



## MAIN SCRIPTURES

- John 5:30
- Isaiah 45:9
- Luke 15:4

## SURRENDER MY WAYS

- Surrender Control
- Practice Release
- Asserting Godly Authority

## FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him**, for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“**I can of myself do nothing**. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I **don’t seek my own will**, but the will of my Father who sent me.” John 5:30 WEBUS

“**Woe to him who strives with his Maker**— a clay pot among the clay pots of the earth! **Shall the clay ask him who fashions it**, ‘What are you making?’ or your work, ‘He has no hands?’” Isaiah 45:9 WEBUS

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?”** But Jesus, answering, said to him, “**Allow it now, for this is the fitting way** for

us to fulfill all righteousness." **Then he allowed him.**" Matthew 3:13-15 WEBUS

"Then he came to Simon Peter. **He said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"** Jesus answered him, "You don't know what I am doing now, but you will understand later." **Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon **Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"**" John 13:6-9 WEBUS

"Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, wouldn't **leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he found it?**" Luke 15:4

WEBUS

"you are to **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus."

1 Corinthians 5:5 WEBUS

## **INTRODUCTION:**

*Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your need to control everything and practice releasing things into God's hands.*

*Pray this without ceasing: “God, I stand before You today to confess that, at times, I do things my way, in my own strength, and with myself in mind. I acknowledge that my way is not always the right way. I should never manipulate others, nor do I always need to intervene to influence the course of events or to manage outcomes. I should not be so quick to assert my authority or be willing to do whatever it takes to get the result I’ve decided is appropriate. Today, I let go and trust God! I will work on not being immediately disappointed if what I hope for someone else, or am thoroughly convinced is proper for them, is not what they choose for themselves. I let go of the frustration that comes when someone I care for refuses to exercise the discipline it takes to make the correct decision. I will resist being discouraged or sad when someone demonstrates an unwillingness to do the work necessary to go in what I see is the right direction for their life. I also acknowledge that I may not even be in alignment with what You want for them God, and for that I apologize!”*

*Whoever won’t surrender their need to control and instead practice release simply won’t become like Him.*

**SURRENDER THAT MY WAY IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT WAY!**

## **1. Surrender My Ways: Surrender Control & Practice Release**

### **A. Surrender Control**

(1) **Introduction:** Surrender that my way is always the right way!

(a) **Surrender Control:** You need not manipulate others. You don't always need to intervene to influence the course of events or to manage outcomes. You should not be so quick to assert your authority or be willing to do whatever it takes to get the result you've decided is appropriate.

1. **"I can of myself do nothing.** As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I **don't seek my own will**, but the will of my Father who sent me."

John 5:30 WEBUS

a) **Consider this premise:** Our Savior, He whom through all things were created, and for whom all things exist, exclaims this..

1) I don't do anything on My own!

2) I don't do anything outside the will of My Father!

b) **Consider this premise:** Do you...

1) ...do things on your own?

2) ...do things outside of the Father's will?

(b) Even the Holy Spirit does nothing without previous instructions from the Father.

1. "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. However, when he, **the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak.** He will declare to you things that are coming. He will glorify me, for **he will take from what is mine and will declare it to you. All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine and will declare it to you.**"

John 16:12-15 WEBUS

- a) **Consider this premise:** The Holy Spirit, through whom we are guided into all truth, speaks only...
  - 1) ...what comes from Y'shua (who only speaks what comes from the Father).
  - 2) ...takes the words of Y'shua and declares it to us (because all things of the Father are Y'shua's)!
- b) **Consider this premise:** Do you...
  - 1) ...speak your own truth to yourself and others?
  - 2) ...declare what is yours to give to others?

## **(2) A Bad Idea: Offering to purchase Holy Spirit Power**

- (a) **Control:** I see it; I want it (for all the wrong reasons)
  1. "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God,

they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit;** for as yet he had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of Christ Jesus. **Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.** {18-19}

**Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power, that whomever I lay my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit."** But Peter said to him, **"May your silver perish with you,** because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!" Acts 8:14-20 WEBUS

- a) Simon, who only recently converted from being a pagan sorcerer, offered to pay for a download of Holy Spirit power.
  - 1) He apparently wanted to profit from that power.
- b) Asking for what God is freely giving to use it for all the wrong reasons only ends in disaster.
  - 1) *"You ask, and don't receive, **because you ask with wrong motives,** so that you may spend it on your pleasures."* James 4:3 WEBUS

### (3) Balak and Balaam: the Pay-for-Play King and the Prophet-for-Hire

(a) **Control:** King Balak offers to pay to elicit a damaging prophetic word against Israel.

