've been loyal. I've given everything I mean, especially in football, you literally you are one play away from potentially being injured. And yet he leads with humility, he leads with the ideal frame of mind in that I'm simply just the humble servant, something that God all aspires us to do. And as we, as we dig into First Peter, we're going to be talking a lot we're going to give mainly today is going to be an overview of parts of two, three, and four. And just so you know, folks, we're not going to be able to get through all of First and Second Peter, as you read, take time, every day, in the week, through your books take time to read and get the whole perspective.

But Peter is writing and especially in chapter 2 verses 11 and 12. He's talking about dear friends, I urge you as for foreigners and exiles, he's writing to a group of people, that they're probably new believers, but they're in a place where the gospel is hostile to those around them, basically, to live good, such good lives among the pagans that they accuse you of doing nothing wrong, that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day that he visits us to be an example for God to be an instrument for the Lord. So Peter is reaching out, he's sending a note of encouragement to all of the the churches Asia, Pontus, Galatian, Cappadocia. But it's not easy. Because these churches, the believers, they're dealing with several groups that are essentially trying to maybe either get rid of them to try to get them to go away because their way of life and what they're thinking in some ways is also a threat to the government, to those who literally lord over them. And even from the perspective of the family.

So, today, we're talking about submission to authority and peer pressure. Let's look at the context of what Peter is talking about. So as we go forward there we go. living faithfully, and submitting. When you hear the word submitting or submission or submit what comes to mind to what giving up power. Okay, what else being taken advantage of, okay? You're what? Surrender. Okay? Some people might think, Oh, you're just going to be a doormat. Now, when we look at the life of Jesus, was Jesus a doormat? No. Was he humble? Was he firmed though? Was he strong? Did he submit himself? Yeah, he submitted Himself to the Father. And He led a life of humility, but also in submission, something that we also are called to do, and it's not that we're giving up who we are, and trying to be doormats, but it truly to be a faithful God's faithful this type or follower of Jesus is to be humble, and to submit to one another as Ephesians. Five also talks about. So who is Peter talking about when it comes to submission and in the first context, it is that of the governing authorities. Let's go to First Peter chapter 2, verses 13, through 17, First Peter 2:13, through 17. And so those of you maybe who are going to be looking through your Bibles, first and second, Peter is towards the back, way back. After Hebrews and James, you'll find First Peter. And so in verse 13.

It says, Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake, to every human authority, whether it is the emperor as the suit of supreme authority, or to the governor who was sent him, sent by him to punish those who do wrong, and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will, that by doing what? Good, you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people, live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover up for evil, live, as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, Fear God,

and honor the Emperor. So in the context of not only just let's just say the government, but even our culture, what's God calling us to do?

Submit?

Should we drive the speed limit? There are some reasons Yeah, we should otherwise you know if it's 65, but we're doing 122. that's safe for everybody. No, I've never done that. I've never hit 122. I haven't. There was a governor on my car, sadly. But I remember one day, I was driving really fast, I had a really super awesome Honda Accord. He was a manual. I missed that car, driving up the mountains was awesome. And weaving through traffic was awesome. Until I realized, I learned the power of force, meaning a sudden stop, didn't necessarily feel good, not in a car, or my bike. And I realize, you know, if I go too fast, I'm not only going to hurt myself, but I'm also probably going to hurt somebody else. Should we pay our taxes? Some people debate that? What did Jesus say? Go pay to the authorities, right? Surrounding authorities. God calls us to be faithful even to the governing authorities around us. What does that mean, though? How far will obviously love, do good. In fact, it says do good so much that essentially nobody can blame you for anything. Right? To be a faithful person, to live well, to be kind to one another. So much so that they're not going to have anything against you. Because religion was it's not that they weren't atheists. They believed in other gods, but they didn't believe according to the believers, God. And so God is calling Jesus saying, hey, live well live like me. God wants us to be faithful ambassadors, as Paul says in Second Corinthians 5 for the gospel.

