

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

Keep Watch

I have placed spiritual leaders to help keep watch over your soul. I have placed you as a spiritual leader to watch over the souls of others. You should not remain distant and aloof from others. I have made you to live in community with others so that you can watch over each other's soul. This is an important responsibility that I have given to you.

How can I faithfully fulfill the responsibility that you have given to me? **That is a very good question. You have two different responsibilities.** Two responsibilities? **Yes, you have two very different responsibilities. First, you have the responsibility to allow yourself to be watched over by your spiritual leaders.** What responsibility does allowing myself to be watched over by my spiritual leaders require. **What do you think?** I think I need to show up. I need to make myself available. I need to live in a close relationship with my spiritual leaders. I can't go my own way and do my own thing. I need to submit myself to the leadership of those you have placed over my life. I need to listen and put into practice what I hear from my spiritual leaders. I need to listen to their wisdom and receive their guidance. I need to make it a joy for my spiritual leaders to keep watch over my soul. **How will you do that?** I will obey them. I will submit to their leadership over my life. **That will be very good. Is there something you need to stop doing?** I thought you might ask that. I need to stop setting myself up a judge, evaluator and critic of the spiritual leaders you have placed over my life. They will have no joy when I do that. **That's true.**

You also will have the responsibility of spiritual leadership over those I have placed in your life. **What must you do with those who I have placed under your spiritual leadership?** I must provide spiritual leadership. I will watch over those you have placed under my care. I will involve myself in their lives. I will invest all my gifts, talents, abilities and resources to help those who under my care. I will pray for those under my care. I will provide wise counsel and give good direction. I give strong encouragement and solid support. I will do whatever is needed to help those you have placed under my care. **This is my plan, others will keep watch over you as you keep watch over others.** I will follow your plan I will watch over others as others watch over me. **That will be very good.**

Lord, thank you for placing spiritual leaders in my life to help watch over my soul. I will obey the wise counsel and good direction you give me through my spiritual leaders. Help me to make it a joyful experience for my spiritual leaders to watch over my soul. Amen

Be *A Joy*
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

NIV Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

NLT Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

NRSV Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Gladness*
Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [continually recognizing their authority over you], for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls *and* guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing *and* groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either].

AMP Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

NASB Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

ESV Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

NKJV Hebrews 13:7

Be *The Joy*
Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?

MSG Hebrews 13:7

Be *Report Joyfully*
Obey your spiritual leaders and be willing to do what they say. For their work is to watch over your souls, and God will judge them on how well they do this. Give them reason to report joyfully about you to the Lord and not with sorrow, for then you will suffer for it too.

TLB Hebrews 13:7

Be *With Joy*
Obey your leaders and act under their authority. They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls. Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard.

NCV Hebrews 13:7

A Joy

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Be – Hebrews 13:7

In Context: *Read Hebrews 13*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Obey | your leaders | and | submit to | their authority. | They | keep watch | over you | as men | who must | give | an account. | Obey them | so that | their work | will be | a joy, | not | a burden, | for that | would be | of | no advantage | to you. Hebrews 13:17

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for placing spiritual leaders in my life to help watch over my soul. I will obey the wise counsel and good direction you give me through my spiritual leaders. Help me to make it a joyful experience for my spiritual leaders to watch over my soul. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you made it a difficult and painful experience for spiritual leaders to keep watch over your soul?

When have you been unwilling to listen to wise counsel and good direction from your spiritual leaders?

When have you set yourself up as an evaluator and judge of those who have spiritual leadership over you?

When have you been so removed from your spiritual leaders that they had no leadership over your life?

How are you remaining in a close relationship with spiritual leaders so they can watch over your soul?

Who will the Lord use as a spiritual leader in your life if you remain distant and aloof from everyone?

How are you making it a continual joy for your spiritual leaders to watch over your soul?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Obey your spiritual leaders so that it will be a joy for them to keep watch over your soul.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord has given you spiritual leaders to keep watch over your soul.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are obeying your spiritual leaders.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you obey your spiritual leaders and make it a joy for them to watch over your soul.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will obey my spiritual leaders and make it a joy for them to watch over my soul.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I obey my spiritual leaders and make it a joy for them to watch over my soul today?