1. “Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. **Moab was very afraid** of the people, because they were many. Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. Moab said to the elders of Midian, “**Now this multitude will lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.**” Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time. He **sent messengers to Balaam** the son of Beor, to Pethor, which is by the River, to the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, “Behold, there is a people who came out of Egypt. Behold, they cover the surface of the earth, and they are staying opposite me. {6} **Please come now therefore, and curse this people for me; for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall prevail, that we may strike them, and that I may drive them out of the land;** for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.””

Numbers 22:2-6 WEBUS

- a) See Numbers 22-24
  - 1) In this entire narrative you can track King Balak's multiple attempts to control his destiny and that of his people.
  - 2) This debacle ultimately ends in abject failure for him and the prophet Balaam.

**(4) Correcting the Lord: Peter believes his way is better than God's way.**

- (a) **Control:** Peter rebukes Christ for His teaching that He was going to suffer and be killed.
  - 1. "He said to them, "But **who do you say that I am?**" **Peter answered, "You are the Christ."** He commanded them that they should tell no one about him. He began to teach them that **the Son of Man must suffer** many things, and **be rejected** by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and **be killed**, and after three days rise again. He spoke to them openly. {33} **Peter took him and began to rebuke him.** But he, turning around and seeing his disciples, **rebuked Peter**, and said, "**Get behind me, Satan! For you have in mind not the things of God, but the things of men.**"" Mark 8:29-33 WEBUS

- a) Peter obviously believes that Y'shua is the Messiah...
  - 1) Yet, he does not like the plan that is in place.
  - 2) He rejects Y'shua's teaching and rebukes the Lord for saying such a thing.
- b) Y'shua returns the favor in the sternest of ways...
  - 1) He tells Peter that his desire to control the truth is from Satan.
  - 2) He tells Peter that thinking he has control of the situation is not from God, but are the thoughts of men.

**(5) Challenging the Lord: Peter believes that the Lord's assurance is not sufficient.**

- (a) **Control:** Peter demands that the Lord tell him to exit the boat in the midst of a storm.
  - 1. **"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side,** while he sent the multitudes away. After he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into the mountain by himself to pray. When evening had come, he was there alone. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came

to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It's a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. But immediately **Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Cheer up! It is I! Don't be afraid."** {28} **Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters."** He said, **"Come!"** Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when **he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"** Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, **"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"**

Matthew 14:22-31 WEBUS

a) Not long before this incident, the disciples were caught in the same type of boat in the same type of storm. And when they panicked they were taught an indispensable lesson. *"Don't be afraid! If you want calm, simply rebuke the wind and the sea!"*

1) ***"When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Behold, a violent storm came up on the sea, so much that the boat was covered with the waves; but he was asleep. The disciples***

*came to him and woke him up, saying, “**Save us, Lord! We are dying!**” He said to them, “**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**” Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm. The men marveled, saying, “What kind of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”” Matthew 8:23-27*

WEBUS

- b) Here we are again, in the same situation, except for one difference. This time they are alone for the test and it's all a set-up!
  - 1) Peter takes control of the situation. It's a decision that is always taught as an act of extreme faith.
  - 2) He demands that the Lord tell him to leave the boat.
  - 3) Had he no previous experience in this type of circumstance, that might have been considered an admirable demonstration of faith.
  - 4) However, because he was already taught what to do in these types of circumstances, and yet he still chose to control the situation and do it

his own way, instead of how he was previously shown, it did not turn out as it could have.

- 5) He could have. *“Not been afraid! And simply rebuked the wind and the sea,”* and it would have been calm! That is the admirable demonstration of faith Y’shua wanted to see.
- 6) The whole thing was a set-up; that is why Y’shua made the disciples get into the boat without Him and go on ahead.
- 7) Peter’s desire to get out of the boat was not an act of faith; it was just another example of how impetuous Peter does things his own way.

**(6) Jewish Leadership Knows Better: Stop promoting Y’shua’s name as if He is special!**

- (a) **Control:** The miracles performed in the name of Y’shua are undeniable, and if we don’t control the narrative, everyone will know.
  1. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled. They recognized that they had been with Jesus. Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, **they could say nothing against it.** But when they had commanded them to

go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, **“What shall we do to these men? Because indeed a notable miracle has been done through them, as can be plainly seen by all** who dwell in Jerusalem, and we can’t deny it. {17-18} **But so that this spreads no further among the people, let’s threaten them, that from now on they don’t speak to anyone in this name.”** They called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves, for **we can’t help telling the things which we saw and heard.**” When they had **further threatened them,** they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for everyone glorified God for that which was done.” Acts 4:13-21 WEBUS

- a) This time Peter is the recipient of someone doing it their own way, instead of being the perpetrator.
  - 1) A man had been healed in the name of Jesus and there is a stir in the city.

