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Mark 4:23-25 AMP

If anyone has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away [by force],

Note: Utterance and impartation are often determined by receptivity of the hearer

Foundations of Authority

Lesson 1- Origins of Authority

To understand the Authority of the Believer, we must first understand the origin of authority itself. Authority did not begin with man, government, or even the Church—it originated with God. He is the supreme Lawgiver, Judge, and Ruler of the universe, and all legitimate authority flows from Him.

Isaiah 33:22, “For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.”

God the Supreme Judge of the Universe

- **Please Read: Romans 13:1-2** *Authority comes from God*
- Ps 50:6, “And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge.”
- Abraham in Genesis 18:25, calls God the “Judge of all the earth”
- **Please Read: Colossians 1:15-20** *Speaking of Jesus*
- God is “Sovereign in that He makes the rules, spiritual and natural laws.”
- James 4:12, “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge...”

When we say **God is the Judge of the universe**, we mean that He is the supreme moral and legal authority who established the laws that govern both the natural and spiritual realms and who ultimately renders judgment concerning obedience, sin, righteousness, and justice.

- God’s Word is God’s law, which He has decreed and established forever
- All natural and spiritual laws are derived from His Word- established & fixed
- Mt. 24:35, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

The concept is important because authority cannot exist without law, government, and a judge to enforce them. Before believers can understand delegated authority, they must first understand that all authority originates with God’s throne and His position as the Judge and Governor of the universe.

Hebrews 1:3 AMP, “He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God’s] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power.”

It is really important to understand that God has bound Himself to His own Word and that it is impossible for Him to violate it.

Psalms 138:2 AMP

I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!

Regarding the promises of God in Hebrews 6:18, “It is impossible for God to lie.” And in Titus 1:2, speaks of “A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time”.

Numbers 23:19-20 *An oracle from Baalam – still a true statement*

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it.

[Adam’s God Given Authority](#)

From what we see in Scripture, God gave Adam delegated authority and stewardship over the earth. **Psalms 115:16**, “The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.”

- **Please Read: Genesis 1:26-28** The Genesis Mandate was three-fold
 - Create mankind into the image of the Godhead
 - Let them have dominion as stewards and rule over God’s creation
 - Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with lots of people
- **Please Read: Psalms 8:3-9; John 10:34-36**
- Jesus was quoting Psalms 82:6 – as sons of God we were created as gods
- Psalms 82:6, “I said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High.’”
- No other created being can say they were created in God’s image
- Being created in God’s image does not automatically make us children of God

- We must be born again into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ- Jn. 3:3

Galatians 3:26-28

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Adam's Fall and Adam's Lease

- **Please Read:** Genesis Chapter 3
- But they were already like God, created in His image- but wanted more
- 1 Timothy 2:14, Adam was not deceived but Eve- makes it worse for Adam
- So what happened when they took the fatal bite?
 - o Partook of death, the glory of God left and were filled with fear
- The universal principle was applied- Slaves to whom you obey

Romans 6:16

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

In the context of Adam and Eve, the issue was not merely eating fruit—it was a question of whose authority they would recognize and obey. God gave Adam dominion over the earth and clear instructions concerning the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam's authority was to be exercised under God's authority. God was the ultimate ruler; Adam was the delegated ruler.

- By obeying the devil they subjected themselves to the devil as his slaves
- Adam and Eve surrendered their God given dominion over to the enemy

The battle was fundamentally over authority and allegiance. Adam and Eve had two voices before them: God's Word and Satan's word. Whichever voice they obeyed would become the authority they submitted themselves to. The principle of Romans 6:16 teaches that obedience establishes servitude. Adam was given authority over the earth, but by obeying Satan rather than God, he effectively switched sides, committed high treason and yielded his allegiance to Satan. As a result, the devil became the god of this world instead of Adam and Eve.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 12:31-33 NKJV

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

1 John 5:19-20

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- **Please Read: Luke 4:1-13** *The devil tried with Jesus what he did with Adam*
- If the devil could get Jesus to obey him, then Jesus would be his slave as well
- Important distinction: Satan is the god of this world system- 1 John 2:15
 - o The people, monetary, religious, political and military systems
- “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it”- Ps. 24:1; 1 Cor.10:26
 - o “All the gold and silver is His” Haggai 2:8
 - o “All the creatures and cattle on a 1000 hills is His” Psalms 50:10

What the devil stole from Adam was only a lease of time that God gave Adam to fulfill the Genesis mandate of stewarding the earth and replenishing it with people. It was not meant to be indefinite, but for a set period of time. God remains the Owner of the earth (“The earth is the LORD’s...”), but Adam was given delegated rulership as a steward. Man was crowned with glory and honor and given dominion over the works of God’s hands.

- Let’s look at some Scriptures that point to an expiration date of Satan’s time

Matthew 8:28-29

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

Revelation 12:12, “But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

- In Revelation 20, Satan is bound in Abyss and then cast in Lake of Fire
- Revelation 21, Adam’s lease is up and God, the landlord renovates the earth

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

- Back to Genesis 3:15, God’s prophecy of Adam’s lost dominion restored

Genesis 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Jesus came back to destroy the devil’s works and restore back to humanity their lost dominion in the Garden. **1 John 3:8**, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” Jesus is referred to as the Last Adam in 1 Cor. 15:45.

Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.”

In conclusion, the significance of Adam's Lease is that it explains why authority in the earth was entrusted to mankind and why, after the Fall, Jesus had to legally restore that authority through redemption rather than simply overrule Satan by force. This theme becomes foundational to understanding the believer's authority in Christ.

Lesson 2- Courtroom of Heaven

Next, when it comes to gaining a working knowledge of the authority of the believer, we must understand that God's kingdom operates according to divine justice, covenant, and legal rights. Scripture reveals God as the righteous Judge, Satan as the accuser of the brethren, Jesus as our Advocate, and believers as those who have been justified through the blood of Christ. As we study the Courtroom of Heaven, we will discover how the finished work of Jesus secured a legal victory over sin, Satan, and death, giving believers confidence to approach God's throne and exercise their God-given authority.

The Courtroom

Many believers' view authority as power alone. However, authority begins with legal standing- remission, righteousness and Justification. These redemptive terms are legal terms. Before we can understand our authority in Christ, we must understand that God's kingdom is governed by divine law and justice.

The Courtroom of Heaven reveals:

- God is the Judge
- God's Word is the law
- Jesus is our Advocate- defense attorney
- Satan is the accuser- prosecutor
- We are the defendants
- The Blood of Jesus is the evidence of our redemption

Everything concerning the believer's authority rests upon the righteous judgments of God and the finished work of Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and seating.

- **Please Read: Daniel 7:9-14** *The Ancient of Days*
- Romans 2:11, "For God does not show favoritism"- absolutely transparent

One of the most important attributes of God as Judge is that He is completely impartial. Unlike human judges, God cannot be bribed, manipulated, deceived, pressured, or influenced by favoritism. He judges every case according to truth, righteousness, and His Word- no exceptions or sweeping things under the rug.

Satan as the prosecuting attorney uses God's Holy Law as a weapon against us as a basis for accusing us of sin and thus worthy of death and the curse of the law.

- **Please Read: Romans 7:7-9**

The purpose of the Law

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- **Please Read: Ezekiel 28:11-19** *Double reference- ruler of Tyre vs king of Tyre*
- From what we see in Scripture Satan committed the original sin
- Therefore, all who sin after him, come under his domain

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan's role is essentially that of an accuser who points to humanity's violation of God's law and demands the legal consequences of sin. The legal case against humanity is real because mankind actually broke God's commands.

Revelation 12:10-11

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Remember, Satan is not the judge. God is the Judge. Satan functions more like a prosecuting attorney or accuser, bringing charges against mankind based on violations of God's law. However, Jesus Christ is our Advocate, and His blood provides the legal basis for our acquittal and justification before God's court.

Non-Christians are on their own and can only defend themselves by themselves before God based on their own so-called good works- filthy rags of self-righteousness Isaiah 64:6. Since we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He acts as our defense attorney in the courtroom of heaven.

1 John 2:1-2 AMP

MY LITTLE children, I write you these things so that you may not violate God's law and sin. But if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate (One Who will intercede for us) with the Father — [it is] Jesus Christ [the all] righteous [upright, just, Who conforms to the Father's will in every purpose, thought, and action]. And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of] the whole world.

- Satan's accusation is essentially: "This person violated God's law."
- And in many cases, the accusation is factually true
 - o As Christians we have 1 John 1:9 to restore broken fellowship

Jesus counters Satan's accusations not by denying that sin occurred, but by presenting the completed work of redemption on behalf of the believer. In other words, Jesus does not argue that the believer never sinned. Instead, He points to the fact that the penalty has already been paid.

- **Please Read: Romans 3:25-26** *Jesus' answer to every accusation is:*
 - o "The debt has been paid" | "Justice has been satisfied"
 - o "My blood speaks on their behalf" and "Case Closed!"
 - Blood has a voice- Genesis 4:10- Abel's blood cried out to God
- **Please Read: Hebrews 12:22-24** *Blood of Jesus speaks a better word*

Satan may present evidence of guilt in court, but Jesus presents evidence of payment in His blood. The issue is no longer: "Did the believer sin?" The issue becomes: "Has the penalty already been satisfied?" At the Cross, God's justice was satisfied and God's mercy was extended simultaneously.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- This is why believers can approach God boldly. Not because:
 - o We are perfect or we have never failed or deserve it
- But because: Jesus is our Advocate or defense attorney
 - o His blood is the legal basis of our acquittal
- God the Father, the Judge accepted the sacrifice on our behalf- paid in full!

So, in summary, Satan argues for our guilt; Jesus argues for our redemption. Satan presents our failures; Jesus presents His blood. Satan points to the crime; Jesus points to the payment. God the Father strikes His Gavel- pardoned of sin!

- **Please Read: Romans 8:1-4** *Beware of false condemnation*
- Revelation of righteousness is a weapon- 2 Corinthians 6:7

Colossians 1:13-14, “For God the Father has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Our Testimony

- Let's briefly talk about our role in court
 - o The first thing is to enter a plea of either guilty or non-guilty
 - o What comes out of our mouths, is our confession or testimony
 - o It will be either an admission of guilt or of innocence
- While on earth, the enemy will try to build a case against us- to gain access

In an earthly court, anything a person says can be entered into evidence and used in determining the outcome of a case. In a similar way, Scripture teaches that our words carry spiritual significance and can either agree with God's Word or agree with the accusations of the enemy.

Proverbs 18:21, “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Matthew 12:36-37

“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Jesus reveals that words are not insignificant; they are evidence of what is believed in the heart, and what we say can and will be used against us in a court of law.

Satan Loves Self-Incrimination. As the accuser, Satan through deception or exploiting ignorance seeks to convince believers to testify against themselves.

Consider statements such as:

“I’ll never overcome this.” | “God probably won’t answer my prayer.”

“I’m just a failure.” | “Nothing ever works out for me.” | “Looks like I am sick again”

While these may reflect feelings, they do not reflect God’s promises about us. When believers continually speak contrary to God’s Word, they are effectively giving testimony that agrees with the lies of the enemy rather than with what Christ accomplished in our glorious redemption. There is a difference between acknowledging a trial/test/temptation and agreeing with the enemy.

- **Please Read: Romans 4:17-28** *Truth changes facts*
- A believer may honestly say:
- “I am facing temptation, but God’s grace is sufficient.” Agrees with the Word
- But to say:
- “This problem will never go away”
- Is to agree with circumstances over the promises of God

Jesus Teaches us to Agree with what God’s Word says about us. The believer’s confession is simply agreeing with what God has already said. So, if God says: “You are forgiven” — we say, “I am forgiven.” “You are righteous in Christ” — we say, “I am righteous in Christ.” “You are more than a conqueror” — we say, “I am more than a conqueror.” Faith is agreeing with God’s testimony above all others.

- **Please Read: Acts 22:25-29; Philippians 3:20-21** *Citizenship Counts*
- Notice that Paul was “Matter of Fact” about it- you can’t do this- stop!

He did not beg. He did not complain. He did not accept the punishment. He appealed to a higher legal standing. The moment Paul invoked his citizenship, the entire situation changed. The authorities realized they had no legal right to do what they were attempting to do. The question therefore becomes: Does Satan have a legal right to what he is attempting to do in our lives today?

- Is it legal for the enemy to put sickness, poverty or depression on me?

Just as Paul asked, “Is it legal?”, believers should understand their covenant rights in Christ. Our defense is based on: Our citizenship in Heaven, our redemption through Christ, the Blood of Jesus, the New Covenant. Knowing who we are in Christ Jesus! Many Christians suffer unnecessarily and are robbed in life because they do not know what belongs to them in redemption and/or how to resist the devil.

Paul stopped an illegal punishment by appealing to his citizenship. In the same way, believers must know their covenant rights in Christ. Satan thrives on ignorance, intimidation, and deception, but when Christians understand their legal standing before God through the blood of Jesus, they can confidently ask, “Is it legal?” As a result, they can resist the enemy on the basis of God’s Word and Christ’s finished work in the mighty Name of Jesus!

- What about Job? He opened the door to the devil through fear

Job 3:25-26, “What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”

- Job had a covenant with God- included protection and financial blessing
- He got into fear over his children; everything not of faith is sin- Romans 14:23
- God allowed Satan to attack Job, because Job allowed it
 - o What we allow in our lives God will allow- He honors our free will
- In the end Job repented and God restored twice of what he had- Job 42:10

Lesson 3- Authority vs Power

Many Christians use the words authority and power interchangeably, yet the Bible makes an important distinction between them. A police officer directing traffic may not possess the physical power to stop a moving truck, but he has the authority to do so because the government stands behind him. In the same way, believers have been given authority through Jesus Christ, while the power that backs that authority comes from God Himself.

To effectively exercise our spiritual authority, we must understand both what has been delegated to us and the divine power that stands behind it. In this lesson, we will examine the biblical difference between authority (exousia) and power (dunamis), and learn how believers can confidently exercise the authority Jesus has given them over the works of the enemy.

Exousia vs Dunamis

- **Please Read: Matthew 8:5-10** The Centurion Understood Authority
- His reasoning was simple: A person under authority carries authority
- Orders are obeyed because higher authority stands behind them

A Roman centurion could command soldiers not because he was physically stronger than all of them, but because Rome stood behind his commands. His authority was delegated from a higher government or chain of command.

- Authority is the legal right to act on behalf of a higher authority
- The centurion recognized that Jesus operated the same way
- He recognized Jesus was under the Father's authority

Many people saw Jesus as a miracle worker. The centurion saw Him as Heaven's authorized representative- an extension of God doing His work through Him.

