

## Spiritually Speaking... with James Washington Submission

Written by James Washington  
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Does anybody else have issues with reconciling faith and submission? I'm talking about sacrifice and acceptance of someone else's will, admittedly, superseding your own. The life we all live seems to teach us to be and act independently of one another just to survive. Men, particularly Black men, survive in this natural world sometimes because of their egos, stubbornness, attitude and unwillingness to submit to Man.

Almost from birth we are told not to take anything off anybody. Stand up for yourself or get trampled, maybe even destroyed. Only the strong survive. It's about respect. Lead at all costs. Never follow.

Now here comes the bible and it tells us in Hebrews 11: 1-3 that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. So we are told to submit our wills to God, follow the teachings and examples of the life of Christ. Be guided by the direction of the Holy Spirit. Fly blindly into the fray. Faith will be your lighthouse. This is not something most of us would get out of bed and hit the streets with. However, it appears faith, blind faith, guided just about all of the prophets including Moses. Faith brought down the walls of Jericho. By faith the Red sea was parted. Enoch was transformed. Abraham was delivered. But dare I say the reality of this faith is still foreign to most of us because to follow this path and believe in what you can't see or confirm by one's senses goes against everything natural and learned as the consequence of simply living life. Who said trust but verify? But if that's our plight in life, if that's how we live our lives, then the devil has won. Pack your bags. You're going to hell.

Intellectually and spiritually we know man does not live by bread alone. Love and its pursuit drive many of us to do great and impossible things. Can't touch it. Friendship can and does move us to sacrifice and what we hold dear. Can't see it. Respect can change the behavior of the most vile among us. Can't taste or smell it. We are guided by the unseen everyday in relation to people and things we honor and appreciate. The distinction or reality I'm speaking of

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must be brought to bear when faith in God is the issue, rather than faith in man. I can, maybe you can too, have faith in a person you trust implicitly. It manifests itself in loyalty. When you put God into that equation, it puts you face to face with what you actually say you believe in, or what you don't believe in. you know He knows and he knows the truth about your faith. The question is what do you do then?

This dilemma I believe is what every person who struggles with when he or she has a real encounter with the Lord. It generally takes a while, but once it happens, your decision making becomes easier. It becomes obvious that faith based decisions bring an understanding that eternal life is real and well, God can do all things. The promise of the mustard seed and the subsequent power of faith bring you rest and peace. I just think that it's a matter of fact that unless we confront our faith or are confronted by it, we can't overcome the obstacles of life we all face every day. Unless we do this we cannot pursue it. As long as we do not confront our faith, we will never find our road to salvation. Wasn't it Patti LaBelle who wrote "Don't Block My Blessings?" That would include you blocking your own. Until you let your guard down, you cannot submit to the will of God. This may seem contradictory but, submission to the lord means letting go of the belief that you are in control of what happens to you. Trust me. It really is not up to you or me. Jesus took care of it and in the process has taken care of you. Shout that fact when you get up tomorrow and then take on the day. "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11; 28-30.

May God bless and keep you always.