- 2) The leaders realize that the miracle is undeniable and they want to control the narrative.
- 3) Peter and John are dragged before, yet another Jewish kangaroo court, and ordered to stop spreading the name of Jesus.
- 4) This time Peter (and John) get it right and they refuse to obey. God's way is the only way this time!

**(7) John Knows Best: He's not worthy.**

(a) **Control:** I should not baptize Y'shua; He should baptize me!

1. **“I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.” Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. {14} **But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?”**” Matthew 3:11-14 WEBUS

- a) John has a prophetic mandate over his life to pave the way for the Messiah (see Luke 1:11-17, 76-80; 3:2-6).
  - 1) However, he's not worthy of such an honor and he'd rather hinder the advancement of this calling by doing things his own way.
  - 2) He does not immediately agree to baptize Y'shua.

**(8) Back to Peter One More Time: He's knows better than to let Y'shua wash his feet.**

- (a) **Control:** Peter tells Y'shua, "You will never wash my feet!"
  - 1. "Then he poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. {6} **Then he came to Simon Peter. He said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"** Jesus answered him, "You don't know what I am doing now, but you will understand later." {8} **Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me.'" John 13:5-8 WEBUS
- a) On the night Y'shua was betrayed, He shared His final meal with His disciples (See John 13-17).

- 1) At the onset of that meal, Y'shua began by teaching a critical message about leadership and He demonstrated it with an object lesson.
- 2) He went around that table and washed the filthy feet of His disciples.
- 3) But Peter knew better, yet again, and He instructs the Lord that he will never allow Y'shua to wash his feet.
- 4) One more time Peter learns that when he tries to control the situation, he turns out to be wrong every time.

## **B. Practice Release**

(1) **Introduction:** Let go and trust God!

- (a) **Practice Release:** Don't be immediately *disappointed* if what you hope for someone else, or are thoroughly convinced is proper for them, is not what they choose for themselves. Let go of the *frustration* that comes when someone you care for refuses to exercise the discipline it takes to make the correct decision. Resist being *discouraged* or *sad* when someone demonstrates an unwillingness to do the work necessary to go in what you see is the right direction for their life. Also acknowledge that you may not even be in alignment

with what God wants for them, and for that you should apologize!

1. **“Woe to him who strives with his Maker—** a clay pot among the clay pots of the earth! **Shall the clay ask him who fashions it,** ‘What are you making?’ or your work, ‘He has no hands?’” Isaiah 45:9 WEBUS

a) First, a few definitions...

1) **Disappointed:** displeased because someone or something has failed to fill one’s hopes or expectations.

2) **Frustrated:** feeling or expressing distress and annoyance, especially because of an inability to change or achieve something.

3) **Discouraged:** having lost confidence, hope, or enthusiasm and therefore becoming disheartened.

4) **Sad:** feeling or showing sorrow or being unhappy; causing or characterized by regret.

b) As the **created** and not the **Creator**, why would you assume you always know what is best, know everything, or know anything at all?

c) Elsewhere, Isaiah clarifies this idea with stunning conviction, *“Should the potter be thought to be*

like clay, that **the thing made should say about him who made it**, “He didn’t make me;” or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

- 1) “The Lord said, “Because this people draws near with their mouth and honors me with their lips, but they have removed their heart far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment of men which has been taught; therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even **a marvelous work and a wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the understanding of their prudent men will be hidden.**” Woe to those who deeply hide **their counsel from Yahweh**, [who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord NIV] and whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us?” and “Who knows us?” **You turn things upside down! Should the potter be thought to be like clay, that the thing made should say about him who made it, “He didn’t make me;” or the thing formed say of him who**

*formed it, “He has no understanding”?*” Isaiah  
29:13-16 WEBUS

- d) When *the thing made believes he knows better than Him who made it*, it’s like an arrogant, obstinate, rebellious child talking back to his parents.
- e) Paul borrowed Isaiah’s words to teach that very lesson to anyone who considers questioning God’s ways, as if they know better!

1) *“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?””* Romans 9:20 WEBUS

(b) **Release:** Releasing things to God means you must trust Him to be all He says He is.