Mark 1:27

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching — and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

- Jesus only needed to speak a word
- Authority is exercised through words
 - o verse 8, “just say the word, and my servant will be healed”

The centurion recognized that sickness must obey Jesus because Jesus carried the authority of Heaven. He understood that authority is released through commands. A military order does not require physical force from the officer. The authority behind the command compels obedience. Likewise, Jesus did not need to physically touch the servant. His spoken word carried the authority of Heaven to heal/deliver.

This becomes extremely important in understanding the believer’s confession, testimony, and use of the Name of Jesus later in the course. We are not merely speaking words; we are speaking in agreement with and releasing God’s authority.

The centurion viewed sickness almost as a subordinate servant that could be commanded. His thinking was:

- If soldiers obey me, and I obey my superiors
- Then sickness must obey Jesus because Jesus operates under God’s authority
- Believers must develop this mindset regarding the works of the enemy
- Too often Christians view:
 - o sickness as irresistible, fear as uncontrollable
 - o demonic oppression as invincible, circumstances as sovereign
- Centurion saw that all these things were subject to God’s authority in Jesus

The believer stands in a position very similar to that of the centurion. We have been placed under Christ’s authority and commissioned to act in His Name. Therefore:

- We do not confront the devil in our own strength
- We do not heal in our own power
- We do not overcome by our own personal ability or resources

Instead, we act as authorized representatives of Jesus Christ. Just as the centurion spoke on behalf of Rome, believers speak on behalf of the Kingdom of God. When we command in line with God’s Word: Heaven backs our authority. The Name of Jesus gives legal standing. The Holy Spirit supplies the power to get it done. The court of Heaven stands behind God’s ambassadors in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

The centurion understood the distinction between authority and power before many of God's people did. Rome possessed the power. The centurion exercised the authority. Likewise:

- God possesses the power (dunamis).
- Believers exercise delegated authority (exousia).

The believer is not called to generate power but to operate in the authority Christ Jesus has already delegated to us and trust the power of God to enforce it.

The centurion's revelation was that true authority does not come from personal strength, but from being properly aligned under a greater authority. Because Jesus was under the Father's authority, all of Heaven stood behind His words. In the same way, when believers remain submitted to Christ and His Word, they can exercise delegated authority knowing that the resources of Heaven stand behind them.

- Since Jesus was under God's authority, the centurion understood:
 - o God's authority and power flowed through Him as a result
 - o Whatever Jesus commanded had to obey
- **Please Read: Luke 8:21-25**
- This is why submission and authority cannot be separated

Jesus spoke with authority, because He was acting in complete submission to the Father's will. A person who is unwilling to come under authority will never properly exercise authority.

John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 15:24-28**
- Authority functions best when we are submitted to authority
- James 4:7, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

In a general sense, to be given authority, one must be proven trustworthy, submitted and obedient. Believers who submit and obey God's Word can confidently exercise the authority God has delegated to them through Jesus' Name.

Holy Spirit Power

- The Holy Spirit is the power broker of the glorious Godhead- 1 John 4:4
- One aspect of the sevenfold Holy Spirit of God is:
 - o "The Spirit of Power"- Isaiah 11:2 and Revelation 1:4

Matthew 12:28, "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

- When Jesus came to earth as the Son of Man- He left His power in heaven
 - o Php. 2:6-7, "Made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant"
- When Jesus was water baptized the Spirit of power came on Him- Jn. 3:34
- John 2:11, at 30 years old, first miracle performed- turned water into wine
- Luke 4:14, "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit..."

Luke 5:17, "One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick."

Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

One of the key reasons Jesus set aside the independent use of His divine abilities and ministered as a man anointed by the Holy Spirit was so that His earthly ministry could become the pattern for believers to follow. Jesus came to earth "as a man, yet still being divinely God without His divine abilities," allowing Him to fully experience human temptation and overcome it as our representative. Jesus modeled for us what ministry should look like; setting the example for us to follow.

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Power of Attorney

A legal power of attorney gives a person the right to act on behalf of another. In the natural world, a person may sign contracts, conduct business, or represent someone else through delegated authority. Spiritually speaking, Jesus has given His Church a “Power of Attorney.” We have not replaced Jesus, but we have been authorized to represent Him on the earth and carry on His ministry.

Many Christians are asking God to do something that He has already authorized them to do. For example, I never ask the Lord to heal someone as it is already His will for them to be healed. He just said lay hands on the sick- Mark 16:18.

- We don't have to ask if it is God's will for people to be saved
 - o They just need to believe and confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior
- Nor do we ask God to drive demons out of people's lives
 - o We have authority to do that as Christians in Jesus' Name
- We don't have to ask for things that are already provided in redemption
- **Please Read: Matthew 10:5-8**
 - o verse 8- “Freely you have received, freely give”
- **Please Read: Luke 10:1-2, 17-20**

Matthew 28:18-20, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Immediately after declaring His authority, Jesus delegated responsibility to His disciples. Therefore go... The Great Commission is essentially God's Power of Attorney given to the Church.

- **Please Read Mark 16:15-20**
- God chooses to work through people to accomplish His will on earth
- Acts 19:11, “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul”
- **Please Read: Acts 14:27; 15:12**
 - o Notice the wording “Through Them”- God works through us

Biblical authority is the God-given legal right and delegated responsibility to represent Heaven, enforce God's will, and exercise dominion within the boundaries of His Word. Authority is the believer's legal right in Christ Jesus; power is God's ability working through the believer. The most effective ministry occurs when both operate together.

- Power produces results; authority directs it to set the captives free
- Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."
- Jesus ministered in the power of the Spirit and so do we today

Because believers are united with Christ, we share in His delegated authority, and the Holy Spirit supplies divine power for ministry.

Luke 10:19

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy..."

Faith Confession:

"I am an authorized ambassador of Jesus Christ. I have been given authority in His Name to enforce His victory and Satan's defeat. I'm more than a conqueror in Jesus and advance the Kingdom of God on the earth in Jesus' Name!"

New Covenant Authority

Lesson 4- The Power of the Blood

To fully understand the authority God has given to believers, we must first understand the covenant that established it. Throughout Scripture, authority is always connected to relationship, inheritance, and legal standing. The highest expression of these realities is found in the blood covenant. A blood covenant is more than a promise or agreement. It is a sacred, binding union that creates an exchange of identity, resources, rights, privileges, and responsibilities between the covenant partners. In biblical times, blood covenants established an unbreakable legal bond, granting each party access to the strength and assets of the other.

God chose covenant as the basis of His relationship with humanity. Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, believers have been brought into the New Covenant and united with God Himself. This covenant does not merely provide forgiveness of sins; it establishes a new position, a new inheritance, and a new level of authority. Because believers are covenant partners with God through Christ, they have legal standing to represent His interests in the earth and exercise authority in His name. As we examine the factors of blood covenant, we will discover how each aspect reveals the believer's rights, privileges, and responsibilities, providing a solid foundation for walking in the authority that Christ has secured for us.

Covenant Possibilities

Since Adam committed high treason in the Garden and made the devil the god of this world. God uses blood covenant as the vehicle to provide the legal framework for Him to intervene in the earth and the affairs of mankind during Adam's lease.

- Our glorious redemption is rooted in blood covenant
- Biblical authority first comes from a covenant relationship with God
- Without covenant we have no right to exercise authority on His behalf
- In Scripture, a blood covenant is the most binding agreement possible
- Explains why God sought numerous covenants with man to gain entrance
 - o Noah, Abraham, Israel, David and New Covenant through Jesus

- Covenant creates powerful access and obligations:
 - A legal relationship ~ An exchange of resources
 - Shared responsibilities and vision ~ Shared privileges
 - A permanent union between parties

In biblical thought, blood represents life given, life exchanged, and life pledged. A blood covenant was the strongest and most binding covenant known to humanity.

When blood was shed:

- A life was legally committed and the covenant became irrevocable
- Each party gained covenant standing with the other
- The shedding of blood provided legal grounds for covenant enforcement
- In many cultures in the world, to break a blood covenant was unthinkable

Paid in Blood

Justice demands payment/restitution for sin. If the wages of sin is death and the life of the flesh is in the blood, then the blood of Jesus cancels the sentence of death associated with sin- becomes the only payment for the offense/crime.

Genesis 3:21

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

- Right after Adam and Eve sinned, God set the precedent for dealing with sin
 - The blood of an innocent life was shed on behalf of the guilty
 - The blood of animals could only cover sin and delay judgment
 - But could never take sin away or change their spiritual nature
 - Nor could it restore their lost authority that Adam gave up
 - It was a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God- who takes away sin
 - That is why Old Testament saints were not permitted in heaven
 - When they died they went to Abraham's bosom – Lk. 16:19-31

Hebrews 10:11, "Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."

- So why is blood so essential, because Leviticus 17:11 states:
 - "The life of the flesh is in the blood."
 - Religious good works and ceremonies can never take away sin's stain
 - Cain's, good works was a rebellious substitute for the blood sacrifice

- **Please Read: Genesis 4:1-10** *Cain and Abel – blood has a voice*
 - The blood of Abel said, “A crime has been committed”
 - The blood of Jesus says, “The debt has been paid”
 - Abel’s blood cried for justice. Jesus’ blood satisfied justice = mercy

Hebrews 12:24, “To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

Abel’s blood cried from earth to heaven for judgment. Jesus’ blood speaks from heaven to earth declaring that judgment has already fallen on the Substitute. Therefore, the believer stands before God not on the basis of personal merit, but on the testimony of the blood of Jesus.

Christianity stands apart from all other religions because it is founded on a blood covenant established by God’s sacrifice rather than man’s efforts. Salvation is not earned through works, rituals, or moral improvement. It is received by faith in the finished work and shed blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation is something God accomplished for us, not something we accomplish for God.

Hebrews 9:22, “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Rom 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- Sin carries an eternal death sentence- good works cannot undo it
 - When people do the crime, they must do the time
 - Unless they have an innocent one to take their place- Jesus!
- Only the Creator can stand in the place of His creation and redeem it
 - What He was, He remained; what He was not, He became
 - The blood of Jesus represented the very life of God – eternal life
 - So eternal life cancelled and eradicated eternal death
 - Jesus Son of God, His deity is essential for the payment of sin
 - Jesus Son of Man, as our earthly substitute on earth for humanity
- Only the life of God could reverse the effects of spiritual death- John 1:4

The hypostatic union is the theological term describing the mystery that Jesus is fully God and fully man in one Person. Enabling Him to represent God and mankind at the same time. The Old Testament concept of the kinsman redeemer required that the redeemer be related to those he redeemed. Jesus became genuinely human so He could stand in our place- the God-Man!

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

The first Adam brought death into the human race; the Last Adam brings life.

The hypostatic union made redemption possible. Because Jesus was fully man, He could legally represent humanity. Because He was fully God, He possessed the divine life necessary to cancel the sentence of spiritual death. In the blood of the God-Man, justice was satisfied, Satan's claim on us was broken, eternal life was released, and the authority Adam lost was restored to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Because sin brought death and separation from God. Since life is in the blood, only the giving of life could satisfy divine justice and establish covenant reconciliation. Animal sacrifices temporarily covered sin, but only the blood of Jesus could permanently remove sin, redeem mankind, and legally restore the believer's authority in Christ Jesus.

A New Covenant

- **Please Read: Hebrews chapter 8**

Superior New Covenant

The believer's authority rests upon the blood covenant. Before God could restore man's dominion, He first had to redeem man legally. The blood of Jesus settled the sin problem, annulled Satan's claims, and opened the way for believers to stand in Christ's authority through His Name.

- Under the Old Covenant, God was with mankind- physical temple
- In the New Covenant, God is in us- our born-again spirit is the new temple
- The Holy Spirit within us (1 John 4:4) is a whole new level of authority

Why the New Covenant is Superior to the Old Covenant

- The Old Covenant provided:
 - A covering for sin ~ Temporary access to God ~ Repeated sacrifices
 - An earthly priesthood ~ External laws written on stone
- The New Covenant provides:
 - Removal of sin ~ Permanent access to God ~ One final sacrifice
 - An eternal High Priest ~ God's law written in the heart
 - Better promises and inheritance ~ The indwelling Holy Spirit
- **Please Read: Galatians 3:26-29** *We are all one in Christ Jesus*
- The Old Covenant had servants; the New Covenant has sons
 - As children of God, we carry greater authority than the Old Covenant
- **Please Read: Romans 8:15-17** *Spirit of Sonship*

Luke 7:28

"I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

The Old Covenant had priestly distance; the New Covenant has direct access

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all mankind.

Hebrews 9:15

For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 13:12, "And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood."

The New Covenant restores what Adam lost. Because of Christ's blood, believers can stand before God without condemnation and exercise delegated authority as ambassadors of Christ. The New Covenant transforms us from beggars to benefactors, from slaves to sons. It is the foundation of our faith and the confidence we have to exercise authority in the Name of Jesus.

A simple covenant framework:

Creation → Dominion → Fall → Blood Covenant → Redemption → Identification with Christ → Seated with Christ → Authority in Christ → Enforcement of Satan's Defeat.

The authority of the believer is not a power we generate ourselves. It is a covenant right granted through the blood of Jesus, established by His death and resurrection, and exercised from our position of union with Him.

The superiority of the New Covenant is not merely that we have better promises, but that we have a better position. Through the blood of Jesus, believers are forgiven, born again, made righteous, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, given direct access to the Father, and seated with Jesus in heavenly places. The Old Covenant produced servants who approached God through earthly mediators. The New Covenant produces sons and daughters who exercise authority through their union with the risen Christ. Therefore, the authority of the believer is one of the greatest privileges purchased by the blood of the New Covenant.

