

# The Authority of the Believer

The Authority of the believer vs. Spiritual Authority

- Many people speak of authority as prophesying, praying for others, evangelism, using the gifts of the Spirit, Spiritual warfare, and declarations. etc... And This is the main way we express our authority.
- But I want to lay the groundwork for where that authority comes from.

**We receive authority automatically when born again. Cannot earn it.**  
***When does a policeman get his authority?***

**Genesis 1:26-28** - <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Fill the earth and subdue it
- Everything we do affects the earth. The human race is to participate in the governing of the earth under God's authority.
- This mandate is an eternal mandate.
- Them denotes male and female
- The mandate to have dominion is to bring everything to its full potential under God. This includes everything, technology, art, the way we use resources...

**We are invited to become decision makers. We have an active part in God's leadership.**

- This is not because God is overworked and needs help – it is a relationship God set up to work with humans.

- God set limitations by His own sovereign decree that He would work through humans.
- When human beings agree with God – goodness is released. When humans agree with darkness – more darkness is allowed in.

### **Why does God do this?**

Genesis is the beginning, but in Revelation we find the end message –

**Revelation 19:6-8** - <sup>6</sup> And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! <sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." <sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

- It is all about a relationship
- God wants to be our partner
- *This is why using the gifts of the Spirit is related to authority*
- This changes the way we view our life. This changes the way we view our future.

**Psalms 115:16** - The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

- God controls heaven directly. But the earth He works through humans.

### **To the measure we agree with God is the measure blessing is released.**

- We all have a governing sphere, some are small in number, others larger. We can use our sphere of influence either to affect positive change or negative change. We cannot be passive with it.
- Our actions really do matter. What we say or do really does matter. Our deeds and words today impact our tomorrow for our individual lives, our sphere and our planet.

**Our actions and words do not affect the way God sees us, BUT they affect the environment in which we live our lives!**

- The impact sometimes may seem small, but it is real.

**Understanding our authority also helps us understand the evil that is in the world.**

- Sometimes we hear – “If God is a God of love, then why does He let this happen?” We do not understand that the earth really was given to humans. We think God should overwrite the free will of humans and make everything good.
- God does have all authority, but he really did delegate authority and He really gave it to men and if man chooses evil it will go forward.

**David understood this**

- **Psalms 8:4** - What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?
- David is so awestruck at how much God values man
  - **Psalms 8:5-6** - For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup> You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet.

**1 Corinthians 3:21-23** Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. <sup>23</sup> And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's.

- In context people in the Corinthian church were fighting over their position and importance. Don't lose your way in the small picture – see the bigger picture here. All things are ours. Things **present** and things **to come**.
- We belong to Jesus and everything is His

**So what did Adam do with all this privilege and authority?**

- He committed high treason. He gave allegiance to Satan in that moment and broke an alliance with God and he gave his primary governing of the world to Satan.

**Luke 4:6** And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

- When God gave the authority of the earth to Adam it was really Adam's. Adam could give it to whomever he wanted as it was his to give. And he gave it to Satan. (Now it is Satan's to lose)

### **The second Adam did not fall. He resisted.**

- **Luke 4:8** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*' "
- Jesus does not correct Satan, because it was true. Instead, He resisted Satan and earned the authority back by defeating Satan and establishing righteousness for man so that man could not lose that authority again.

### **Jesus won back authority in 2 stages.**

- **First** He was victorious as a man – Man lost it and a man had to get it back! This is one reason God became man, and not just God being God to die for us.
- **Philippians 2:5-7** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
- **Second** He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross
  - **1 John 4:10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We are spirit, so when Jesus did this he gave us clean, incorruptible spirits – Since our righteousness is based on our faith and not our works, based on Jesus' works, not our works - We can't lose the authority again!

So now we have authority over the earth, those in our sphere of influence, and also over demonic powers.

**Colossians 2:15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- Who are the principalities and powers? They are the demonic hierarchy that has government over the earth. There are many different ranks of authority within the unseen demonic kingdom, just like there are many levels of authority in the angelic hierarchy, and just like in the human arena. There are many levels of authority in society.
- What Paul is declaring is a fact of history: that at the cross and in the resurrection, Jesus disarmed Satan. He took the authority away from the powers and principalities, from the demonic hierarchy. He triumphed over them by His death and resurrection.
- **Public Spectacle** – All of heaven and the demonic witnessed this event. It is an historic fact witnessed by multitudes.