1. “Therefore watch, **remembering that for a period of three years I didn’t cease to admonish everyone night and day** with tears. **Now, brothers, I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace**, which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” Acts 20:31-32  
WEBUS

- a) Toward the end of his third missionary journey that lasted over three years, when Paul knew he would never again see those whom he disciplined, he demonstrates his willingness to release them...
  - 1) I entrust you into the hands of God.
  - 2) His grace is sufficient to build you up!
- b) Fully trusting in God means you must also release yourself into His hands, as did Job, Jesus, and James...
  - 1) Job said, ***“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.”*** Job 13:15 NKJV
  - 2) ***“Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”*** Having said this, he breathed his last.” Luke 23:46  
WEBUS
  - 3) ***“They stoned Stephen as he called out, saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”*** He kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, ***“Lord, don’t hold this sin against them!”*** When he had said this, he fell asleep.” Acts 7:59-60 WEBUS

**(2) Abraham’s servant was sent on a mission to find Isaac a wife (Rebekah): He placed all his trust in God.**

- (a) **Release:** Yahweh, please give me success today...
1. “Abraham said to his servant, the elder of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please put your hand under my thigh. **I will make you swear by Yahweh,** the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live. But **you shall go to my country, and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.**” {5} **The servant said to him, “What if the woman isn’t willing to follow me to this land? Must I bring your son again to the land you came from?”** Abraham said to him, “Beware that you don’t bring my son there again. Yahweh, the God of heaven—who took me from my father’s house, and from the land of my birth, who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, ‘I will give this land to your offspring—he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. **If the woman isn’t willing to follow you, then you shall be clear from this oath to me.** Only you shall not bring my son there again.” **The servant** put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and **swore to him concerning this matter.** The servant took ten of his

master's camels, and departed, having a variety of good things of his master's with him. He arose, and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time that women go out to draw water. {12-14} **He said, "Yahweh, the God of my master Abraham, please give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, I am standing by the spring of water. The daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Let it happen, that the young lady to whom I will say, 'Please let down your pitcher, that I may drink,' then she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink,'—let her be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.'"**

Genesis 24:2-14 WEBUS

- a) Abraham's servant has his instructions, and he is certain he cannot control the outcome, so he releases it entirely into God's hands.
  - 1) Yahweh, please give me success today; grant my master Abraham what he has requested.
  - 2) I release the outcome to You entirely Yahweh.

- b) I will know the woman You have chosen for Isaac when I see this happen...
- 1) When she comes to the well to water her animals, I will ask her to give me a drink and she will offer to water my camels too.
  - 2) That is how I will know she is the one you have appointed for Isaac and that you have granted my master's desires.
  - 3) And if she chooses not to follow me, I will not force the issue. I know I've done my part and I am released from my obligation and I will simply let it go.
  - 4) In other words, I will not do it my own way, but instead will trust God entirely for the outcome!

**(3) Abraham is asked to sacrifice Isaac: He is willing to trust God at all cost!**

- (a) **Release:** God will provide Himself the lamb.
1. "After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" He said, "**Here I am.**" He said, "**Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love,** and go into the land of Moriah. **Offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains which I will tell you of." **Abraham rose early in the**

**morning**, and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and **went to the place of which God had told him.** On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. **The boy and I will go over there. We will worship, and come back to you.**” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. They both went together. **Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said,** “My father?” He said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**” {8} **Abraham said, “God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”** So they both went together.” Genesis 22:1-8 WEBUS

- a) Abraham was willing to release everything to God: his hopes, his dreams, his future, his doubts, his fears, and his understanding.
- 1) He was called by God and Abraham’s response was... *“Here I am.”*

- 2) He was told to sacrifice his son and Abraham's response was... *"He rose early in the morning and followed God's instructions."*
  - 3) He spotted the place to sacrifice his son and Abraham's response was... *"The boy and I will go over there. We will worship, and come back to you."*
  - 4) His son inquired about the whereabouts of the lamb for sacrifice and Abraham's response was... *"God will provide himself the lamb."*
- b) It's hard to imagine a level of trust like this, a total willingness to release everything to God. But, this is what it means to surrender control.