Lesson 5- The Fruit of Righteousness

One of the foundational truths of the believer's authority is understanding who we are in Christ. Under the New Covenant, righteousness is not something we seek, it's who we are by spiritual nature in Jesus through the new birth. We do not earn it through good works or personal effort; it is a gift received through faith in Jesus Christ. Because we have been made righteous in Him, we can come boldly into God's presence, stand free from condemnation, and exercise the authority He has given us as His children. In this lesson, we will explore the biblical truth of New Covenant righteousness and discover how a clear understanding of our right standing with God strengthens our faith, confidence, and effectiveness in exercising spiritual authority. When believers know they are accepted, justified, and made righteous through Christ, they are empowered to walk in the victory and authority that Jesus secured for them. Philippians 1:11, *"Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God."*

The Exchange	New Identity	Authority Result
Sin for Righteousness	Righteous	Confidence before God
Death for Life	New Creation	God's life operates through us
Curse for Blessing	Covenant Heir	Authority as an heir
Sickness for Healing	Redeemed in body	Authority over sickness
Poverty for Provision	Child of a Provider	Freedom from fear and lack
Rejection for Acceptance	Son/Daughter	Bold access to the Father
Defeat for Victory	Seated with Christ	Authority over the enemy

A New Creation

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

- As a 3-part being created in God's image- Genesis 1:26
 - We are spirit beings – conscience is the voice of our spirit
 - With our spirit we contact the spirit realm and God
 - It's our spirit nature that become a new species at the new birth
 - Is perfect in nature now, but continually growing up spiritually
 - We have a soul- mind, will & emotions- reason is the voice of our soul
 - With our soul we contact the intellectual realm
 - Needs continual renewing with the Word of God
 - Is progressively being brought into alignment with the Word
 - We live in a physical body- feelings is the voice of our body
 - With the body we contact the material world- by our five senses
 - Still has sin nature in it, so keep our body under subjection
 - In the future we will receive a new glorified body- no sin in it
- **Please Read: John 3:1-15** - *The new birth is the rebirth of our human spirit*
 - We pass from death to life; from the nature of Satan to God's nature
- **Please Read: 1 John 3:7-16** *God's love nature in us*
 - We were born into God's family, adopted by choice- Ephesians 1:5

1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Titus 3:5-7, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

- "Eternal Life" is a New Covenant concept – John 10:27-30
 - When we are born again, we receive the very life and nature of God
- It is not talking about living forever; saints and sinners are eternal beings
- The question is where we will spend it- based on what we do with Jesus

1 John 5:11-13, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

- The Greek word for “Eternal Life” is “ZOE”
 - Taking on the very life and love nature of God; experiential existence
 - Become partakers of the divine nature- 2 Peter 1:4
- That’s why we are called children of God- take after our Heavenly Father
 - Galatians 5:22-23- the fruit of our re-created spirit by the Holy Spirit
 - 1 John 4:17, “... because as He is, so are we in this world.”

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

Eternal Life is a relational experience of knowing and experiencing God, now and for all eternity. Dazzled and amazed as we discover new breathtaking aspects and wonders of God. It’s no wonder that heaven is continually worshipping God for who He is and what He has done for all creation- Revelation 4:8.

John 17:3, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Psalms 16:11 NKJV, “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Growing Up Spiritually

Yet we need to grow up into this salvation experience, we are not born again fully mature Christians any more than we are born naturally fully grown adults. There is a process of development over time that must take place. Let’s not confuse being made perfect in Christ with knowing and discovering who we are in Christ.

Hebrews 10:14, “Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” *Instantaneous Sanctification vs Progressive Sanctification*

Knowing God is progressive, through gained experiences- look what the Lord has done. Our faith and confidence grow over time as we see the faithfulness of God on display throughout our lives.

Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Immature in the knowledge of God and lacking understanding.”

- When Jesus was in the temple, He was asking questions- Luke 2:46
- **Please Read: 1 Peter 2:1-3; Hebrews 5:7-6:3; Ephesians 4:11-16** *Growth*
- Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”
- Growing in knowledge, wisdom and developing fruit = spiritual growth
- Fruit is designed to grow and produce a harvest to enjoy- Gal. 5:22-23
- John 15 talking about abiding in Jesus and bearing much fruit
 - o We abide in Jesus by abiding in His Word

John 15:7-8, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

James 1:2-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

- Trials, Tests and Temptations have a way of testing what we say we believe
- 1 John 4:18, “...The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”
- Mt. 5:48, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
- Same Greek word “Perfect”: to be complete and grow in character
- Ephesians 5:1, “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children”

Matthew 5:48, AMP

You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Perfection in our spiritual nature was instantaneous when we were born again- required to gain entrance into heaven. However, I’m of the belief that spiritual growth is eternal, we’ll never stop learning about and experiencing more and more of Almighty God.

- The Epistle prayers were given to the Church to release faith to grow
- **Please Read: Ephesians 1:15-23** *Spirit of wisdom and revelation*

To be clear, the fruit of our spiritual nature (Love) is to grow just as the measure of faith (Romans 12:3) we received is destined to grow in measure.

Philippians 1:9, “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, “We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”

Here are the four core pillars to train, educate and develop our human spirit:

- 1) Meditate on the Word of God- Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3
 - As natural food is to our body, so the Word of God is to our spirit- Luke 4:4
 - Meditate means to speak the Word out loud- Romans 10:17
 - The Word of God renews our mind- Romans 12:1-2
 - Moves from mental agreement to heart revelation knowledge
- 2) Practice the Word
 - Not just being a hear of the Word, but be a doer- James 1:22
 - Faith without deeds is dead- James 2:26
 - Our response to life is to apply God’s Word in every situation
- 3) Give the Word First Place
 - We believe God’s report “Word” first before anybody else- Isaiah 53:1
 - Not moved by our 5 senses, but by what God’s Word says- Final Authority
 - Guarding our heart by hiding He Word inside- Prv. 4:20-24; Psalms 119:11
- 4) Instantly Obey the Voice of the Spirit
 - When the above three steps are evident realities; our spirit becomes strong
 - Then the Holy Spirit through our spirit will guide us- Romans 8:14-16
 - God will guide us through our human spirit- not our mind or body

Prv 20:27, KJV “The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**
 - We are righteous now and righteous in Him
- **Please Read: Romans 4:1-5, 18-25**
 - Righteousness was credited to us in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:6

Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

We are righteous by nature and righteous now in Jesus. We will never be any more righteous/perfect in our spiritual nature than we are right now in Jesus. We can't improve on it or add to it. That's why if we left our physical body right now, we would be permitted into heaven- which requires absolute perfection.

Romans 1:17

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

As an entire and complete package at the new birth- Jesus' own righteousness is our new spiritual nature. Now, we are to grow in our understanding and revelation of that righteousness and apply it in every situation of life. The righteousness of Jesus was credited and applied to us when we made Jesus our personal Lord and Savior- It is the basis of our new creation spiritual nature.

- 2 Cor 6:7, “With weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left”

Lesson 6- The Power of the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our righteousness, for through it God declared Jesus victorious over sin, Satan, and death and made available His righteousness to all who believe.

The resurrection of Jesus is the source of the believer's spiritual authority; exalted to the right hand of the Father, where all authority in heaven and earth was placed under Him. The Authority of the Believer teachings emphasize that our authority is not based on our own strength, but on our union with the risen Christ and the power that raised Him from the dead. As we become established in our righteousness in Christ and submit to God's authority through His Word, we can confidently resist the devil, knowing that we stand in the victory Jesus secured through His resurrection.

Death Is Defeated

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our glorious redemption. The purpose of the cross was for Jesus to become sin for us who knew no sin. Jesus was baptized into our sin and became a sinner like we once were. That is why God turned away from Him. Jesus did not just take upon Himself every sinful act of the world, but also our satanic sin nature- which is called iniquity in the Bible.

- **Please Read: Matthew 27:32-54; Isaiah chapter 53** *Cross Realities*
- Isaiah 53:6, "The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- From 9am to 3pm- for 6 hours God laid upon Him the sin of the world- Ps 22
- Jesus made intercession for the world- blood of Jesus speaks forgiveness

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

When Jesus hung on the cross, He was not suffering for His own sins because He had none. Instead, God placed upon Him the sin of the entire human race. Jesus became our substitute, bearing the judgment that rightfully belonged to us. In this sense, He fulfilled what the Old Testament scapegoat symbolized—the sin bearer who carried away the sins of the people- Leviticus 16:8-10.

As the substitute for humanity, Jesus entered fully into the consequences of man's fall. The demands of divine justice had to be satisfied. Sin carried a penalty, and God's righteousness required that the penalty be paid. Jesus willingly stood in our place and endured what redemption required so that humanity could be legally and eternally freed. So let us now consider the significance of what Jesus was doing in the heart of the earth after He gave up His spirit on the cross.

Isaiah 53:8-9

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

- The Hebrew word "Death" in verse 9, is in the plural "Deaths"
 - o Hebrews 2:9, "by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."
 - o He tasted death for us: physical, spiritual and eternal death
- Jesus 100% identified with your sinful condition and consequences
- Remember that Jesus became sin; where do sinners go when they die- hell
- Jesus went to hell so we would not have to, experiencing eternal death
- For three days and three nights Jesus was satisfying the penalty of sin in hell

Matthew 12:40

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Romans 8:11, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you."

When the claims of justice were satisfied, God the Father raised up Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romand 4:25, "*He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*"

John 17:4-5, “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

- **Please Read: Acts 2:24-28**
- At the resurrection, Jesus was first born again spiritually from spiritual death
- Then He was resurrected physically into a glorified body- Luke 24:36-43
- He becomes the template and the mold for our new birth
- **Please Read: Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 1:4-6** *Firstborn from dead*

Romans 8:29

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Therefore, “firstborn from the dead” means He was the first to be raised out of spiritual death and separation from God, making Him the “firstborn among many brethren”. This pattern opened the way for all believers to be spiritually born again.

Romans 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Death's ultimate defeat comes when it is once and for all eternity cast into the Lake of Fire. The enemy of sin and death has already been defeated by Jesus 2000 years ago, and its entire eradication will come in the not-so-distant future.

Revelation 20:14

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

- As important as the cross is, without the resurrection there is no salvation
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28** *Power of the Resurrection*
- With the resurrection and ascension of Jesus – He paid for our redemption
- **Please Read: Hebrews 9:23-28** *Once for all eternity*

Romans 8:34

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 Peter 3:21-22

And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

More Than Conquerors

- **Please Read: Romans 8:28-39** *Not just a conqueror*

A conqueror wins a battle. A person who is more than a conqueror shares in a victory that another has already won on their behalf. From the authority perspective, this means:

- Jesus already defeated the enemy; we enjoy the spoils of His Victory
- We enforce Christ's victory rather than trying to achieve it ourselves
- The enemy fears us as they do Jesus; since we are in Christ Jesus
- No power of darkness can separate us from God's love

John 10:27-30

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

A conqueror defeats the enemy; one who is more than a conqueror enjoys and administers the spoils of a victory already won. Because Jesus conquered sin, death, and Satan through His resurrection and exaltation, believers share in His triumph and exercise authority from a position of victory rather than striving for victory.

- **Please Read: Colossians 2:13-15** *Defeated and Displayed*
 - KJV, “And having spoiled principalities and powers...”
 - The enemy has been stripped naked of his authority over us
 - The only power the enemy gains over us is through deception
 - God allows what we allow; even if it’s through ignorance
 - Revelation knowledge (Eph. 1:17-19) is our greatest weapon
- That’s why the enemy fights this subject “Authority of the Believer” so much

Colossians 2:15 AMP, “[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].”

The word “spoiled” does not mean ruined in the modern sense. It carries the idea of stripping a defeated enemy of his weapons, armor, authority, and possessions after a battle. Think of a conquering king who defeats an enemy army and then removes their swords, banners, armor, and treasures. The defeated enemy is left powerless and exposed. That is exactly what Jesus did on our behalf to the enemy.

Luke 11:21-22, “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.”

Regarding “A Public Spectacle”, Paul uses the imagery of a Roman triumphal procession. When a Roman general won a great victory, he would parade through the city. Behind him would march the defeated kings and generals, stripped of their former glory and publicly displayed as conquered foes. Colossians 2:15 presents Jesus as the victorious King. The cross looked like Satan’s greatest victory, but it became his greatest defeat. What appeared to be Christ’s humiliation became Satan’s humiliation. What appeared to be Christ’s defeat became Satan’s defeat.

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 2:6-8** *Enemy regretted it big time!*
- This is where many believers miss the significance of the resurrection
 - Jesus did not merely survive death; He conquered it.
 - He did not merely resist Satan; He defeated him

He did not merely endure the cross; He triumphed through the cross and was raised to the highest place of authority.

The believer's authority is founded on Christ's finished victory, not an ongoing battle for victory. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus stripped Satan of his legal authority, disarmed the powers of darkness, and publicly exposed their defeat. Having conquered sin, death, and the devil, He was raised from the dead and seated at the Father's right hand in supreme authority. Therefore, believers are not called to defeat Satan but to enforce his defeat and administer Christ's victory through the Name of Jesus and the authority delegated to them. We do not fight for victory—we stand in the victory already won by our triumphant Lord.

- **Please Read: Philippians 2:5-11**

The Name above every name

Seated with Jesus

- **Please Read: Ephesians 1:17-2:10**

Seated together with Jesus

- The Body of Christ has the same authority as the Head – Col. 1:18
- Every member of the Church has the same access to the Name of Jesus

Being seated together with Jesus in the heavenly realms means that believers share in Christ's position of victory, authority, and relationship with the Father because of their union with Him. Jesus was raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God, the place of highest authority. Since believers are members of the Body of Christ, we are identified with Him in His exaltation and authority. The authority we exercise is not independent authority; it is delegated authority flowing from our union with the risen Christ, Jesus our Lord.

- We approach God as sons and daughters, not as spiritual beggars
- We do not fight for victory; we enforce the victory Jesus already won
- Satan is under Jesus' feet, which is the same saying our feet- the Church
- We exercise authority from a seat of victory, Jesus' victory won for us

Colossians 3:1-2

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

This is why Ephesians 1 and 2 are so foundational to the doctrine of the believer's authority: what God did in Christ through the resurrection and enthronement, He intends believers to understand as their position in Christ as well. At this very moment, we are seated with Jesus at God's right hand, right now!

Exercising Authority

Lesson 7- Faith as a Seed

Authority is not exercised silently—it is released through words. Jesus demonstrated that spiritual authority is activated when believers speak in faith, commanding circumstances, resisting the enemy, and declaring God’s truth. Just as God created the world by His words and Jesus spoke to storms, sickness, and demons with authority, believers are called to use their words as instruments of faith and dominion.

When our words agree with God’s Word, they become a powerful expression of the authority He has entrusted to us. Exercising authority through speech is not about positive thinking or human willpower; it is about confidently speaking what God has already said and expecting His power to work through our faith-filled declarations.

Incorruptible Seed

Before believers can effectively exercise authority through their words, they must first understand the power and nature of God’s Word. Scripture describes the Word of God as an “Incorruptible Seed”.

- **Please Read: 1 Peter 1:22-25** *Incorruptible Seed of God’s Word*
- Lk. 21:33, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

An incorruptible seed is a seed that cannot decay, lose its life, or be contaminated by the conditions around it. Unlike natural seeds that can perish, God’s Word contains His eternal life and remains unchanged by circumstances, opinions, or the passage of time. Every promise, command, and declaration from God carries within it the power to produce what it promises.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the child of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Words are containers, and God's Word contains life
- In Acts 7:38, it states that "Moses received living words to pass on to us"

John 6:63, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

- It was with words that God created the material universe
- Likewise, the words out of our mouth shape the world we live in

When God's creative Word is spoken from your heart in faith- all things are possible to those who believe! Our heavenly Father wants us to learn to imitate Him and release faith in every word we speak.

