

Studies in 1st Timothy

Chapter 3

**The Division of Labor in
the Redeemed Community**

Acts 6: 1-6

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires.

ἐπισκοπης

(*episkopeis*)

רעה

(*ra'ah*)

1 Timothy 3:8

Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity...

διακονος

(*diakonos*)

שמש

(*shamash*)

But where are the “Elders”?

1 Timothy 5:17

The **elders** who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at proclaiming the Gospel and teaching.

πρεσβυτερος
(*presbuteros*)

זקן
(*zakein*)

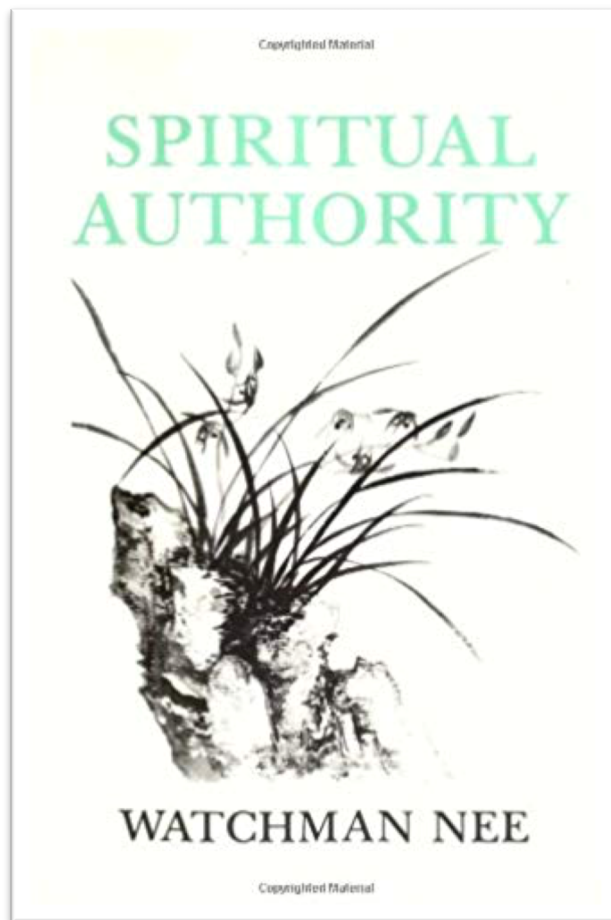
Titus 1:5

For this reason, I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** in every city as I directed you.

Acts 20

v.17 – From Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** of the assembly.

v.28 – “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the holy spirit has made you **overseers**, to shepherd the assembly of God which He purchased with His own blood.”



Notes on Spiritual Authority

(from “Spiritual Authority” by Watchman Nee)

- There are two principles in the universe: godly authority & satanic rebellion.
- We can stand with Messiah in doctrine while standing with Satan in principle.

- As man's obedience increases, his actions decrease.
- The disobedient become slaves to the obedient.
- Rebellion brings swift judgment from God.
- Many believers are sensitive to sin yet not to rebellion.
- Today, God manifests himself most in commandments – and our loving observance of them.
- It is impossible to reject delegated authority and still be subject to God.
- If God can dare to entrust His authority to men, then we can dare to obey.
- Those who seek to exercise authority should not be given authority.

Signs Accompanying Obedience

A person who understands authority ...

- ...will naturally try to find authority wherever he goes.
 - ... is soft and tender.
 - ... never likes to be in authority.
 - ... keeps his mouth shut.
 - ... is sensitive to each act of lawlessness and rebellion around him.
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Your Leader May be a Shlub, if...

- He does not welcome examination.
- He takes advantage of those he leads.
- He oppresses those under his authority.

- He coerces those under his authority.
 - His decisions can be bought.
 - He is unwilling to make restitution.
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Dealing with Unrighteous Authority

- **Flee or choose different authority**

- Joseph flees from Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39)
- David flees from Saul (1 Samuel 18-29)
- Joseph & Mary flee from Herod (Matt.2:13-15)
- VOTE!

- **Make an appeal to authority**

- Daniel & his three friends (Daniel 1)
- David and Saul (1 Samuel 24:5-16)

- **Disobey**

- Daniel's three friends (Daniel 3)

- Apostles vs. the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:19-20 / 5:27-29)