Now, let's go to the next one. Submitting to the non believing slave masters. So back in the day, slavery was also common, and it wasn't by race. I mean, it could be but more than anything, you had people, for instance, who actually became indentured servants, they didn't have a way to pay for anything. So well, I'm going to contractually let's just say, I'll work for you for five years. 10 years. or if you have a debt, you become a slave. And imagine you're a believer, but you're under the rulership of a slave master. And they can pretty much do whatever they want. How do you respond to that? Let's go to verse 18. Slaves in reverence, fear of God, submit yourselves to who? Your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are what harsh, for it is commendable if someone bears up pain, under the pain of unjust suffering, because they are conscious of God, but it how is it how is it your to your credit, if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it, but if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him. He did not retaliate, there was no repercussions on his part. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judged justly, he bore himself our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be die two cents and live for righteousness, by His wounds, you have been what? healed, for you were like sheep going astray. But now you have returned to the Shepherd and overseer of your souls. Now, this is something that they could not get out of, because, you know, so how do you respond, you're a believer, but you're owned or you're, you have a contract, you can't escape it. If you do, you'll be arrested, maybe you will be killed. It's not going to end well for you. What is Peter's advice, despite all of the persecution that you may be experiencing, be a faithful disciple, be a faithful follower of God, live by a good example.

Now the next part, we're gonna cause some eyebrows. As it says, In the Bible, Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands. And I noticed there's some hair going on the back of your necks. I never gonna submit I am my own person. In the context, here, though, back in Peters time. We've talked about this several

times women's value, their place in the social hierarchy was not up here. It was down here, unfortunately, because in the home, who was Lord, the man or the husband? They were lord of everything. And so what Peter is saying, no, there were believers who are married to unbelieving spouses. So what should they do? Should they just try to run away? No. Peter's saying, Hey, if you have the opportunity, be a shining example. As Paul also says, be a shining example that you might win them over. But in his context here, a woman couldn't just go away, she couldn't work like you can today. She was at the mercy of her spouse.

First Peter 3, verses 1 through 6, wives in the same way, submit yourself to your own husband so that if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words, by the what behavior or example of their wife. When they see the purity and reverence of your lives, you should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of gentle and quiet spirit and which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands like Sarah who obeyed Abraham and called him her Lord, You are her daughter's if you do what is right. And do not give way to fear. Let me ask you now. Okay, so how should I frame this? You know, originally, the first thing that we talked about is governing authorities. We should follow the rule of the law when especially when it comes to driving on the roads, we should pay our taxes. There is purpose in fact, even Romans talks about Paul says we should follow what the government says. So long as it doesn't cause us to go against God's principles. Amen. Now, non-believing slave master unbeliever, ever dealt with a bad boss ever dealt with a tyrant. And maybe you have good ideas, or maybe they're just a really mean person, you could use stronger language. But you know, there's children here. So they say all kinds of unbelievable things, they derided you, they call you out, or they say, mean names. And they're just uncompromising, they're a micro manager. In many ways, we can't escape it, because maybe we've got to make money in order to live. We got to have food on the table, we have to have a house or a car, we have to have medicine. How can we relate to that? There are times where yeah, maybe you just have a really bad boss. Love them anyways. Be a shining example. And I'll tell you what, what's the best way to turn your boss around, to do a really great job, and to be humble? Take notes. And as they see you taking notes, being deliberate understanding, you listen, pray, you know, as you develop a relationship with them, just maybe their attitude may change towards you. When it comes to a spouse, being married to a spouse who's an unbeliever, set an example of God's love and grace, and that they may see God work in your lives, and that they too, may be drawn to the Lord, by your example. And then now, how do we deal with all of this?

Well, let's go to the next slide. Peter has some examples of things that we can live relationship principles, live harmoniously be united as you work with one another with the people who deal only with people who are who don't necessarily believe in the context of our culture, or, you know, the government ever dealt with a difficult person out in real life? Is it always easy to be harmonious? Do we all agree on the same thing in our country?

Some of you are chuckling with like, Pastor Chris, if you're not watched the last couple of years, I know, we're at odds oftentimes, that God is calling us to be a faithful example, to live harmoniously to live united doesn't necessarily mean we're always going to agree, though. Amen. But I think I bet you we have way more common ground, then we we probably think, and let's work together. But also, let's be sympathetic with one another. We're all we all have our own individual battles that we're dealing with

some more than others. And everybody, for instance, has a cup of how much they can deal with things. Some people, they've got the Big Gulp, and some they have a really small teacup. May we be mindful and loving as we do with one another, let's be concerned about one another, love one another. Sometimes that can be the hardest thing ever. Amen. Especially when you've been disappointed, or you've been stabbed in the back. But God calls us to love one another, to be compassionate, to have sympathy to understand. And finally, more than anything to be humble.