Hebrews 1:3 AMP, "Jesus is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power."

Words are containers, they transmit substance- life or death- it matters what we say! The kingdom of God works on a Word-Faith principle; the Word of God works when we work it. Words are the building blocks of the universe; they initiate God's activities in the earth, and are what frames our own world that we live each day. Mountains in our lives are moved through speaking faith filled words!

Hebrews 11:3 AMP

By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.

- As seeds, words are small but over time they grow into something big

1 Corinthians 15:37-38, "When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body."

God's Word that is conceived in our heart, then formed by the tongue, and spoken out of our own mouth, becomes a spiritual force releasing the ability of God within us. The spoken Word of God is creative power. The kingdom of God responds to faith filled words. God never did anything that He didn't say first. He said it, then He did it. The power to do it was in the spoken Word. One translation of the Bible (The concordant literal NT) puts Luke 1:37 this way, *"It will not be impossible with God to fulfill his every declaration."*

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

The Three Laws of Genesis:

- Genesis chapter 1- Every things produces after it's own kind & seed is in itself
- Genesis 8:22- Seed time and Harvest
- Genesis 9:7- The law of Increase and multiplication. 2 Cor.9:10- multiply seed

Life and Death

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

We are partakers of the fruit of our mouths all our lives whether we know it or not. We alone possess the power to choose the words we speak; as a result, our lives are either full of life or death. Jesus said in Mark 11:23 that, *"you can have what you say."* We are the ones who make the beds we lay in. I am a product today of the words I spoke yesterday. Let's purpose to speaks words that work for us.

Pr. 21:23, "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity."

- **Please Read: Proverbs 4:20-27** *Above all else guard your heart*
- We guard our heart by guarding what comes out of our mouths
- When we go around shooting our mouths off, people get hurt
- Did you know that human behavior is determined by our words? James 3:2
- 1 Th, 2:13, "...the word of God, which is at work in you who believe"

Psalms 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalms 141:3, “Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Some people say, “Well that just puts me in bondage, having to watch my words.” But just saying anything with an unbridled tongue results in the worse kind of bondage. Consider that God had to keep Zechariah’s mouth shut- Lk. 1:5-27, 57-66

Ephesians 4:29 AMP

Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God’s favor) to those who hear it.

Ephesians 5:4 AMP

Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God].

Matthew 12:36-37

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

- “Careless Word” (Greek)= Useless, barren, idle, and inactive words
- Words that are void of faith or worse contain doubt and unbelief
- Romans 14:23, “And everything that does not come from faith is sin.”

Some people think that this whole issue of right speaking and believing is a legalistic bondage. Yet I have watched their lives and seen the defeat their careless words have produced. What I mean by careless words is simply speaking words that are contrary to what the Bible says about the situation. Very often these people will speak what they feel or what they see in the natural. Some go as far as saying what the devil says about them, “I am a failure,” “I am just an old sinner saved by grace,” “I am nothing.” In an effort to be humble they shoot themselves in the foot and block the blessings of God from their lives.

Good Ground

When the Word is planted in a believer's heart through faith, it begins to produce God's life, character, and results. This is why faith comes from hearing God's Word and why our authority becomes effective when our words align with what God has spoken- changing the reality around us. We are releasing the life and power already contained within the incorruptible seed of God's Word.

- Jesus said in Luke 8:11, "The seed is the Word of God" – destination our heart
- **Please Read: Mark 4:13-20** *The Sowing is in the Saying*
- There is nothing wrong with the seed of God's Word- it is incorruptible
- This parable applies to saints and sinners alike- we are all spirit beings
- Our spirit is the production center and soil for word seeds- good or bad
- The condition of the soil determines if and what kind of harvest is returned
- Did you notice that out of 4 kinds of soil, only one produces- that's 25%
- The good soil stands for a "Noble and Good Heart"- character and maturity

Luke 8:15, "But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

- Greek words:
- *Kalo Noble*: a beautiful heart- honest, noble, virtuous and worthy heart
- *Agathos Good*: honorable in nature, good deeds and lifestyle of goodness

Luke 8:15 AMP, "But as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are [the people] who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in a just (noble, virtuous) and worthy heart, and steadily bring forth fruit with patience."

- Keeping our hearts free of offense and walking in love
- James 4:1-10- having the right motive

1 Peter 1:22, "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

Ephesians 5:25-26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word

Here is an interesting question- as Christians, can our spirit become contaminated?

2 Corinthians 7:1

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

- Context for this Scripture is 2 Cor. 6:14-18 about not being unequally yoked
- 1 Tim 5:22, "...do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure."
- 1 Cor 15:33, "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
- Being sanctified, set apart and consecrated to God keeps our heart noble

Another thing that a noble and good heart does is to hold fast to that Word and persevere until the harvest comes- does not quit, keep fighting the good fight of faith.

- Retain Greek: To hold fast, keep in memory, seize on and take of

Hebrews 10:23 KJV, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Acts 17:11, "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

- A student of the Word and diligent to examine the Scriptures- 2 Tim. 2:15

Lesson 8- The Dichotomy of Faith

Authority in the Kingdom of God is not exercised merely by knowing what the Bible says or someone else says about it; it is exercised when God's Word is believed in the heart and spoken in faith. Exercising our Authority in Jesus comes from understanding our position in Christ, the power invested in the Name of Jesus, and the necessity of developing these truths in our spirit until the revelation of it becomes a living reality.

When the Word of Faith fills the heart and the Spirit of Faith moves the believer to speak and act, divine authority is released. As we grow in both the Word of Faith and the Spirit of Faith, we learn to exercise the authority Jesus has entrusted to His Church with confidence and effectiveness.

The Word of His Grace

- Understand what Grace is according to the Bible is key to faith and authority
- Biblical Grace comes from God through His Word
- Greek Charis- The divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life

John 1:14, 17, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Begotten, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Definition of Grace: The power of God at work in us who believe; to do in and for us what we are unable to accomplish ourselves- power, provision and ability of God!

- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10** *The grace of God is His Power*
- 2 Corinthians chapter 11 explains the context of those "Weaknesses"

Ephesians 3:7, "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power."

1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."

Acts 6:8, “Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.”

Romans 1:16, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

- Since words are contains, God’s Word contains the Grace of God- His power

Acts 20:32, “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

- The Grace of God is released in our lives through our faith in God’s Word
- The Lord works in our lives by His Grace and through our faith
- I personalize and confess these three Scriptures continually over my life

Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Grace is not merely God’s attitude toward us; it is God’s power working in and through us. When believers exercise authority in the Name of Jesus, they are not drawing on their own strength but on the grace of God that operates through His mighty Word of power. As Paul declared, his ministry was the result of *“the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power.”* The same grace that empowered Paul’s ministry empowers believers today to walk in spiritual authority and Kingdom empowerment.

[The Word of Faith](#)

We just laid the foundation concerning the “Word of His Grace”. Now we will explore the “Dichotomy of Faith”- the “Word of Faith” and the “Spirit of Faith”. They are like two sides of a coin, representing the subject of faith, but from two complimentary sides.

Before we begin examining the principles of “The Word of Faith” in light of the Bible, let’s clarify a few things right now. “The Word of Faith” message is not some charismatic fad that is here today and gone tomorrow, nor is it a label for a Christian denomination or representative of some religious group. These Biblical principles were first mentioned in the Bible by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy and later referenced by the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 10.

- It was through the Word of Faith and the Spirit of Faith that we got saved
 - o It is also through these faith principles we receive the promises of God
- As a result, all Christians are then “Word of Faith” people
- The material here is covering the ABCs of faith
- Hebrews 6:1 calls “Faith in God” an elementary teaching about Christ
- When discussing Faith, you always want to start with the Word of Faith
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-14; Romans 10:1-17** *Word of Faith*

The spiritual law of “The Word of Faith” has two primary principles that govern its operation. The first one is the “Word in your Mouth” and the second is the “Word in your Heart.” The message of the “Word of Faith” is very simple. Put God’s Word in your mouth until it gets into your heart. In time, faith will produce the substance of the promise in your life- the things hoped for.

Step one is to get the Word of God in our mouths:

Romans 10:8, “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.”

- Bible meditation is the way that we get God’s Word in our mouth
- Find Scriptures on the authority of the believer and meditate on them
- That is, to speak God’s Word out of our mouths continually- Psalms 1:1-2

Psalms 119:148, “My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.”

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

The first stage of confessing God's Word is doing little more than causing faith to come. This is not a formula. This is a way of life. As we can see by the Scriptures above, Bible meditation should be practiced by the believer all the time- day and night. Romans 10:17 (KJV) says, *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Meditating on God's Word (Speaking it out loud) causes the spiritual force of faith to come into our ears, through our mind and into our spirit. Faith comes by hearing the Word, because the Word of God is full of faith.

- Promises of God in our mouth multiplies the power of God in our heart
- Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

God's Word abundantly in our mouth = Abundant in our Heart = Abundant back in mouths again. This cycle of confession creates a spiritual dynamo of faith that cycles through our being with greater intensity.

Hebrews 11:1 AMP

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

- **Please Read: Roman 10:12-17** *Faith comes by hearing the Word*
- Faith begins where the will of God is known- God's Word is God's will
- There is no faith in God without first hearing the Word of God

Acts 14:8-10

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

If Paul preached the gospel message to a crowd at Lystra, and a cripple man had faith to be healed, then the gospel message Paul preached must have included a message on healing. How else could he have faith for healing, if he had not heard the Word of God concerning healing. Faith for salvation, healing, prosperity, and everything else we receive from God, comes first by hearing the Word on that subject, second believing it in our heart, and thirdly acting and confessing it out of our mouth.

Step two is the Word of God in our hearts:

Romans 10:8, “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.”

Sometimes people think it’s going to happen just because they say it. Saying it is involved in planting it. The problem has been that people say a few things, they plant a few seeds, then go off and leave them. We must care for that seed, because it takes time for things to manifest. Isaiah 61:11, *“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow...”*

- When a seed comes into contact with the soil and water, the seed germinates
- The ground will not contradict the seed and produce something else
- “I was only joking”: our heart does not know the difference- will produce it
- “Well God knows what I meant”- maybe so, but our heart does not
- What we sow into our heart, we will come to believe and will produce
- **Please Read: Mark 4:26-29** *The growing seed*
- Notice there is a process: We Sow, God Grows, We Reap
- 1 Cor. 3:6, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.”

If we will just work the Word, the Word will work for us. If it is not working, then we are not working the Word according to directions. The man just sowed the seed and the soil took care of everything else. While we are asleep, this principle is working.

- The measure of harvest is in proportion to the seed sown- 2 Cor. 9:6-11
- Notice Mark 4:29, the person is responsible for reaping the harvest- work!
- New business/employment opportunities, take hold of it- harvest time
- No, the harvest is not automatic- the Holy Spirit will lead us where to reap
- Through faith and patience, we’ll reap if we don’t quit- Gal. 6:9- proper time!
- The Church has done a great job about sowing the seed, but not reaping

Proverbs 10:5, “He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.”

Concerning finances, let’s claim what we need out of this world system and tell the devil to keep his hands off our money; don’t forget to release the ministering angelic spirits to bring the money- that’s taking hold of and reaping the harvest.

The second part to the Law of Faith, called the “Spirit of Faith” according to the Bible. The “Spirit of Faith” begins where the “Word of Faith” has left off- one begins where the other ends. Once we have faith in our heart (thanks to meditating on God’s Word), it’s now time to release that faith into a positive confession that is consistent until the manifestation of the promise. The “Word of Faith” is a confession of God’s Word unto faith (to get faith into our spirit), but the “Spirit of Faith” is a confession that releases our faith from our spirit to move mountains.

2 Corinthians 4:13, “It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.”

- Word of Faith- speaking the Word into our heart and growing there
- Spirit of Faith- harvest of the Word and revelation to speak and change things
- **Please Read: Mark 11:12-14, 20-26; Luke 17:1-6** *Speak to the problem*
 - o Notice the requirements: must believe it in our heart first and forgive
 - o Faith from the heart, the Spirit of Faith speaks to the problem
 - o This is known as the prayer of authority- prayer that changes things
- Instead of asking God to deal with the mountain- authority takes care of it
- In Jesus’ earthly ministry He always operated in the Spirit of Faith
- Unlike us He did not need to meditate on the Word to get faith in His heart

Don’t expect to become highly developed in faith overnight. Walking by faith is a lifestyle and it takes time. There is a process of learning and applying the principles of God. Not only that, we are not always going to operate these principle correctly the first time either. We must be willing to make mistakes, and if it’s not working, then we need to honestly evaluate what we have been doing.

It takes time for the Word of Faith to transform into the Spirit of Faith. Consider Abraham, when it took 25 years (75 to 100) to become fully persuaded and receive the promise of Isaac being born.

Romans 4:20-22, “Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Rom 10:10 NKJV, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Lesson 9- Faith in the Name of Jesus

One of the greatest truths connected to the authority of the believer is the power and authority invested in the Name of Jesus. Scripture reveals that believers are not called to operate in their own strength, wisdom, or ability, but by faith in the Name that is above every name. Just as the early church saw miracles, deliverance, and victory through faith in Jesus' Name, believers today have been given the right and privilege to exercise that same authority.

When human reasoning replaces the supernatural, Christianity loses its power and becomes merely a religion rather than the life of God working in people. The Christian faith is rooted in a living, miracle-working God, and people are naturally drawn to the supernatural because they long to know Him. Neither education nor intellectual achievement can satisfy this deep hunger, which finds its true fulfillment only in Jesus Christ.

Faith in the Name

In Scripture, names are more than labels—they reveal a person's authority, character, purpose, and accomplishments. Understanding the Name of Jesus helps believers gain a deeper revelation of who He is and the authority and power represented in His Name for us to use today.

- Names are great because people were born or inherited it, like royalty
- Others obtain a great name due to achievements, conquests and victories
- Still others obtain a great name because it was just given to them
 - o Like when we took on the name "Christian" and "Child of God"

The Name, Jesus is great because He inherited a great Name; His Name is great because of His achievements; He is great because a great Name was bestowed upon Him.

Hebrews 1:3-4, "After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs."

