

Biblical Submission: A Heart of Humility

Submission

■ noun 1 the action or fact of submitting.

Wrestling an act of surrendering to a hold by one's opponent.

2 a proposal or application submitted for consideration.

Law a proposition or argument presented by counsel to a judge or jury. 3 archaic humility; meekness.

A. Biblical Submission Jesus, who was given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18), is our example. His life demonstrates submission to the Father, to His earthly parents and to the governing authorities. Jesus' life reflects a heart of humility.



Christ's Example of Submission

Philippians 2:6-8 NLT

6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.





THE PRIDEFUL HEART REBELS AGAINST AUTHORITY.

Characteristics of Pride

- Selfish
- Impatient
- Controlling
- Immature
- Manipulative
- Critical
- Quarrelsome
- Ill-tempered
- Independent

THE HUMBLER HEART IS BIBLICALLY SUBMISSIVE.

Characteristics of Humility

- Humble
- Unselfish
- Patient
- Self-controlled
- Mature
- Meek
- Compassionate
- Quiet in spirit
- Even-tempered
- Dependent on the Lord



Proverbs 29:23 NASB

23 A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

What causes difficulty in submission?

A. Surface Causes

Many of the problems that surround submission are a result of an unhealthy bondage to fear. The independent, rebellious spirit fails to recognize that freedom from fear comes through a submissive, obedient heart.





God's Authority Brings Freedom from Fear

Romans 13:3-4 NLT

3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

Experiences that have destroyed trust

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"My mother was so abused by Dad; I can't let that happen to me."

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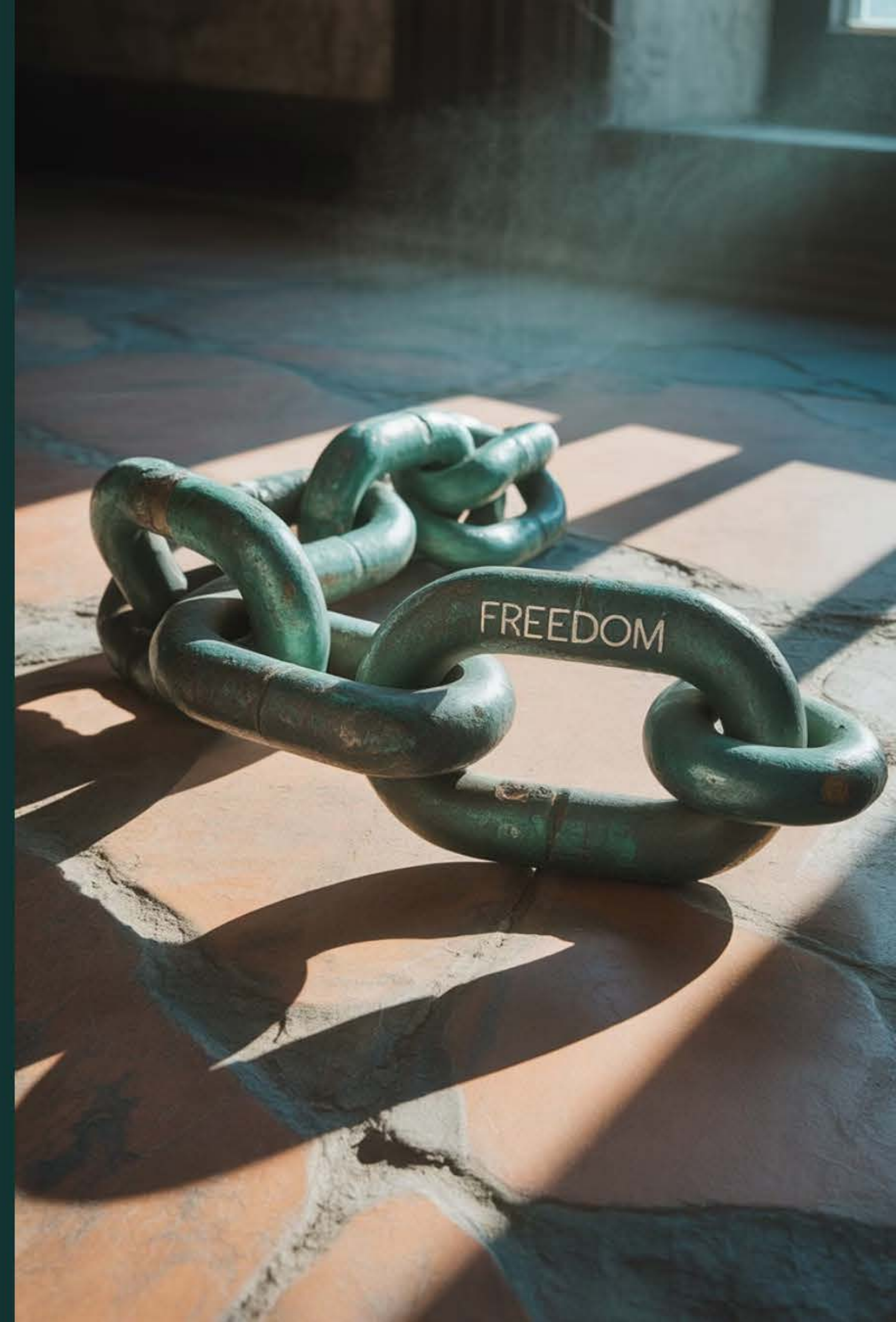
"He's broken so many promises, I'm afraid to put my trust in him."

