

# SPIRITUAL FITNESS

Strengthening Your Faith in Troubled Times

*A Study of Hebrews 11-13*

Part 9

## “REMEMBER & OBEYING YOUR LEADERS”

Hebrews 13:7, 17

### INTRODUCTION

As we conclude our series in Hebrews, we are going to discover one practical—but often overlooked way to stay on track in our relationship with God.

#### I. OUR RESPECT FOR PAST LEADERS (Hebrews 13:7)

**Hebrews 13:7**, “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

#### II. LEADERS IN THE PRESENT (Hebrews 13:17)

##### A. The Difficulty of This Command

1. Our natural \_\_\_\_\_ to authority

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

2. The possible \_\_\_\_\_ of authority

**Matthew 15:1-14** <sup>1</sup>Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup>Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.<sup>3</sup> But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? <sup>4</sup>For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.” —vs. 5 continues...

<sup>5</sup> But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;<sup>6</sup> And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.<sup>7</sup> Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,<sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.<sup>9</sup> But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.<sup>10</sup> And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: <sup>11</sup>Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.<sup>12</sup> Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? <sup>13</sup> But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

## B. The Meaning of This Command (Hebrews 13:17)

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

### 1. WHO?

**1 Peter 5:1-4** <sup>1</sup>The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

### 2. WHAT?

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

### 3. WHY?

**Hebrews 13:17** “...for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

## CONCLUSION