When Jesus rose in victory over death, Satan, and the grave, believers shared in that triumph because they are united with Him. Jesus has given believers the unrestricted use of His Name, not like a good luck charm, but as a legal authority-power of attorney. As Christ's ambassadors, believers are called to boldly use His Name to represent Him and continue His ministry on the earth.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

- The goal is to get a solid revelation of the Name of Jesus in our spirit
 - o Eph. 1:19, "Know His incomparably great power for us who believe"
 - o We need to study up on the Scriptures concerning the Name of Jesus
 - o All things are possible when we get a revelation of this in our heart
- 1 Cor 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
- Jesus has put all things under our feet; for every member of His Body
- The heel or little toe has as much authority over the devil as the Head does
- We have no less authority than the 12 apostles, 72 disciples or early Church
- Satan may be the god of this world system, but he is no god over us!
- **Please Read: Philippians 2:5-11** *The Name above every name*

If one is planning to use the Name of Jesus in prayer, praise and power evangelism, one needs to know the power invested in that Name which God esteems above every other name.

- **Please Read: Acts 3:1-16** *Faith in the Name of Jesus*
- vs 6, "What I have I give you", what did you have Peter? The Name of Jesus!
- We're still in the church age, so we also have the same Name of Jesus to give
- Peter was quick to point out that it was not by their own power or godliness
- The secret is verse 16, "By Faith in the Name of Jesus" is what healed him
- Knowing the Name and having faith in that Name are two different things
- **Please Read: Acts 4:1-10, 17**
 - o The enemy trembles at the power in Jesus' Name
 - o Acts 5:40, "Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus"

Acts 4:30, "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

- **Please Read: Acts 8:4-13** *Signs and Wonders*
- Notice in verse 6 “They all paid close attention to what he said”
- Also in verse 12 that Philip “Preached the Name of Jesus Christ” in the Gospel
- Signs and wonders confirming the Word- point people to Jesus

Mark 16:20, “Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Today, we are not seeing as many miracles being performed as they had in the early church, because our faith in the Name is not at the same level. We need to fully understand the significance of these truths and fully develop them in our spirit.

Luke 10:17-19, “The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.’”

The Name of Jesus in:

Salvation

Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Water Baptism

Mt. 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name...”

Cast out Demons

Mark 16:17, “In my name they will drive out demons”

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Mark 16:17, “In my Name...they will speak in new tongues...”

Healing

Mark 16:18, “In my Name...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Prayer

John 16:23, “...my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Church Discipline

1 Corinthians 5:4, “When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus...”

- **Please Read: Matthew 16:13-19; 18:18-20** *The keys of the Kingdom*
- Jesus is taking about those two who are agreeing in His Name
- Jesus is there to see to it that what they have agreed upon comes to pass
- All the Power and all the Authority that is in Jesus is in His Name for us to use
- Mt. 6:10, “your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Jesus teaches that believers have authority on earth to enforce what has already been established in heaven. To bind means to forbid, restrain, or reject anything that is not permitted in heaven—such as death, sickness, bondage, and the works of the enemy. To loosen means to release and permit what is authorized in heaven—such as God’s will, healing, freedom, blessing, forgiveness, and salvation—bringing the realities of heaven into earthly situations.

- **Please Read: John 14:12-14** *Demanding in Jesus’ Name*
- **Four kinds of ASK:**
 - Ask- in the sense of requesting a favor or concession of someone-
Petition **Jn. 16:23**
 - Ask- *strictly as a demand for something due- to demand back or require- Jn. 14:12*
 - Ask- inquire in search for something hidden or to seek after- **Jn. 21:21**
 - Ask- to question, ascertain by inquiry; wanting information or to understand – **Jn. 13:24**
- This may surprise you, but this passage is not talking about prayer
 - The “Ask” in John 14:13-14 is demanding in Jesus’ Name
 - John 16:23 “Ask” is requesting the Father in prayer in Jesus’ Name
 - Ask things of God when the Bible tells you to, like wisdom James 1:5
 - Things pertaining redemption, already provided just claim it in Jesus
 - When dealing with the devil, command him to go in Jesus’ Name

The word “Ask” in John 14:13-14 in the Greek means, “Whatever you shall demand as your rights and privileges, that shall I do.” We are not demanding of God.

- Its already God’s will to heal and has already been provided- 1 Peter 2:24
- So, we rebuke sickness and disease and demand our healing- Luke 4:38-39
- **Please Read: Acts 19:11-20** *The seven sons of Sceva*
 - They had no faith and no right to use the Name of Jesus- for Christians

Enemy's Devices

The enemy will boast himself big and proud, but the reality is that Jesus completely paralyzed him 2000 years- the devil is a defeated foe. Yes, the devil has power over the unbelieving world, but not us. We have been delivered from his authority.

Colossians 1:13 AMP, “[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

Hebrews 2:14 Rotherham

“In order that through death Jesus might paralyze him, that held the dominion of death, that is the devil.”

The Bible tells us not to be ignorant of Satan's devices, and one of them is to put the blame on God for every bad thing that happens. Actually Satan would love for folks to believe that he does not exist. This would give him carte blanche to run rampant creating misery wherever he goes with anonymity- John 10:10.

2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV

Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- We have authority over the enemy motivating people- Ephesians 6:10-17
 - o Beware of ungodly “Friends”- 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Tim. 5:22
- Do not open the door to the enemy via unrepentant sin- Ephesians 4:27
 - o Be quick to forgive and quick to repent- 2 Cor. 7:8-13; 1 John 1:9
 - o Don't take the bait and accept offense- Pr. 17:9; 19:11
- Only through deception and lies can they enemy take advantage of us
 - o Use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God- Ephesians 6:17
 - o Stay in the realm of faith, speak the Word- It is written- Luke 4:4

Trials, Tests and Temptations come from the enemy in an attempt to derail our faith in God. In other words, to make life so difficult through persecutions and attacks that we would give up and quit.

- We are never a failure until we give up- do not quit, stay in faith

Hebrews 10:35-37

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

A Christian can have 10 miles of trials and not grow an inch unless they stand on God's Word during those trials, otherwise they just become another victim or statistic. What I am trying to say is that there is nothing virtuous in a trial, test or temptation since they come from the devil to kill us, steal from us and destroy our lives- they are enemies and should be resisted with the Word! Now despite what the devil meant for evil, certainly God can turn around for our good. Only if we walk by faith in God's Word, otherwise we will be ripped off, God does not get the glory when we get victimized.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Jesus has come and has set the record straight as to who is the source, author and giver of good and evil. Simple theology, "Good God" vs "Bad Devil"

John 10:10 AMP

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

Here is a great confession that we can speak out loud concerning the Name of Jesus, "He has authorized me to use His Name against all of hell, demons, sin, sickness and oppression. In the Name of Jesus, I am free, I am free today, right now. All His power and authority and might of all His conquests are invested in the Name of Jesus and that Name belongs to me. Therefore, I am more than a conqueror. So I take the Name! Jesus has given me the right to use His Name today!"

Maximizing Authority

Lesson 10- All Kinds of Prayers

Prayer is the believer's vital connection to God's power and authority, enabling us to enforce Christ's victory in every area of life. Through prayer, we align our hearts with God's will, receive His wisdom and direction, and exercise the authority Jesus has given us over the works of the enemy. Biblical prayer is how our authority in Jesus is released; partnering with God to see His Kingdom established on earth.

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Other translations render "All Kinds" of prayers as: "Every Kind", "All Manner" of prayers. A toolbox has many tools for different tasks- so it is with prayer. There are different types of prayers for different jobs. A hammer is great for driving nails, but not effective for sawing lumber.

Let's avoid vain religious traditions and stick with the Word as our manual for prayer. The church world has made the mistake of not differentiating between different kinds of praying. By lumping all prayer together into the same sack and shaking it all out together- limiting and confusing. As a result, for many, prayer is not working- using the wrong rules/laws or mixing them together.

In sports there are different kinds of rules that govern the play of each sport, so it is with the different kinds or forms of prayer in the Bible. Just as chaos would ensue if I tried to play Basketball with Hockey rules or Golf with Football rules, so it is with prayer. For our prayers to be effective we need to follow the principles of God's Word as it instructs us how to pray in relation to the different 'kinds' of prayers.

- Beware of praying for things beyond our current level of faith
- Our prayers cannot override another person's free will
- Avoid repetitious praying (Matthew 6:7)- God hears us the first time
- Prayer is powerful when rooted in the Word of God and 1 Corinthians 13:13

The Prayer of Petition

Probably the most used prayer of them all- the prayer of asking God for something. Whether we are praying for others or ourselves, like all prayer it must be in accordance with God's will which is God's Word- Bible based praying.

1 John 5:14-15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him."

- We should be asking for things the Bible explicitly tells us to ask for
- Ephesians 1:17, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
- James 1:5, "If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God..."
- Matthew 9:38, "Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers..."

John 16:23-24

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

- Asking for God to save people; He already has through Jesus 2000 year ago
 - o Instead ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers- Mt. 9:38
- Asking for what we already have in our glorious redemption is to ask amiss
- For example, to ask God for healing when Jesus has already healed us
- Asking for finances when all we need to do is sow in order to reap a harvest
- Asking for peace, when Jesus said He has already given it to us- John 14:27

The Prayer of Consecration

In the Garden of Gethsemane Christ prayed the prayer of submission, consecration, and dedication- Luke 22:42, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*" Jesus wanted to do what the Father had called Him to do. It was not a prayer of petition. It was not a prayer to get something or to change something. It was a prayer of consecration and submission.

It is noteworthy that this is the only prayer where "If it be thy will" should be used. For any other prayer based on God's Word, God's will has already been ascertained.

The Prayer of Praise and Worship

It has been said that “Praise and Worship” is the highest form of prayer. We are not asking for anything, just sitting at the Lord’s feet and adoring Him- precious time.

Acts 13:2, “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said...”

Acts 13:2, NKJV “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said...”

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 14:15-18** *Pray by our spirit and mind*
- Refers to prayer with our spirit/praise/worship in tongues and our mind
- **Please Read: Ephesians 5:18-20** *Get drunk in the Spirit*
- Joy is the note of victory- 2 Chronicles 20:21-25
- Delighting ourselves in the Lord pleases the Lord- Psalms 37:4

Hebrews 13:15, “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

United, Commitment & Agreement

United Prayer

This kind of prayer taps into the awesome resources of the corporate anointing. All through the early Church, they continually joined together in prayer with dramatic results. Unity is a force multiplier- Leviticus 26:8.

- **Please Read: Acts 4:23-33** *All in one accord in the Spirit*
- United prayer is everyone praying at once in a Holy Spirit
 - An orchestrated melody of prayer unto God
- No one is leading, not a prayer of agreement- everyone lifting their voices
- They all prayed at once and out loud- but were praying about the same thing
 - The Holy Spirit leading people to pray for different aspects of it
- They were all focused on a specific circumstance, but from different angles
- Prayer is the power plant of the church to get things done
 - Acts 1:14, “They all joined together constantly in prayer...”

1 Timothy 2:8

I want men and women everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

The Prayer of Commitment

Do you sometimes pray about a problem with seemingly no results? Unanswered prayers usually are due to us not praying in line with God's Word. Often there are times when we need to pray the prayer of commitment (casting our cares upon the Lord) instead of praying about the problem- deals with fear!

- **Please Read: Philippians 4:4-9** *Be anxious for nothing*
- Fear is the opposite of faith, this prayer removes the fear so we can pray
- 1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care/anxiety upon Him, for He cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7 AMP

"Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. [Ps 55:22.]

The Prayer of Agreement

Of the many prayer promises in the Bible, perhaps none is more significant than Matthew 18:19. To get the full impact of what Jesus is saying, let's look at the verses preceding and following it.

Matthew 18:18-20, "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

P.C. Nelson, a Greek scholar said the literal Greek rendering of Jesus' statement is, "If you shall ask anything in my name and I don't have it, I will make it for you."

Matthew 18:20 says, "*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*" We usually apply this Scripture to a Church service. Of course, it can refer to this, but what Jesus really was saying here is wherever these two people are who agree, He is right there with them to make their prayer good. Heaven will back us in what we do on earth. We have the authority to loose and to bind in Jesus name. Often times people are waiting on God, when God is waiting on us to use our authority on earth in Jesus' Name!

The Prayer of Intercession

Romans 8:26-27, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”

The Greek translation of the last phrase of this verse reads, “with groanings which cannot be uttered in articulate speech.” Therefore, this verse includes groanings and praying in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:14 in the amplified, “...*my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays...*”

Notice in Romans 8:26 that we don’t know what we should pray for. We can’t possibly know in our natural mind how to pray as we should because there are so many things known only to God, but “*the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*” The Holy Spirit will help us and will make intercession through us with groanings which cannot be uttered in articulate speech- birthing God’s plans and will on earth.

Isaiah 66:8, “Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.”

Galatians 4:19, “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...”

In other words, it can be a combination of tongues and groaning sounds- travail Romans 8:22. The prayer of intercession is praying for another person- not for ourselves. An intercessor takes the place of another person. This does not mean it is something the Holy Spirit does apart from you. That would make the Holy Spirit responsible for our prayer life, and He is not. We are responsible for our prayer life. Notice that this verse says that He “helps us” overcome our human limitations.

The Prayer of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

This is a prayer that we should all be quite familiar with praying, most likely every day. Sin separates us from God and causes our heart to condemn us. The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of his/her need for Jesus, but when a believer sins, his/her own re-created spirit makes it plain that we are out of fellowship with God. We are still children of God, it is just that sin breaks fellowship, and interrupts communication. With sin comes guilt, shame and condemnation; as a result, our faith is undermined. Our ability to function as Christians not to mention our prayer life is greatly hindered until we confess the sin and receive a cleansing in the blood of Jesus- 1 John 3:18-24.

The Prayer of Authority

Also known as the prayer of faith, this is a prayer that changes things. We are not talking to God or asking Him for anything. We are using the authority and power of Jesus' Name to speak to circumstances and mountains- commanding them to move.

- **Please Read: Luke 10:17-20; 17:1-6; Mark 11:22-25** *Authority in Jesus*

The MOUNTAIN HAS NO CHOICE! We are calling it the way we want it- Romans 4:17, "Calling those things that be not". The mountain of problem must obey. It has no other choice. Notice in the ministry of Jesus, that He talked to trees, to the wind, sea, dead people, and demons, and they all obeyed Him- Mark 4:35-39; Luke 5:24; Luke 6:10; Luke 17:12-14; John 5:8.

- You may say, "but that was Jesus"- well Jesus said in John 14:12
 - o "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing..."
- We are not asking God to do anything, we are speaking on His behalf
- As ambassadors of Christ- occupying till He comes- enforcing Satan's defeat
- Acts 10:38, destroying the works of the devil is always God's will- 1 John 3:8

John 14:13-14, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

The Greek definition for "ask" is actually rendered as "strictly a demand for something due." Are we demanding from Jesus? No! We are demanding the devil to cease and desist from his operations; in other words, to get his filthy hands off of God's property and out of our lives.

