

What is Authority – Lesson 1

The first word that comes to me when I think of authority is the word “Submission.”

Hebrews 13:17, “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.”

Question: Which role would you prefer to be in; the one in authority or in submission?

- In our culture there is a great sensitivity to submitting wholeheartedly to authority
 - o Due to abuse and lack of trust of those in authority over us in the past/present
 - o Be it government officials, employers, school principals or even our parents

Our culture over the decades has rebelled against authority and taught us to question those in positions of responsibility. If we don't like their decisions we can protest or boycott them. In other cases it may even seem acceptable to revolt or form a coup to overthrow governments.

- **Please Read: Romans 13:1-7**
- On this earth there is no perfect government or judicial system
- When we honor authority, we are honoring what God has instituted for our benefit
 - o We may not agree with the person or their decisions- we honor the office
 - o Satan is the original rebel and lawbreaker who tried to usurp God's throne
- God's kingdom is governed by His rule of law; our happiness is based on our obedience

James 4:12, “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.”
Psalms 103:19, “The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”

Learning to live under authority is one of the most crucial life lessons children can learn from their parents. **Please Read: Ephesians 6:1-9**

Question: Ephesians 6:3, what does children honoring their parents have to do with long life?

If we can't submit to natural authority how are we going to learn to submit to God's authority? Before we can exercise authority over the devil, we first have to be submitted to God's Word. James 4:7, “*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

Question: In the natural have you ever exercised authority before, on the job for example?

- **Please Read: Matthew 8:5-10**
- Notice in verse 9 what the Centurion said, *“For I myself am a man under authority”*
- The Centurion was in charge of 100 soldiers in the Roman army

Authority is delegated power, but the value of that power is based on the ability of the institution that backs one up. The power of Jesus’ resurrection is what backs us up!

Ephesians 6:10 AMP, “In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].”

Notice that Ephesians 6:10 does not say to be strong in ourselves, but to be strong in the Lord. This is done by trusting and resting in the Power that is behind the Name of Jesus.

Does not matter what we feel, our strength comes from the Lord and the power of His might. We need to learn to start relaxing and laughing, because bless God we are strong in the Lord.

Please Read: Luke 10:17-20

- Jesus delegated His authority to the 72 disciples, to act on His behalf
- The value of authority depends on the force behind the user
- God Himself is the power behind the authority that was given unto us- 1 John 4:4
- The Holy Spirit backs us up as the power source when we speak the Name of Jesus

Please Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20

- God is all about delegation; through the power of Attorney Jesus gave us His authority
- We are the Body of Christ, the Head, Jesus sends orders to His body to carry out for Him

The believer that is thoroughly convinced of the divine power that is behind him and of his own authority that has been delegated to him and exercises it, can face the enemy without fear or hesitancy. The other religions of the world cannot impart life to anyone nor do they give them any authority over the devil. Christianity is the only reality where God lives in us- Christ in you the hope of Glory. Trust in the God that is inside you- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.

Question: What did God mean in Genesis 3:15, that Jesus would “Crush” Satan’s head?

- **Please Read: Colossians 2:13-15**
- AMP- “God made a bold display and public example of them”
 - o Like a king standing on the neck of his defeated adversary in triumph
- Hebrews 2:14 states Jesus has already destroyed him who had the power of death
- Revelation 1:18 Jesus has the keys “Authority” of death and hell
- Satan is a defeated foe and we are called to enforce his defeat in Jesus’ Name

Question: Whose responsibility is it today to bring the devil and his works under subjection?

Even though Jesus is the head over every principality and power, this authority can only be exercised through His Body, the Church. This is where Christians get confused concerning the Sovereignty of God. Traditional thought goes, “God is Sovereign and can do what He wants and when He wants to, and everything is under His control.” Well if everything is under His control, then why is the world so messed up. At present Satan is the god of this world and will continue to be until Adam’s lease (Matthew 8:29) runs out. Until such time, God will only intervene in the affairs of men when He is asked to by the Church.

Question: To whom has Jesus given the keys to the Kingdom in Matthew 18:18?

Question: What are we to do with those keys in the earth today?

Please Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

- Jesus calls us the salt and light of the world; when we fail to do our job = bad news
 - o Matthew 5:13-16
- We are to resist the devil and he flees from the greater one inside us
 - o James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9

So many Christians are looking to God to do something about the devil attacking their lives, and God is looking at them to rise up and use their authority in Jesus’ Name and put the devil under their feet. Jesus has already defeated the devil and done all He is going to do- let’s do our job and enforce the devil’s defeat in the Name of Jesus.