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To have a submissive heart, claim—

Psalms 118:6-8 NASB

6 The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? 7 The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man.



Reluctance to release control

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"I don't want anyone telling me what to do."

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"He's not under God's authority, so why should I submit to his authority?"

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To have a submissive heart, claim—

Proverbs 12:15 NASB

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.





B. Root Cause

The root cause of resistance to leadership and authority lies in not understanding or failing to trust the sovereignty of God.

WRONG BELIEF:

"I'm afraid to lose or give away control of my life by trusting someone else to know what is best for me."

RIGHT BELIEF:

Ultimately, the Lord is in control of those He places in authority over my life to accomplish what is best for me. Since Christ was submissive to others and since Christ now lives in me, I too can be submissive through His strength.

Proverbs 21:1 NASB

1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Practical Steps to Biblical Submission

Learn to reflect the character of Christ.

Philippians 2:5 NLT

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Increase your knowledge of God's Word.

Psalms 119:105 NLT

105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

See suffering as an avenue of blessing.

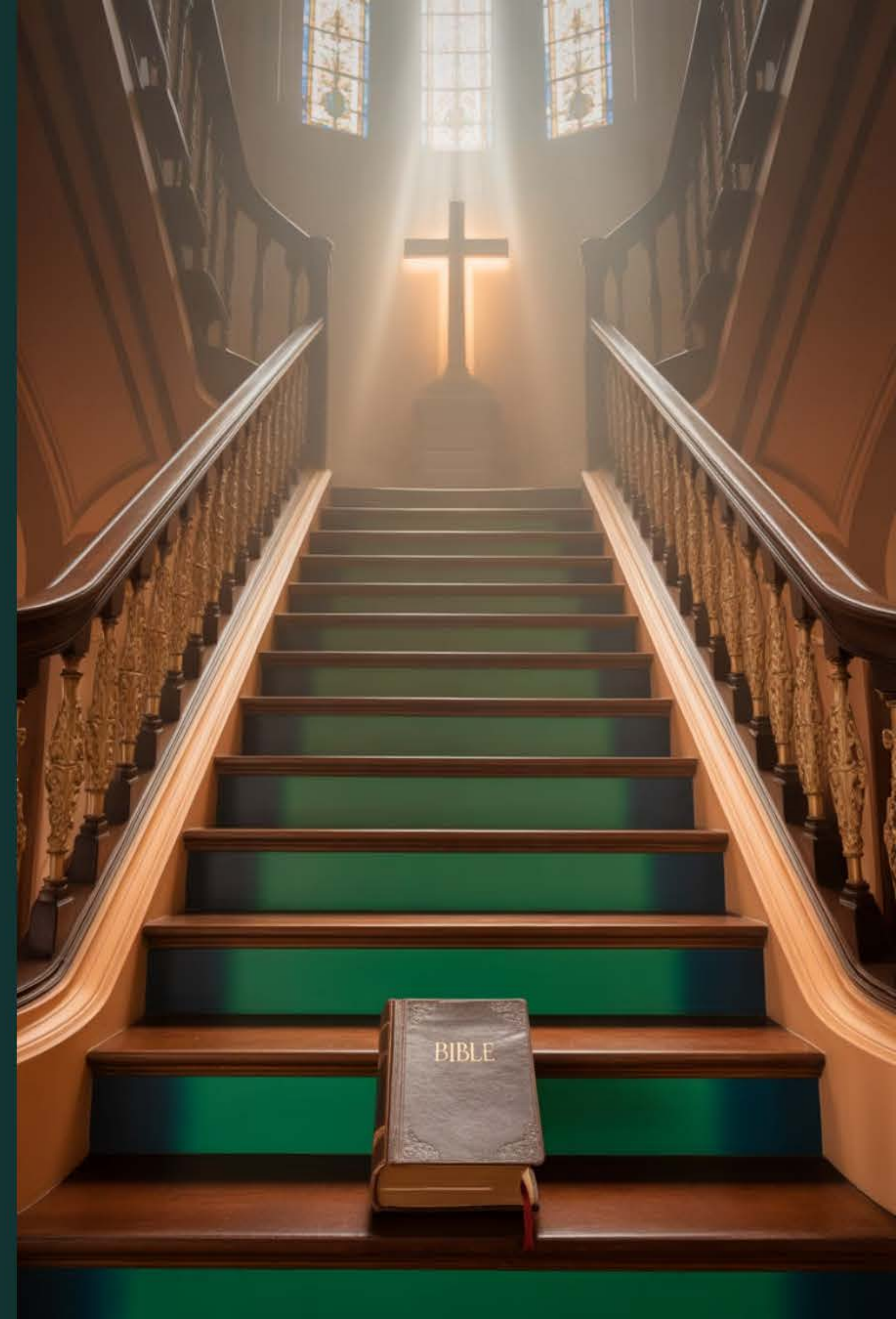
1 Peter 3:14 NLT

14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats

Live to glorify God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 NLT

31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.



Die to self-rule and let
Christ rule in your heart.

Galatians 2:20 NLT

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but
Christ lives in me."