**(4) Jacob worked for seven years for the privilege of marrying Rachel: And when an additional seven years were required, he didn't bat an eye!**

- (a) **Release:** Serve me seven more years, and Jacob did so!
1. "Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and attractive. Jacob loved Rachel. He said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to

you, than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." Jacob served seven years for Rachel. They seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had for her. Jacob said to Laban, **"Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."** Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. **In the evening, he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to Jacob.** He went in to her. Laban gave Zilpah his servant to his daughter Leah for a servant. **In the morning, behold, it was Leah! He said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Didn't I serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"** Laban said, "It is not done so in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn. **Fulfill the week of this one, and we will give you the other also** for the service which you will **serve with me for seven more years.**" {28} **Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week. He gave him Rachel his daughter as wife."**

Genesis 29:16-28 WEBUS

- a) In yet another seemingly absurd narrative in which a faithful man does exactly what is asked of him and still he becomes a victim of deception.

- 1) Laban, the father of Leah and Rachel knew perfectly well what he was doing.
- 2) He convinced Jacob to work for him for seven years for the privilege of his daughter Rachel's hand in marriage.
- 3) After Jacob faithfully served he was deceptively given Leah instead (how Jacob didn't know is still a mystery).
- 4) And even so, when he was required to serve an additional seven years to acquire what he already earned, he acquiesced with not so much as a peep of irritation or hesitancy—total release and trust in God.

**(5) Remember John refused to baptize Y'shua: Whom should baptize who?**

- (a) **Control:** It is You who should be baptizing me...
  1. **“But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?””**  
Matthew 3:14 WEBUS
- (b) **Release:** John was meant to baptize Y'shua as a significant part of God's plan!
  1. **“But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it now, for this is the fitting way for us to fulfill all**

righteousness." **Then he allowed him.**" Matthew 3:15

WEBUS

a) It was God's will and John released the need for his own way to prevail, and this was the outcome!

1) *"Jesus, **when he was baptized**, went up directly from the water: and behold, **the heavens were opened** to him. He saw **the Spirit of God descending as a dove**, and coming on him. Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, **"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."**"* Matthew 3:16-17 WEBUS

**(6) Remember Peter refused to let Y'shua wash his feet:**

**"Lord, do you wash my feet?"**

(a) **Control:** Lord, I will NEVER allow You to wash my feet!

1. **"Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, **"If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."**" John 13:8 WEBUS

(b) **Release:** Lord, not my feet only...

1. **"Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"** Jesus said to him, **"Someone who has bathed only needs to have his feet washed, but is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you."**" John 13:9-10 WEBUS

- a) Peter immediately comes to realize that God's ways are better than his ways!
  - 1) Lord, wash my entire body!
- b) Two key symbolic lessons in this foot washing.
  - 1) In that time and place in history, people mostly traveled by foot on dusty dirt roads wearing sandals. As you might imagine, in the hot climate of Israel, at the end of the day, it was essential to wash the layers of dirt off your feet.
  - 2) Symbolically here, Y'shua used this foot washing as an example of how we should serve one another, as well as clean feet representing a clean heart and clean conscience (to be pure and without sin). We know this because in context, during the foot washing, Y'shua pointed to Judas as the one who is unclean. *"You are clean, but not all of you."*
- c) Further reference for you reading pleasure.
  - 1) *"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have given you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you.** Most certainly I tell you, **a servant is not greater***

*than his Lord, neither is one who is sent greater than he who sent him. **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I don't speak concerning all of you.** I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.' From now on, I tell you before it happens, that when it happens, you may believe that I am he. Most certainly I tell you, **he who receives whomever I send, receives me; and he who receives me, receives him who sent me.**" When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, "**Most certainly I tell you that one of you will betray me.**"*" John 13:14-21

WEBUS

**(7) Let them go: sometimes it's just not worth the effort!**

(a) **Release:** Wipe the dust off you feet!

1. "As you enter into the household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come on it, but **if it isn't worthy**, let your peace return to you. **Whoever doesn't receive you or hear your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.**" Matthew 10:12-14 WEBUS

- a) You can try and try and try to bring others with you to the side of truth and liberty...
  - 1) But at times, it's simply right to let them go, as sad and heartbreaking as that seems!
- b) There is no doubt, Y'shua had this teaching from earlier in His ministry about worthiness in mind...
 

*"Whoever doesn't receive you or hear your words... shake the dust off your feet,"* when He taught this toward the end of His ministry during the washing His disciples feet at the last supper.

  - 1) *"Most certainly I tell you, **he who receives whomever I send, receives me;** and he who receives me, receives him who sent me."* John 13:20 WEBUS
  - 2) You can recognize the critical connection when you understand the symbolism of "clean feet." Y'shua insisted He wash Peter's feet because, *"If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me."*
  - 3) You too must keep your feet clean, *"shake the dust off your feet,"* if you are to be effective in ministry. *"Someone who has bathed **only needs to have his feet washed,** but is completely clean."*

## C. Asserting Godly Authority

(1) **Introduction:** Exercising godly authority, influence, or control instead of letting it go!