Lesson 11- Full of Faith and the Holy Spirit

Being full of faith and the Holy Spirit is essential to walking in the authority that Jesus Christ has given to every believer. Faith lays hold of God's promises and releases His power, while the Holy Spirit empowers, guides, and emboldens us to exercise that authority effectively in our daily lives. As we learn to mix God's Word with faith and continually yield to the Holy Spirit, we will grow in confidence, spiritual discernment, and victory over every work of the enemy.

- **Please Read: Acts 6:1-5; 11:19-24** *Full of Faith and the Holy Spirit*
- Acts 6:5, "They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit"

Acts 6:8, "Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace (Faith) and power (Holy Spirit), did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people."

By [Grace through Faith](#)

- To be full of faith is to be full of God's Word in our heart
- As we study and meditate on the Bible, the Word abides in us abundantly

Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom."

2 Timothy 2:15 AMP

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

There is a God-ward side and man-ward side to every spiritual transaction or encounter that we will ever have with God. God's side or responsibility is to supply His grace- Grace: God's power and ability in us to perform on our behalf, that which we are unable to do for ourselves. Man's side or responsibility is to respond to God's provision of Grace by releasing faith in God- Faith: Acting on what you believe in your heart regarding God's promises, and provisions of grace. Grace is God's gift to humanity, but it is through faith, that one receives the gift- God's grace gives, and our faith in God receives these gifts from His hand.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

- The two parts of this Scripture- By Grace and Through Faith- Rom. 3:27-28
- God provides the Grace (Power & Provision) and we release Faith
- The grace of God comes from the Word of God

Acts 20:32

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

- Enter in rest- Jesus said that His yoke is easy and burden light- Mt. 11:28-30
- Living and receiving from God by grace verses striving by exhaustive works
- **Please Read: Hebrews 3:12-4:11** *The Rest of God- Faith*
- Receiving from God is not automatic, requires our free will to choose
- Faith is the catalyst when mixed with the Word of His Grace = Power

Hebrews 4:2 NKJV

“But the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

It takes faith on our part to receive anything from God. Faith is not passive or dormant, even when we are waiting for the answer, we stand by faith in eager expectation; thanking God in advance for the answer- Faith pleases God- Heb. 11:6.

- Mt. 21:22, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”
- Faith always speaks in Present tense- I believe I have received it now
- Hope is future tense; it’s the goal and dream that faith adds substance to
- Faith works by love; without it our faith will not work- period!
- God has made receiving salvation so easy that a child can receive
 - o Religion wants to complicate and make it hard- Luke 11:52

John 6:28-29

“Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’”

We will not receive beyond what we say. If we say we can't, then we can't- we get nothing. But if we say we can, then we can. There is no faith without confession! Confession is classified as an action, or act of releasing, putting into force our faith- it's faith's way of expressing itself. Our faith will rise no higher than our confession of God's Word. Those that say they can, and those that say they can't are both right. Words are the most powerful thing in the universe. The words we speak will either put us over into victory or hold us in bondage and defeat.

Mental assent (Counterfeit to faith) can be simply defined as pre-mature faith in the form of head knowledge, accented by doubts in the mind. Contrast that with Bible faith of the heart that is fully persuaded- Romans 4:21. Just as every human being operates in natural human faith, we all mentally ascend to all kinds of historical information. However, there is a big difference between acquiescing to a bunch of information in our head and having revelation knowledge in our heart.

Holy Spirit Within

- Let's now talk about the dual work of the Holy Spirit
 - o The Spirit within the believer through the new birth
 - o The same Holy Spirit upon the believer in power via Spirit Baptism
- The New birth is the rebirth of the human spirit- John 3:3
- John 3:6, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."
- Right after Jesus' resurrection, He imparted the new birth for the first time

John 20:21-22

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

- **Please Read: 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19** *We are the temple of the Spirit*
- We are temple of the Holy Spirit; live and abide in us forever- John 14:16
- We have received an anointing, the Holy Spirit- 1 John 2:20, 27
- Received the mighty Parakletos:GR- "one called along side to help"- John 16:7
- Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

2 Corinthians 5:5, “Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

- Luke 17:20-21, Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God within us- Holy Spirit
- He is the living water, well of salvation Jesus talked about in John 4:10, 13-14
- He is the streams of living water flowing out from within us in John 7:37-39
- Need to become more conscious of God living inside of us, God inside minded

1 John 4:4, “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

Holy Spirit Upon

The Holy Spirit Upon is not a new concept; happened throughout the Old Testament. People who were anointed by God; the Holy Spirit came upon them to do a job. Like the Prophet, Priest and King – were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- Judges 14:5-6- Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson in power- tore a lion
- 1 Samuel 10:10- Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul in power- prophesied
- 1 Samuel 16:13- Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power- to be king
- We’re anointed with power-fulfill the Great Commission-Mt. 28:19; Mk.16:15
- **Please Read: Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:1-11** *Clothed with Power from on High*
- The context is Jesus talking about another baptism
- Hebrews 6:2 talks about the doctrine of baptisms- plural
 - o New Birth is a baptism into the Body of Christ- 1 Cor. 12:13
 - o Water baptism, our testimony to the world of Jesus- 1 Peter 3:21
 - o Baptism in the Holy Spirit- power to be a witness- Jn. 1:32-34; Acts 1:5-8
 - o Baptism unto martyrdom- Mark 10:35-40; Hebrews 11:35
- **Please Read: Acts 2:1-21** *The Day of Pentecost*
- The Church of the Lord Jesus revealed in power, wind, fire and a new tongue

Matthew 3:11, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Luke 11:13, “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Acts 2:38-39, “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”

- **Please Read: Acts 8:4-25; 19:1-7** *The Holy Spirit Baptism*
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit was ministered separately from the new birth
- **Please Read: 10:34-48; 11:15-17** *Received Immediately*
- Here they were born again and then filled with the Holy Spirit immediately

Five Kinds of Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:2, “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”

- Speaking with other tongues- the initial sign of being Baptized with the Spirit
- 1 Cor. 14:14, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

1) For edification

Our spirit needs to be built up and edified on a regular basis- like charging our battery. God’s Word is the bread and speaking with other tongues is likened unto drinking living water.

- A means of spiritual edification to build our spirit up – recharge like a battery
- To edify is to build something up, to strengthen, encourage and comfort

1 Corinthians 14:3-4, “But everyone who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

Jude 20, “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”

2) Worshipping God in Other Tongues

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 14:14-18**
- Speaking in tongues liberates our spirit to be able to truly express our heart
- Bible encourages us to pray, worship and give thanks with our mind and spirit

Acts 16:25, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

3) Ministry Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:10-11 *Ministry Tongues – to edify the Church*

To another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:28 KJV, “And God hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets, thirdly Teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of helps, governments, diversity of tongues.”

- NKJV- “Varieties of Tongues” | English Standard - “Various kinds of Tongues”
 - GR “Diversity”: denotes categories,
 - similar but distinct; like members of a family- related
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 14:26-28**

4) Intercessory Tongues

- Priesthood of the believer- 1 Peter 2:4-5; Rev. 8:3-4; Ezekiel 22:30
- **Please Read: Romans 8:18-28; Isaiah 66:8-9; Galatians 4:9**
 - GR: “With groanings that cannot be uttered in articulate speech”

The “New English Bible” translates it, “through our inarticulate groans the Spirit Himself is pleading for us.” The Phillips translation puts it, “agonizing longings which never find words.” The Spirit knows how to present the need with intercession.

5) Tongues of Men

- **Please Read: Acts 2:1-18**
- A sign when preaching the gospel, 3000 got saved as a result
- 1 Cor. 13:1, “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels...” a vocal miracle

Review:

- 1- Tongues for personal edification- the initial evidence of being filled with the Spirit
- 2- Worshipping God in other Tongues- Spiritual songs from our spirit by the Holy Spirit
- 3- Ministry Tongues and interpretation of Tongues- manifestation of the Spirit through us
- 4- Intercession in Tongues- travail by the Holy Spirit with groanings
- 5- Tongues as a sign to unbelievers- speaking in a human language unknown to the speaker

Lesson 12- Manifestations of the Spirit

The authority of the believer is not only a position we hold in Christ, but also a power that is demonstrated through the Holy Spirit working in and through us. In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Paul teaches that the manifestations of the Spirit are given to believers for the profit and benefit of others, revealing God's power in practical and supernatural ways. These manifestations are divine empowerments that enable believers to minister effectively, overcome the works of darkness, and advance the Kingdom of God. As we study the Manifestations of the Spirit, we will discover how they complement the believer's authority and serve as tools through which Christ Jesus continues His ministry through us on the earth today.

1 Corinthians 12:1 AMP, "NOW ABOUT the spiritual gifts (the special endowments of supernatural energy), brethren, I do not want you to be misinformed."

If the Spirit of God through Paul, said He did not want the Church at Corinth to be misinformed concerning spiritual gifts, it goes without saying that He does not want the Church today to be misinformed either. Sadly, many Christians know nothing at all about them- not even that such gifts exist. They think these gifts have been done away with. Paul may have addressed this subject with the Church at Corinth, but the message is for the Church Universal, and for the entire Church Age. As the Body of Christ, we are to eagerly desire that the gifts of the Spirit be made manifest among us and then leave it up to the Holy Spirit to use those whom He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- Seven out of the Nine manifestations of the Spirit operated in the OT
 - o Excluding tongues & interpretation of tongues- NT operation
- Twice Paul admonishes us to eagerly desire spiritual gifts- 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1
- To be clear these are nine ways the Holy Spirit manifests as He wills
 - o We are just to be open and available for Him to use us as He wills

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5, "For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction."

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11** *Nine Manifestations of the Spirit*
- For the purpose of our study, we are going to group them into 3 categories:
 - **Revelation Manifestations that “Reveal” something:**
 - *Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits*
 - **Power Manifestations that “Do” something:**
 - *Working of Miracles, Gifts of Healings, Special Faith*
 - **Utterance Manifestations that “Say” something:**
 - *Prophecy, Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues*
- Remember to always judge all spiritual gifts in light of the Scripture
 - 1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; 1 John 4:1

Knowledge, Wisdom, Discerning

Everything within the realm of knowledge- facts, events, purpose, motive, origin, destiny; human, divine, or satanic; natural or supernatural; past, present, or future- comes within the focal range of the Word of Wisdom (Greatest), the Word of Knowledge (2nd greatest) and the gift of Discerning of Spirits (3rd greatest of the revelation gifts). They include in their comprehensive scope all that God knows. Anything that God knows can be made known to us as the Spirit wills through the operation of one or more of these three gifts! Fortunately for us, He does not reveal everything He knows to us. He gives us just a word, or a part of what He knows.

Word of Knowledge

The supernatural manifestation of a word of knowledge given by the Holy Spirit from God has nothing to do with academics, someone’s IQ, experience or studying the Bible a lot. This is divine revelation of things not known to the individual concerning past and present things.

- **Please Read: Acts 9:10-19** *Divine Networking*
 - The Lord spoke to both Saul (Paul) and Ananias about what to do
- **Please Read: Acts 10:1-6; 17-20** *Divine Appointments*
 - The Lord spoke to Cornelious and Peter to connect supernaturally
- **Please Read: John 4:15-19; Mark 2:5-8** *Inward Revelation by the Spirit*
 - Manifested through an inward revelation in Jesus’ spirit
- **OT Examples**
 - 1 Kings 19:4, 14, 18- Elijah and the 7000 who did not bow to Baal
 - 2 Kings 5:25-26- Elisha and Gehazi
 - 2 Kings 6:8-12- Elisha warned the King of Israel about an ambush
- Word of knowledge is particularly helpful to pastors to minister to the flock

The Word of Knowledge can be manifested in several different ways. It may come through tongues and interpretation, through the gift of prophecy, or an angel may come to deliver a Word of Knowledge. God has many ways of doing things. Often these gifts operate together- we just separate them in order to define them. The Word of Knowledge reveals facts concerning present and past events. The Word of Knowledge can also be used to reveal sickness and demon oppression.

Word of Wisdom

The Word of Wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God. The word of wisdom must not be confused with natural wisdom that an individual acquires by experience. Nor is it the gift of wisdom that a believer can operate in continually as they will.

- God does not reveal everything He knows; just a small part, a word
- A lawyer does not tell you everything he/she knows- just what you need
 - o A Word of knowledge deals with past and present things
 - o A Word of wisdom always deals with future events- has not happened
- Revelation chapter 2 & 3- combine a Word of Knowledge & Word of Wisdom
 - o Jesus revealed present condition of churches and future events
- Old Testament Prophets foretelling Israel's future and coming of the Messiah
- Agabus was a New Testament Prophet- Acts 11:28-30; 21:10-11
 - o A Word of Wisdom revealed future events for the world and for Paul
- Paul was warned and reassured on a journey- Acts 27:10, 23-25; 27:30-34

Discerning of Spirits

The Discerning of Spirits gives us insight into the spirit world. It actually has a more limited range than the other revelation gifts; limited to a single class- spirits.

- To "discern" means to "see," so a person is seeing into the realm of spirits
- Moses had discerned, or saw the form of God- Exodus 33:18-23
- Elisha surrounded by angels in 2 Kings 6:15-17
- Remember an angel appeared to Zechariah, Mary and Shepherds- Lk.1:26
- Paul knew an evil spirit was operating through a slave girl- Acts 16:16-18
- Some people say, "Well, I have the gift of discernment." No such gift!
- Discerning of Spirits is not mind reading or power to discern faults in others
- It is knowing and seeing spirits in the spirit realm by the Holy Spirit

All the power of God is manifested through one of these three manifestations of the Holy Spirit that do something, move or change things. 1 Corinthians 4:20, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

Working of Miracles

What does the word "Miracle" mean? Well, from a secular definition it means anything that can be classified as amazing, extra ordinary, or some phenomena. It is quite evident that business marketing departments have capitalized on the term "miracle" and have come up with all kinds of buzz words- miracle drugs, miracle cleaners, and miracle whip.

- 1 Cor. 12:10 (KJV)- To another the working of miracles... Ro. 15:18-19
- A miracle is a specific classification of events in the Bible- 2 Cor.12:12
- Here is a Biblical Definition:

A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God.

In other words, the Greek could read, "The working of impelling, staggering wonders or astonishments, or the out-working of explosions of almighty-ness." In his book, Questions & Answers on Spiritual Gifts, Howard Carter said, "...the working of miracles is a very important manifestation of the Spirit. It is the mighty power of God flowing through a person."

If a person had a broken arm and was instantly healed through prayer, that would not be a miracle since it is a restoration or healing of damaged or existing tissue and/or bone. However, if a person was born with no legs and through prayer brand new legs instantly grew out from the stubs, that's working of miracles, not healing.