The longer I'm in leadership, the one thing that I realized that it's true is if you want to be a really great leader, what's the first thing you need to do? Set the example. Yes. But Be humble. And what does that look like? Listen, does a leader always have to have the best plan? Where do the best plans come from? As a group? And if you're humble enough, and you're able to submit yourself to let other ideas come through, just maybe it'll be a better plan. And when you involve other people, are they going to be stoked about that when you take their ideas and you formulate it because they have buy in?

It's just like, it's like that with all of your relationships, whether to believers or unbelievers. Sorry, let me go back one more time as well. Let's go to verse seven. Now, in the context of marriage, we were dealing with the unbelieving husband, but Peter in verse seven, chapter three, verse seven is also doing something really radical. He's saying husbands in the same way, be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with what? Respect. And also in Ephesians 5 you know, everybody, everybody takes that verse where it says, Wives submit to your husbands. What does it say, though in the first verse before that, submit to everyone respect everyone? There is no, when it says everyone, it literally means everyone in both of these verses are implying. This is something that's radical, it's going against the grain of what society at that time is telling them. It's revolutionary, to respect your spouse to have an on equal level field, what. And this is applicable to all of us, if you truly love your spouse, love them, care for them, and especially even evasions five, guys, are you it all it says for this for the wife is to respect her husband submit. But same thing guys are supposed to respect but the onus is on the guy, are you ready to die for your wife as it continues? No comment.

What I'm trying to say my friends, what Peter is trying to say, Love well live by these examples, be harmonious, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble, not just to those who are your fellow believers, but to the authority to the culture, to your boss, or whoever is a perennial master in your life. And also to your spouse. Now, what I'm also not saying to you is for those of you perhaps, who to submit to your spouse, but your spouse beat you, I'm not saying put up with that either. Let's just be very clear about that. Okay, abuse is never acceptable, but love your spouse. And I'm not trying to say, but it was up because hopefully they'll change. Very rare. Doesn't mean be submitting doesn't mean you have to be a coward either. We have a community here. And we will help you if need be. So support. Support is important in our church, and as a group, as a community, being sympathetic, to support to love to be compassionate. And more than anything, be ready to serve, and be humble.

Let's go to the next slide. It's oftentimes too, I know we're almost done, we're but in chapter four, it talks about the fact that the disciples were being ridiculed, they were being persecuted. And oftentimes when those things happen, what starts to happen is peer pressure tempts us to slip into what? Conformity rather than standing by our convictions by friends, have faith. May God strengthen, encourage you to go forth, even when somebody doesn't agree with you love them in spite of their how their attitude, their thoughts, live by principle.

And let's go to the next slide. The last thing of the thing, the last thing that I would like to point out is that when we go through challenging times, Jesus is able to identify with our own struggles, because ultimately, as we were reading earlier, Jesus probably suffered the most. Amen, it can easily identify with our problems, and we can always go to God with anything, knowing that Jesus is aware and wants to walk that journey with us.

So for our let's go to the next slide for our reflection, has your understanding of submission, the Bible change and if so, how?

And for the challenge part, I want you to choose one or one or two of the five relationships of being humble, compassionate, sympathetic, loving, harmonious. Choose one or two of those this week. And I want you to go out into the wild of the world. I want you to practice this. Go to a maybe go to a restaurant that tends to be maybe difficult. In practice, love, practice sympathy. Maybe you have a boss that's just can take Grace and mean. live harmoniously. Listen, be humble love, be sympathetic. And in your own family as well. May you love. May you be humble. May you listen, may you submit. But also, don't be afraid to live with conviction and live with courage just as Jesus did.

Father in heaven, thank you, for your love and your grace, be with us. And while you've called us to live lives of faithfulness, and to be example, and to submit you've also called us not to be cowards either give us strength and courage to choose to do the right thing, even when it's not popular, even when it goes against the grain and Lord, where there are hardships and where there are unexpected challenges. Help us to remember that there is still good in everything. There's good that we can find in anything, despite the hardship in Jesus name. Everybody said Amen.

Grace and peace everybody. Great to see you again.