(a) **Asserting Authority and Influence:** At the proper time and in the proper manner, you are called to exercise your God-given authority and influence. Instead of letting go and releasing it, at times it is God's will for you to intervene.

1. Your role, as a mature disciple, is to make the important distinction between when to surrender control and practice release (when to disengage), and when to stay engaged.
2. In other words, as long as love demands you say or do something, you should stay engaged.
3. But, the moment it becomes apparent that it would be more loving to release someone into their sin, as painful as it is to watch, you must step back and let the consequences for sin take their course, in hopes that, in the end, they will turn from their sinful ways.

(b) When love means you can't stand by and watch your brother sin without intervening...

1. **"You shall not hate your brother** in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin**

**because of him.** ‘You shall **not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people; but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself.** I am Yahweh.’” Leviticus 19:17-18 WEBUS

- a) **Be engaged:** You shall surely rebuke your brother...
- 1) Don't ignore or cover for your brother's sin.
  - 2) That would be the equivalent of hating him.
  - 3) Loving him means you will intervene.
  - 4) How far should you go? Y'shua gave us this example...
- b) **Staying engaged:** Leave the masses who don't need your attention (when you are preaching to the choir). If necessary, focus your attention on helping a single sinner turn from his ways.
- 1) *“He told them this parable: **“Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, wouldn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost, until he found it? When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing. When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me,***

***for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that even so there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.”*** Luke 15:3-7 WEBUS

(c) However, at times, love demands that you withdraw your attention from the sinner...

1. **“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love** and into the perseverance of Christ. Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw yourselves from every brother who walks in rebellion** and not after the tradition which they received from us.” 2 Thessalonians 3:5-6 WEBUS

a) **Disengage:** The key here is that the Lord must direct your heart with His love...

1) The moment the Lord tells you to walk away, that is the time to turn him over to his sin.

b) You must turn him over to the Devil in hopes that he will eventually repent!

1) ***“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the***

***Gentiles**, that one has his father's wife. You are arrogant, and didn't mourn instead, that he who had done this deed might be removed from among you. For I most certainly, as being absent in body but present in spirit, have already, as though I were present, judged him who has done this thing. **In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together with my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**" 1*

Corinthians 5:1-5 WEBUS

## **(2) The Role of Godly Authority**

- (a) Higher Authority according to Paul in the Book of Romans (See: [If You Ass-u-me](#)).
- 1. **"Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities**, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. Therefore **he who resists the authority withstands the ordinance of God**; and those who withstand will receive to themselves judgment. **For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. Do you**

**desire to have no fear of the authority? Do that which is good,** and you will have praise from the authority, **for he is a servant of God to you for good.** But **if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he doesn't bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil.**

Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake."

Romans 13:1-5 WEBUS

- a) Who are the Godly authorities to whom you should obey?
  - 1) "He is God's minister to execute His goodness and His judgment." This discriminates and differentiates to whom you ought to subject yourself; it is certainly not just to anyone simply because he holds a position of authority.
  - 2) God is not demanding we submit to all authority, without some qualifying factors.
- b) Let's take a look at a few key qualifiers.
  - 1) **He is God's minister:** He is a servant of God inspired by the Lord to carry out His plan for His people.

- 2) **He is God's arbiter of what is good:** He knows inherently or intrinsically what is right. Anything good originates from God and is empowered by God through faith; nothing and no one can be good otherwise.
  - 3) **He is God's avenger:** He is a special representative of God, an advocate, agent or champion of God and defender of His ways. He carries God's authority into the earth and exercises judgment on what and who is evil.
  - 4) **He attends continually to God's business:** He devotes himself entirely, continuously, and steadfastly to his direct assignment from God.
- c) It should be obvious that Paul is teaching that true authorities are appointed by Yahweh for the good of His people and to champion His cause.
- 1) When they act in that position, as ministers for good, their authority and therefore their rulings are to be considered as if they are from Yahweh.
  - 2) If you don't submit to them, you will bring judgement on yourself as if you are rejecting God. If necessary, Yahweh uses these anointed officials to discipline His people.

3) The choice is simple; do what is good and you will have favor with God and among His leaders; do what is evil, and you should instead be very afraid of them.

(b) How can you spot a true shepherd (authority)?