- Leading up to the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt- many miracles Exodus 7:8-12
- How about the parting of the Red Sea or Jordan River- Ex. 14; 2 Kings 2:9-14
- Jesus turning the water into wine & multiply fish/bread- John 2:1-11; 6:5-13
- **Please Read: Hebrews 2:1-4**

Gifts of Healings

You can receive healing for yourself through faith in God's Word, or from someone laying hands on you- Mark 16:18. Gifts of Healings is a specific manifestation of the Holy Spirit. All the healing is done by God, of course, but the difference is in the channel He uses to accomplish the healing.

- God provides healing through different methods- just wants us healed
- The prayer of faith, laying on of hands, anointing with oil- James 5:13-16
- Special healings: Peter's shadow, cloths taken from Paul- Acts 5:15; 19:11
- Acts 10:38- healing is a form of spiritual warfare- 1 John 3:8
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31** *Healing Ministries and Anointings*

Special Faith

It is a manifestation of the Spirit to believers so they might receive a miracle. The Working of Miracles is a manifestation of the Spirit given to believers so they might work a miracle. One gift receives, and the other gift does something.

Weymouth's translations puts it in 1 Corinthians 12:9 as *"... to a third man, by means of the same Spirit, special faith."*

- Special faith enables us to believe for the impossible- way beyond our faith
- There are different kinds of faith as there is different kinds of prayers
 - o Romans 10:17- Faith that comes by hearing the Word of God
 - o Romans 12:2- The measure of faith we receive at the new birth
 - o Galatians 5:22- Faith as a fruit that grows and increases over time
 - o 1 Corinthians 12:9- Special Faith to believe beyond our faith level
- Special Faith for Supernatural Blessings- patriarchs spoke over their children
- Special Faith for Protection- Daniel received deliverance from lions' den
- Special Faith Sustenance- Elijah & ravens; widow woman at Zarephath

Spiritual gifts often work together. In the case of raising the dead, three gifts operate together: Gift of Faith (call person back), Working of Miracles & Gifts of Healings (recreating and restoring the body). Wigglesworth continued to pray. "I got as far as I could with my own faith, and then God got a hold of me. Oh, it was such a laying hold that I could believe for anything. The faith of the Lord Jesus laid hold of me and a solid peace came into my heart." The man returned to life!

According to 1 Corinthians 14:5, tongues with interpretation is equivalent to Prophecy. Prophecy is supernatural utterance in a known tongue. Divers' kinds of Tongues is supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue. Interpretation of Tongues is a supernatural showing forth of that which has been said in tongues. The Hebrew word that is translated "to prophesy" means "to flow forth." It carries the thought "to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth, spring forth."

Prophecy

The simple gift of prophecy should not be confused with the office of a prophet. 1 Corinthians 14:3, says, *"But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."*

- In the simple gift of prophecy there is no revelation gifts in operation
- Office of a prophet, we find revelation gifts coming forth even by prophecy
- In the Old Testament, prophecy is essentially foretelling future events
- In the New Testament it shifts strongly to forth telling
 - o In Acts 13:1 there were prophets and teachers- Acts 15:31

Forth Telling: is to utter forth, declare, a thing which can only be known by divine revelation; declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people. Prophets often have a teaching gift, providing a greater depth of insight and understanding.

Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

The manifestation of the Spirit of God which gives the Spirit filled believer the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Not to be confused with the devotional gift of speaking in other tongues for personal edification; which is the initial sign of being Baptized with the Holy Spirit- Acts 2:4.

I like to call it "Ministry" tongues, like prophecy, directed to believers. The ministry manifestation of Tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10, is meant to be interpreted in a known tongue for yourself and others to be edified- gift is exercised as the Spirit wills. So, the Interpretation of Tongues is not translation. There can be a long message in tongues and a short interpretation and vice versa. Interpretation is simply showing forth supernaturally by the Spirit of God the meaning of what was said in tongues. **1 Corinthians 14:13-15** – interpret our own prayer in tongues.

Submission and Authority

Lesson 13- Biblical Submission

Before a believer can effectively exercise spiritual authority, he or she must first learn the principle of submission to God's authority. That includes God Himself and the chain of command He has established in the Church. True authority flows from a life of obedience, humility, and alignment with God's will, not from personal strength, position or ambition. Just as Jesus demonstrated perfect submission to the Father while exercising great authority, believers are called to follow His example. In this lesson, we will discover how submission to God's authority becomes the foundation for walking confidently and victoriously in the authority He has entrusted to us. Serving others as Jesus demonstrated for us to follow.

Let's first look at what submission is not:

- Submission is not agreement; anyone can go along when agreed to do so
 - o Amos 3:3 NKJV, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"
- We submit to Biblical authority that is in harmony with God's Word
 - o May not be the way we'd like to do it, but are willingly to submit
 - o Not good enough to just be obedient- 2 Corinthians 8:12
 - o Choose to make that attitude adjustment and get willing in a hurry
- **Please Read: Isaiah 1:19-20** *Being willing and obedient*

- In our society today, submission has become an offensive word
- People think of being taken advantage of, victimhood and oppression
- God always has our back- Romans 12:19- remember Herod Acts 12:23
- If Saul who became Paul had not repented- not good for him- Acts 26:9-19
- Partial obedience is still disobedience; as the Lord what has for us to do
- When struggling to obey God, ask for grace and help- Hebrews 4:16
- Speaking of king Saul who caved into peer pressure and compromised

1 Samuel 15:23 NKJV, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

Jesus our Example

Jesus never operated independently of the Father. He continually demonstrated that true authority flows from submission to the Father's will.

John 5:19, "Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'"

John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

- The greatest example is found in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Jesus knew the suffering that awaited Him; His humanity recoiled at the cross
- **Please Read: Luke 22:39-46** *"...yet not my will, but yours be done"*

At that moment Jesus did not exercise His authority to escape the cross. Instead, He submitted Himself completely to the Father's plan. Because of that obedience, Satan was defeated, redemption was purchased, and Jesus was raised and seated at the Father's right hand; became the source of eternal life- Hebrews 5:7-10.

- **Please Read: Philippians 2:5-11** *The Name above every name*
- Jesus modeled a servant's heart in actions and in truth
- **Please Read: Mark 10:35-45; Luke 14:7-11** *Self-promotion does not end well*

Christ and the Church

God established a powerful picture of submission and authority within marriage to help believers understand spiritual authority. In Ephesians 5:22, the wife is instructed to submit to her husband as unto the Lord, while the husband is commanded to love his wife sacrificially as Christ loved the Church. This relationship is not about domination or control, but about divine order, mutual honor, and loving leadership operating under God's authority.

- **Please Read: Ephesians 5:21-33** *Marriage Illustration*
- Marriage covenant is akin to our covenant relationship with God
- Harmony blessing and peace comes when we follow God's order of authority
- We've seen mixed results in relationships; does not change God's plan for us
- As a husband/wife are sanctified/consecrated to each other- we are to Jesus

James 4:6-7, “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- The ultimate model is found in the relationship between Christ and Church
- The Church submits to Christ’s lordship, direction, and authority
- Jesus lovingly nurtures, protects, and faithfully provides for His people
- It’s easy for a wife to submit to a husband who loves her like Jesus does us
- It’s easy for a man to love his wife when she respects and honors him

Submission and Authority are not opposing principles; they are inseparable partners in God’s kingdom. The believer who is fully submitted to Jesus can confidently resist the enemy, enforce God’s will, and walk in spiritual victory because true authority always flows from being under authority.

- **Please Read: Colossians 3:17-21; Ephesians 6:1-4** *Learn it first at home*
- It will go well with children in life if they learn Biblical submission/authority
- We need the Beauty of Humility and meekness is not weakness
- 2 Cor 10:1, “By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you...”
 - o Gr “Meekness” does not retaliate- humility and mildness- Mt. 11:28-30
 - o Gr “Gentleness” be reasonable, not difficult- mercy/kindness/empathy
- Philippians 4:5, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

2 Corinthians 13:10, “This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority — the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.”

In the kingdom of God, humility and meekness are often misunderstood. Many people equate meekness with passivity, timidity, or weakness. However, biblical meekness is not the absence of strength; it is strength that is submitted to God’s control. Meekness in the Greek = “Power under control; submitted to authority.”

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.

One of the most important truths in the believer's exercise of spiritual authority is that authority must always operate through the motivation of God's love. Authority without love becomes harsh, self-centered, and potentially abusive. But authority exercised through agape, the unconditional and sacrificial love of God, reflects the very nature and character of Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Agape Love of God moderates authority to exercise power as God does
- The love of God that is shed abroad in our heart (Romans 5:5):
 - o Is Self-Controlled, Holy, Upright and Disciplined- Titus 1:8
 - o Wrongs no one, Corrupts no one and exploits no one- 2 Cor. 7:2
 - o Has a Pure Heart, a good Conscience, and a Sincere Faith- 1 Tim. 1:5

Galatians 5:6 AMP, "For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love."

Hebrews 13:18, "Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way."

- Natural human love, tainted by the sinful nature is selfish at its core
 - o Can turn to hatred, bitterness and murder when betrayed
- We are born again with the Agape, love of God as our spiritual nature
 - o The fruit of our re-created spirit is illustrated in Galatians 5:22-23
- **Please Read: 1 John 4:7-21; John 13:34** *God's Love our new nature*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP *vs 1-3: Without love; what's the point?*

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

There are only two commands we are commanded to follow in the New Testament. So much simpler than the hundreds of laws and regulations of the Old Testament.

- **Please Read: 1 John 3:21-24** *New Covenant Commands*
- #1- To believe on His Son the Lord Jesus Christ
- #2- To love one another as He commanded us

1 John 5:1-3

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

God's commands are not burdensome if we put them into practice by God's grace and through our faith- Deuteronomy 30:11-15, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." via the Word of Faith!

Avoid a Judgmental/Critical Attitude

- A quick way to get in trouble with the Lord is to judge and criticize Christians
- **Please Read: James 4:11-12** *Ever part of the Body is affected- even Jesus*
- Matthew 7:1, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."

Romans 14:4, 10, "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

- **Please Read: Romans 12:9-21** *Love takes the higher road*
- God's love does not retaliate or seek revenge; overcomes evil with good
- Love celebrates praise reports and prays for those who struggle
- Ro. 13:10, "Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law."
- Servants of God are not argumentative, combative or confrontational
- The Bible tells us to avoid subject areas that are hotly contested- Titus 3:9-11
- Do everything without complaining or arguing- Philippians 2:14-16
- Avoid petty divisions with carnal people- 1 Corinthians 1:10-16; 3:1-5
- **Please Read: Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 2:24** *Unity is Key*

Be on guard against Pride and Selfish Ambition

- **Please Read: Isaiah 14:12-15** *The original sin*
- Lucifer was not content with his position- wanted more- destroyed him
- Selfishness is the essence of sin – they are the most miserable beings
 - o Those who are self-seeking and reject the truth- Romans 2:8
- Beware of selfish ambition- James 3:13-18
- James 4:1-5- Selfishness and wrong motives- like weeds choke the Word out

Philippians 2:3-4, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Hebrews 3:12-13

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Self-deception occurs when we attempt to live by faith, but dismisses the necessity to simultaneously walk in love, because faith works by love- Galatians 5:6

- The deceitfulness of sin is that it subtly hardens the heart over time
- Lose our sensitivity to the things of God when we walk in the flesh- Gal.5:13-26
- After that, something worse the conscience becomes seared- 1 Timothy 4:2

1 Timothy 1:19, “Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.”

- On a happy note, there are those who place others above themselves
- Looking after the interests of others above themselves- servant warriors

Philippians 2:19-21, “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 4:12-13, “Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

Lesson 14- Plans, Purposes & Pursuits

As believers who have been entrusted with God-given authority, we must also understand the importance of aligning our lives with His plans, purposes, and pursuits. Authority is most effective when it is exercised in harmony with the will of God rather than according to our own desires and ambitions. Throughout Scripture, we see that God reveals His plans, invites us into His purposes, and directs our pursuits so that we can fulfill His calling on our lives. In this lesson, we will explore how discerning and following God's will positions us to walk confidently in the authority He has given us and to accomplish His kingdom objectives on the earth.

- The Plan is what we are doing (the strategy or blueprint)
- The Purpose is why we are doing it (the core motivation)
- The Pursuit is the method (how we execute it)

God's Plan

Whether it is our plan, the world's plan or other Christian's plan; what matters is finding God's plan through prayer for our life and ministry.

- **Please Read: Jeremiah 29:11-14** *God's Plans are the best plans*
- Knowing God's plan is not automatic- ask, seek and knock- Matthew 7:7-8
- Matthew 5:6- those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled
- So often we come up with our own plans and ask God to bless it
 - o He will as much as He can; not His perfect will- Romans 12:2
 - o Our goal is to follow the "Good, acceptable and perfect will of God"
 - o AMP "the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]"
- God's plan and season is different for each of His children to follow
 - o We like sheep tend to go our own way and do our own thing- Isa. 53:6
- Psalms 23 1-2, speaks of the good seasons of life the Lord leads us through
 - o Notice "Pastures" is in the plural- life is full of different assignments

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters."

- The will of God is ascertained by the "Logos" written word of God
- And the "Rhema", spoken Word of God- the application of His will for us

- Christian life seems to follow one assignment after another with the Lord
- God's plan for our lives is different; do not compare with others- 2 Cor. 10:12
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27** *Run your race to win!*

Acts 20:24, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

There is no such thing as blind faith, faith always sees, just not everything at once—just what is needed. So then, faith begins where the will of God is known! The Lord has shown me, "Prayer it out first and then act out what you get through prayer." Prayer in other tongues is particularly helpful, as the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness "Finite Mind". It is from our spirit that He illuminates and leads us, and in turn enlightens our mind or understanding- Ephesians 1:17-19

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
- It's human nature to want to add traditions- Mark 7:1-13; Colossians 2:8
- A big pet peeve of mine is doing something in vain or for nothing
- Time is short, so make the most of every opportunity- Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5
- Eph. 5:17, "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Psalms 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

But "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

God's Purpose

- Phil. 2:21, "For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."
- Our life's pursuits should be about seeking first the Kingdom of God- Mt. 6:33
- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-7** *Not getting involved in worldly affairs*

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Our purpose is defined by our motives, and the reasons why we follow God's plan for our lives. Are we living from an eternal perspective, investing our lives into others and God's Kingdom- knowing that the results will echo on into eternity.

- **Please Read: Hebrews 12:1-4** *For the joy set before us*
- **Please Read: Luke 9:23-27** *Pick up our cross daily and follow Jesus*
- Mt. 10:39, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
- Let our agenda be God's agenda, for God looks at the heart- 1 Samuel 16:7

Proverbs 16:2 AMP, "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits (the thoughts and intents of the heart)."