1. “Therefore **I exhort the elders among you**, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who will also share in the glory that will be revealed: **shepherd the flock of God** which is among you, **exercising the oversight**, not under compulsion, but voluntarily; not for dishonest gain, but **willingly; not as Lording** it over those entrusted to you, **but making yourselves examples to the flock**. When the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that doesn’t fade away.” 1 Peter 5:1-4 WEBUS

a) **Spiritual Elder:** a person of faith with a consistent reliable testimony over an extended period of time.

- 1) Leads willingly in service to God.
- 2) Leads only for the benefit of others.
- 3) Leads by serving, not demanding to be served.
- 4) Leads by example.

### **(3) The joy of intervention that turns sinners...**

(a) First pray...

1. "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, **he shall ask, and God will give him life for those who sin not leading to death.** There is sin leading to death. I don't say that he should make a request concerning this." 1 John 5:16 WEBUS
  - a) If one sees a brother sinning, pray for them!
- (b) Encourage prayer and confession...
  1. "**Confess your sins** to one another and pray for one another, **that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective.**" James 5:16 WEBUS
    - a) The fervent prayers of those identified as "godly authorities" and "good shepherds" are very powerful.
- (c) The joy of one sinner repenting...
  1. ""Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins, if she lost one drachma coin, wouldn't light a lamp, sweep the house, and seek diligently until she found it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, '**Rejoice with me**, for I have found the drachma which I had lost!' Even so, **I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of**

**God over one sinner repenting.”” Luke 15:8-10**

WEBUS

- a) Continued from Luke; leave the 99...
  - 1) There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner repenting!

(d) Preventing “Soul Death”

- 1. **“Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20** WEBUS

- a) It is very satisfying to be instrumental in helping a brother turn back to God.
  - 1) To turn back to God is what it means to repent.
  - 2) If a person is truly born again and still trapped in sin, it’s not their eternity that is in question. It’s their soul that is being damaged.
  - 3) The soul is a persons heart, mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspirations, priorities, and desires.
  - 4) Soul death is when those key elements of a person’s personality are being overwrought by fleshly desires.

5) They are still redeemed for eternity, but their life here on earth is being destroyed.

**(4) At times a harsher option is what's needed...**

(a) What if a BELIEVER remains in chronic sin?

1. "I wrote to you in my letter to **have no company with sexual sinners; yet not at all meaning with the sexual sinners of this world**, or with the covetous and extortionists, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. But as it is, I wrote to you **not to associate with anyone who is called a brother who is a sexual sinner**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or an extortionist. **Don't even eat with such a person.** For what do I have to do with also judging those who are outside? **Don't you judge those who are within?** But those who are outside, God judges. "Put away the wicked man from among yourselves." 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 WEBUS

a) When it's time to separate from a fellow Christian!

- 1) Have no company with them.
- 2) No longer associate with them.
- 3) Don't even share a meal with them.
- 4) Remember: this approach is for those who are part of the Church, not for unbelievers.

**(5) In the most serious of cases...**

(a) Turn them over to the Devil! At times the sin is so egregious that one of two things is possible.

1. **“I commit this instruction to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which were given to you before, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience, **which some having thrust away made a shipwreck concerning the faith**, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I delivered to Satan that they might be taught not to blaspheme.**”** 1 Timothy 1:18-20 WEBUS

a) They were never really Christians. We know it is possible to pretend to be a Christian...

1) *“They went out from us, but they didn’t belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. **But they left, that they might be revealed that none of them belong to us.**”* 1 John 2:19 WEBUS [Also see the Parable of the Wheat and Tares in Matthew 13:24-30.]

b) They are truly Christians, but no amount of intervention has caused any lasting change.

1) Turn them over to the Devil to teach them a very painful lesson.

## (6) In all cases, do whatever you do in...

(a) Love and the spirit of gentleness...

1. “that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but **speaking truth in love**, we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ,” Ephesians 4:14-15 WEBUS

a) Because love covers a multitude of sins...

- 1) *“And above all things be earnest in your love among yourselves, for **love covers a multitude of sins.**”* 1 Peter 4:8 WEBUS

b) Because you are called to bear one another’s burdens...

- 1) *“Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to yourself so that you also aren’t tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**”*

Galatians 6:1-2 WEBUS

## (7) The quintessential example of the correct authoritative approach to sin.

(a) A woman accused...