God's Pursuits

How we go about pursuing God's plan and purpose is important. Missing God's timing will get us into trouble- going too early or too late. So how are we to pursue and follow-after the Lord- with all our heart in pure devotion. Let's not be like Martha who was distracted and worried and missed the most important thing in life, Jesus- Lk. 10:40-42. Even certain legitimate things may not be God's plan for us.

- **Please Read: Matthew 22:34-40** *Love the Lord first and foremost*
- Mark 4:19- Weeds of this life: worries, materialism, desires for other things
 - o They come to choke the Word and will of God from our lives- beware
- Stay focused, complete the mission, our gaze fixed on Jesus- Luke 9:51
- James 4:8, "Come near to God and he will come near to you..."
 - o If God ever seems distant, who moved?
- Either we jumped out ahead of God or God moved on and we stayed behind

Hebrews 12:2, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

When we talk about how we pursue God's plan (His Vision) and purpose (His Love), our pursuits speak of the methods, and actions used to carry out His vision. Ultimately, "Pursuits" demands that we do God's work, God's way. We cannot use fleshly shortcuts or worldly mechanisms to accomplish a spiritual task.

- New Covenant methods of worshiping and serving God- John 4:21-24

For Example, King David in 2 Samuel 6:1-15: To illustrate wrong pursuits, king David's attempt to move the Ark of the Covenant. David had the right plan (bringing the Ark to Jerusalem) and a pure purpose (to honor God). However, his pursuit was completely wrong—he built a new cart to haul it like the Philistines did, instead of having the priests carry it on their shoulders as God commanded. This shortcut resulted in tragedy. God is not going to bend to our will and way of thinking.

Here is another pitfall we can fall into today: Substituting “Gold” (God's way of doing things) for “Brass” our own ideas, we are missing out on God's highest and best for our lives and ministries- 1 Kings 14:25–28. Instead of trying to bring God to our level, let's go to His level of doing things- Psalms 33:11; Isaiah 55:9.

Zechariah 4:6, “So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.’”

Let the Lord promote you

I firmly believe God is more interested in who we are becoming than the position we hold. If authority is given before character is developed, pride, independence, and poor decisions can follow. Submission and faithfulness prepare us to handle greater responsibility. Faithful in little = faithful in much Luke 16:10; 14:11

1 Timothy 3:6-7, “He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.”

- Premature promotion in the natural or spiritual is a recipe for disaster
- God's preparation time for our individual lives is never wasted time
- James 4:10, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”
- Consider Moses, he did not start his full-time ministry until 80 years of age
- 2 Tim. 2:13, “If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”
- Even when we mess up, God's call is still there- don't quit- Romans 11:29

Psalms 75:6-7 NKJV, “For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another.”

1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

Be Led by the Spirit

Through the new birth, the Holy Spirit dwells within our spirit according to 1 Cor.3:16-17; 6:19. He dwells within and remains within the born-again Christian forever- John 14:16-17. Therefore, God primarily speaks and leads us through the Holy Spirit within us. Proverbs 20:27 (KJV) “The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.”

- **Please Read Romans 8:14-17** *Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit*

Rom 8:16 AMP, “The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit...”

Rom 8:16 Wey “The Spirit Himself bears witness, along with our own spirits...”

Rom 8:16 NKJV, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...”

Rom 8:16 NLT, “For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm...”

The Greek word *sumbibazo* for “Bears Witness with” means: to cause to coalesce, to join together, put together, coming to a single conclusion

The primary way the Holy Spirit leads us through the decision-making affairs of life is by the inward witness. He’s always faithful to agree with or check those things that are before us in our spirit. An inward witness or prompting is not a language; it’s a confirmation of peace in our belly- the “Belly” is the core- the seat of our spirit.

- John 7:38 KJV- “...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”
- The inward witness is a knowing, a strong intuition, perception, revelation
- It grows with spiritual maturity and use- increased sensitivity and awareness
- The Spirit will guide us through the unknowns of life like a candle in darkness

Pr. 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Getting God’s Timing Right

Jesus Himself only did what He saw the Father doing. On earth, if Jesus depended upon the Father’s direction and Spirit’s leading, how much more should we?

- Jesus did not just jump head long into danger- John 11:49-57
 - o He spent a lot of time in prayer with the Father to get His will
 - o Luke 6:12-16; 9:28; 11:1; Matthew 14:22-24

- Jesus waited for the right timing to go to the Jewish feast- John 7:1-14
- Jesus waited before going to see Lazarus 11:1-16
- Jesus prepares for the Passover before His sufferings- Matthew 26:18-19
- Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit in all the affairs of life and ministry

The Holy Spirit has the “What, When, Where, How and Why” down perfectly. We cannot underestimate how important the timing is in God’s plan. Consider Jesus’ instructions to wait in Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost- Acts 1:4-5.

- **Please Read: Acts 13:1-4** *Ministered to the Lord and Fasted*
- Notice as they were worshipping the Lord and fasting- the Holy Spirit spoke
- Notice verse 4, “The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit...”
- Some are “Sent” and some just “went”- let’s be the sent ones
- Great Example in the Old Testament of “Sent” vs “Went”: 2 Samuel 18:19-32

Spiritual truths do not grow old, so if something is God’s will today, it will still be His will tomorrow; therefore, when a decision is not time-sensitive, test the prompting by comparing it with Scripture, seeking godly counsel, and allowing time to confirm it. If God’s Word already addresses the matter, then His will is already determined.

Divine Appointments

- God is all about divine appoints- being at the right place at the right time
- Three of my favorite examples of God networking people together:
 - o Saul (Paul) with Ananias Acts 9:10-19
 - o Peter and Cornelius Acts 10:1-22
 - o Barnabus and Saul (Paul) Acts 9:27; 11:22-30

Follow your heart, not your understanding, following your heart, not your reasoning, follow your heart, listen to your spirit, follow your heart for that’s where the Holy Spirit will lead us. The greatest obstacle to living a Spirit led life is our intellect- “Well that does not make sense” when the Spirit of God asks you to go to the corner of Elm and 45th street at 4:00pm- Proverbs 3:5-6.

Psalms 32:8-9, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.”

Lesson 15- Called and Anointed

A believer's effectiveness is found in faithfully walking in the calling God has given, rather than striving for a position He has not assigned. God's anointing always accompanies His calling, supplying the grace, power, and authority needed to fulfill the assignment He has ordained. When we remain within our God-given sphere of ministry, we can operate with confidence knowing His empowerment rests upon us. Stepping into an office or ministry for which we have not been called is dangerous. Leading to frustration and unnecessary struggles, but true fruitfulness comes from recognizing our calling, embracing it wholeheartedly, and serving where God has placed us and has anointed us to serve.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Stay in your Calling

- Knowing our place in the Body of Christ and staying in it is crucial for success
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31** *In the Church God has appointed*
- Just as God has determined the time and place where we live- Act 17:26
- Jesus as the Head determines what function we will perform in His Body
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-15** *Lord assigned to each his task*
- The Judgment seat of Christ is about our faithfulness to what He called us to
 - o Since grace and anointing comes from God, we get no credit for that
 - o Our faithfulness, obedience and labor in the Lord is rewarded

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Matthew 25:23, "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

- **Please Read: 2 Peter 1:1-12** *Make your calling and election sure*
- Discover your place and God given call and run your own race unto the Lord
- Diligence is required on our part to no go astray- 1 Peter 2:25
- The words we speak is the rudder of our life and destination- James 3:1-4
- Fight to good fight of faith to the end- endurance – finish strong

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The enemy will try to sow discontentment in our minds; take those thoughts captive in Jesus' Name- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

- **Please Read: Numbers 16:1-36** *Levites wanted to be priests*
- As I said in the introduction venturing into an office not called to is dangerous

Jude 11, "Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion."

- **Please Read: Acts 20:26-31** *Men will arise to distort the truth*
- Cults, claiming to be Christians twist the Word to claim a unique revelation
- They say all other Christians are wrong- they're the only ones with the truth
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 4:1-7** *Stay with the Word*
- If we stay with and interpret the Bible correctly, we follow the one faith
- Beware of comparison: either lifts us up in pride or makes us feel inferior

2 Corinthians 10:12, "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

Watch out for Greed

- **Please Read: 2 Kings 5:15-27** *There is a time for prosperity*
- We will reap a harvest in due season if we don't give up- Gal. 6:9-10
- **Please Read: Hebrews 6:10-12** *God will not forget about you*

Luke 12:15, "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'"

Beware of the enemy whispering in your ear, “It’s not fair, you are not being treated right, you should have better. You need to take care of yourself and your own interests.” You will reap a harvest if you don’t give up. Sure, there is a cost to serving God, but it is so worth it in this life and for eternity. I heard a minister once say, “Pay day does not always come every Friday night, but it does come so keep serving the Lord.”

When I went to Bible school, was told to not touch these three things:

- Don’t touch God’s glory- Boast in the Lord, give Him the praise- 1 Cor. 1:31
- Don’t touch the opposite sex- treat them as family- 1 Tim. 5:1-2
- Don’t touch the gold- beware of the love of money- 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Heb 13:5

2 Corinthians 2:17

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

Be led by the Spirit in the area of finances, sow financial seeds to meet financial needs and obligations- God’s way is through multiplication 2 Cor. 9:6-11; Php.4:19. The Lord wants us to have good things in life (1 Tim. 6:17; James 1:16-17); let the Lord add it to you in order to be blessed to be a blessing- Acts 20:35. Proverbs 10:22, *“The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.”*

Watch out for the Fear of Man

We should avoid offending people and being a stumbling block, but excessive worry about what other people think of us is cruel bondage. Proverbs 29:25, “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.”

- Trying to please people over pleasing God is a big mistake
 - o Acts 5:29, “We must obey God rather than men!”
- **Please Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6** *Please God not people*
- **Please Read: Galatians 2:11-16** *Afraid of others - Hypocrisy*

John 12:42-43

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

We are all working on areas of insecurity in our lives which comes from fear and rejection. It's normal to want to be accepted, but we are already accepted by God through Jesus Christ- so who cares what the world or anyone else thinks about us.

Ephesians 1:6 NKJV, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."

1 John 3:1, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

The freedom of not worrying about what others think and living up to their expectations is what God wants for our lives. Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

- Spiritual maturity comes from being rooted and ground in God's love
- Eph 3:17, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love"
- I believe you can't hurt love; it can be disappointed by not damaged

1 John 4:18 AMP

There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

Beware of Offenses

Offenses are one of the enemy's most effective weapons because they attack the believer's heart rather than their position in Christ. The devil cannot legally strip away the authority Jesus has given us, but he can try to convince us not to exercise it or to walk outside of the conditions that make it effective.

- People are not our problem; enemy behind them causes trouble- Eph. 6:12
- One of Satan's greatest strategies is to get us fighting people instead of resisting him
- The enemy will try to use people to get us offended, angry and hurt feelings
- Progression: Begins with an offence, resentment, unforgiveness, bitterness
 - o Faith works by love, if we are not in love, we are totally dysfunctional
- Walking in love is our greatest response; shields us from those fiery arrows
- If we get entrapped by offence, repent (1 John 1:9) forgive and reconcile

The enemy is a liar and will even convince people that it is God's fault. I will never blame God for anything. Proverbs 19:3, "A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD." Our response to trials, tests and temptations is to rejoice according to James 1:2- joy strengthens us through the challenges of life.

- Mt. 11:6 NIV, "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."
- Mt. 11:6 NKJV, "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."
- Gr "Offended/Fall away" skandalizo- scandalize, entrap, trip up or stumble
- Being offended is a choice; not helpless victims who have to take the offense
- Herodias nursed a grudge against John the Baptist- Mark 6:18-20; Heb. 12:15
 - o At times fueled by pride: "But you don't know what happened to me"
 - o True, but look what happened to Jesus- "Father forgive them..."
- How do we know we are offended; something bothers us- no peace or joy
 - o Proverbs 17:9; 18:19; 19:11

When believers become offended at leaders, family members, church members, or other people, the enemy uses that offense to: break relationships, destroy unity, isolate believers, undermine submission to godly authority. Once isolation occurs, believers often become more vulnerable to deception- divide and conqueror. It's a lack of spiritual maturity and development in our love walk that opens the door.

- **Please Read: Galatians 5:13-15** *Beware of destroying each other*
- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5** *Weapons of our warfare*

Instead of exercising authority over the enemy in prayer and faith, an offended person becomes preoccupied with: what someone said, what someone did, past wounds and personal vindications. It can become an obsession and ruin our lives.

- On the flip side of the coin, do not become an offence to others
- **Please Read: Luke 1-6** *Beware of being an offense*
- Let's do our best not to be a stumbling block to others- saints or sinners
 - o Romans 12:17-18; 14:13, 19-22; 1 Cor. 8:9; 10:32; 2 Cor. 6:3

Luke 17:1 AMP

AND [Jesus] said to His disciples, Temptations (snares, traps set to entice to sin) are sure to come, but woe to him by or through whom they come!

We don't have the time here to comprehensively explore the doctrine of laying on of hands according to Hebrews 6:2. As a foundational doctrine of Christ and a biblical method God uses to impart blessing, healing, spiritual gifts, and commissioning. Throughout Scripture, God works through yielded believers to release His power and purposes into the lives of others. While our authority comes from our union with Jesus, the laying on of hands is often a point of contact through which that authority and grace are activated. Romans 15:29, "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ."

- The doctrine of laying on of hands can be seen throughout the Bible
- It carries with it the act of passing something from one person(s) to another
- It also speaks of the authority invested in us by God to be a blessing to others
- We are instructed not to be hasty in the laying on of hands- 1 Timothy 5:22
 - o Context: don't be in a hurry when commissioning others into ministry

Romans 1:11-12

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong- that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 NJKV, "Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

- Jesus continually laid His hands on people for them to receive healing power
- Point of contact that released and transferred the anointing of the Holy Spirit
- Mt.8:15;9:29;14:36; Mk.1:41;5:27-34;6:5;7:33;8:23-25; Lk. 4:40; 13:13;22:51
- **Please Read: Mark 5:21-34** *Woman with a blood flow*
- Jesus blessed the little children by laying on of hands- Mt. 19:13; Mk. 10:13
- Mk. 16:18, "they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
- Early Church: Acts 8:17; 9:10-18; 19:6; 19:11-12; 28:8- healing and Holy Spirit
- Powerful combination: prayer first and then laying on of hands- Acts 6:6; 13:3

Many times we can lay hands on folks and it's like getting a hold of a live wire; we know they are in faith and are believing God. But we can lay hands on other people and it's like laying hands on a doorknob. Somehow or another, the power of God is short-circuited. Point people to the Word and get them in faith first- Mark 6:4-6.