1. “Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down and taught them. **The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery.** Having set her in the middle, they told him, **“Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act.** Now **in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.** What then do you say about her?” **They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of.** But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them, **“He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.”** Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground with his finger. They, **when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one,** beginning from the oldest, even to the last. Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, **“Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?”** She said, **“No one, Lord.”** Jesus said, **“Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more.”**” John 8:2-11 WEBUS

- a) The Accusation... *“Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, **in the very act.**”*
- 1) Did they really? Let’s see the evidence, because an accusation is not evidence.
  - 2) And we know the heart of her accusers is that they want to trap Y’shua by “forcing” Him to make an egregious error according to the law.
- b) **Condition #1:** *“He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.”*
- 1) Her accusers are convicted by their conscience and one-by-one they walk away.
  - 2) **Consider your own sin first BEFORE you focus on the sins of others!** *““Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged. For **with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged;** and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you. **Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but don’t consider the beam that is in your own eye?** Or how will you tell your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye,’ and behold, the beam is in your own eye? You hypocrite! **First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see***

***clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.***" Matthew 7:1-5 WEBUS

c) **Condition #2:** *"Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more."*

1) They were hoping to tempt Y'shua to break the law, so they could have something of which to accuse Him: *"In our law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What then do you say about her?"*

2) Godly judgment requires at least two witnesses (according to the law) and clearly there were none! *"One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin that he sins. **At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall a matter be established.**"* Deuteronomy 19:15 WEBUS

d) Y'shua further clarifies what godly authority, leadership, and good shepherding looks like!

1) *"Jesus answered them, "Even if I testify about myself, **my testimony is true**, for I know where I came from, and where I am going; but you*

*don't know where I came from, or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I judge no one. Even if I do judge, **my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. It's also written in your law that the testimony of two people is valid. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me.**”* John 8:14-18

WEBUS

### **(8) Now it's your turn...**

- (a) When you finally get it, you can step into your role!
  - 1. “When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. **The disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord.** Jesus therefore said to them again, “Peace be to you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.**” When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained.**”” John 20:20-23 WEBUS
- a) See the Lord and what He has called you to when it comes to how to view and handle sin in others.
  - 1) As the Father has sent Him, He has sent you.

- 2) By the power of the Holy Spirit... *“If you forgive anyone’s sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.”*

**Prayer:** I SURRENDER CONTROL (*Father, I stand before You and confess that, at times, I do things my way, in my own strength, and with myself in mind. I acknowledge that my way is not always the right way. I should never manipulate others, nor do I always need to intervene to influence the course of events or to manage outcomes. I should not be so quick to assert my authority or be willing to do whatever it takes to get the result I’ve decided is appropriate.*) I WILL PRACTICE RELEASE (*Today, I let go and trust God! I will work on not being immediately disappointed if what I hope for someone else, or am thoroughly convinced is proper for them, is not what they choose for themselves. I let go of the frustration that comes when someone I care for refuses to exercise the discipline it takes to make the correct decision. I will resist being discouraged or sad when someone demonstrates an unwillingness to do the work necessary to go in what I see is the right direction for their life. I also acknowledge that I may not even be in alignment with what You want for them God, and for that I apologize!*)

## ASSIGNMENT #11

### 1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. “For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. “But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known.” Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. “For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**” Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. “For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS
- E. “For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen

*to those who don't obey the Good News of God?" 1 Peter 4:17* WEBUS

2. **Surrender Control:** *"I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I **don't seek my own will**, but the will of my Father who sent me."* John 5:30

WEBUS

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you confess that, at times, you do things your way, in your own strength, and with yourself in mind?
- 2) Do you acknowledge that your way is not always the right way?
- 3) Do you manipulate others at times, or often feel the need to intervene to influence the course of events or to manage outcomes?
- 4) Are you too quick to assert your authority, or are you willing to do whatever it takes to get the result you've decided is appropriate?
- 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to surrender your need to control things?

3. **Practice Release:** *"Woe to him who strives with his Maker— a clay pot among the clay pots of the earth! **Shall the clay ask him***

***who fashions it***, 'What are you making?' or your work, 'He has no hands'?" Isaiah 45:9 WEBUS

- A. Are you ready to surrender your need for control things and practice releasing them and to trust God?
- 1) Will you work on not being immediately disappointed if what you hope for someone else, or are thoroughly convinced is proper for them, is not what they choose for themselves?
  - 2) Will you let go of the frustration that comes when someone you care for refuses to exercise the discipline it takes to make the correct decision?
  - 3) Will you resist being discouraged or sad when someone demonstrates an unwillingness to do the work necessary to go in what you see is the right direction for their life?
  - 4) Will you acknowledge that you may not even be in alignment with what God wants for them?
  - 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it. Who will hold you accountable to practice releasing things to God?