**Key point** – All spirit beings know of this authority shift – but humans in the flesh do not necessarily know it. By the triumph of Jesus over Satan, the victory was won. But the people of God on the earth, who are actually alive on the earth, have to identify with that victory. They have to exert that victory, and they have to enforce it, in order for it to be manifest openly before all to see.

- This is where the war is. As long as we do not know that Jesus has the authority over earth and has delegated it to us, Satan can continue to operate to undermine that authority. **If Satan is not challenged, he will just continue as he is. When challenged, he must submit.** If not challenged, he can go forward as he always has.
- Jesus triumphed over Satan. The victory is won. But the **people of the earth have to identify and enforce that victory** in order for it to be manifest.

When people do not know the authority they have and Satan challenges them, instead of doing something about it - they submit to the authority of the devil. They have self-pity.

They may pray about it but they pray ineffective prayers. We pray for God to do something about the enemy.

**GOD HAS ALREADY taken care of the enemy. God does not do our part. God has a role and people have a role.**

- Similar to a farmer praying for favor over his crops but never planting any seed. We have a part in this.
- When we pray and ask God to do our part in something that is not faith. That is presumption.

One of the common errors in the Body of Christ today, in relationship to Spiritual warfare, is not realizing, or acting on, that the demonic government is already defeated.

- For the time being, between the cross and the resurrection, and the second coming of Christ, Satan will try to continue to exert his authority. If he is not challenged, he will continue to do it. But when he is challenged, **he has to submit. He knows it.** His goal is to make sure we do not know it, even though it is in the Word.

Many people do not read the word, so they live in ignorance of their authority and their rights.

## **2 errors in the Body of Christ concerning Authority:**

1. When God commands us to resist Satan, we respond by asking God to resist Satan.
  - a. We pray for God to make the enemy leave. We pray for Him to defeat the evil one.
  - b. The Lord's answer is No. I will not rebuke the devil for you. I have already defeated him. If you will stand and resist him he will leave.
  - c. **James 4:7** - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
  - d. We are praying for God to do what He has entrusted us to do.

- e. Satan will continue to ravage and destroy the lives of believers when left unchallenged.
  - f. The reason the Lord will not do it is that He says, "No. I want a dynamic relationship with you. I have already given you the remainder of the earth. I have given you the authority of My Son. I want you in relationship with Me to exert that authority.
  - g. This is one reason we may fall into the same temptation over and over.
2. The second error by well-meaning believers is that they put Satan's attack under the banner of God's sovereignty, and they do it in a non-biblical way.
- a. We believe that an attack is just a trial to give us character, or that God has sent it.
  - b. This is where discernment comes in.
  - c. This idea of God's sovereignty – that nothing happens outside of what God mandates to happen – is a misapplication of Scripture. This is more Calvinism than Christianity.

### **Authority is delegated power.**

A policeman can stop a car, but the power is not with the policeman. He stops it by authority. He does not have to lean into the car and stop it with his shoulder. He uses the power of the entire government to stop it. So where is the power? The government.

BUT – A policeman's authority is only effective when used within the boundaries of the governing law.

**So where is our power?** Jesus. Jesus has the raw strength. The real power. Our identity is hidden with Christ. So exercising that power (that comes from Christ) through the authority granted to us should be very natural when we walk according to our identity.

And in the same way our authority only works within the boundaries of Jesus Christ. Which leads me to the true definition of authority-

**Authority is coming into agreement with Jesus about a situation, and then declaring what He says about it.**

- **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

But, here is the problem. The car comes, the believer says, "Oh God, stop the car. Stop the car. Stop the car!" God says, "Raise your hand and stop the car." "Oh God, please stop the car!" The car runs them over—I am talking about a demonic attack—"Oh God, thank You. I just trust You, God."

### **Our Authority comes from our Union with Jesus**

- **Ephesians 2:4-6** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**,
- There are many places in the Bible where all authority is given to Christ.
- **Ephesians 2:6** - and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus
- We have the same Authority as Jesus Christ – When we abide in Him. We were made to sit with Jesus!
- **1 John 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

### **How to use authority**

- What is authority – A human being agreeing with Jesus – Know His Word and promises
- **AGGRESSIVE DOESN'T EQUAL AUTHORITY**
  - We must speak the word. It must be spoken. It's not OK to think it; it has to be spoken. You can whisper it. It doesn't have to be loud.
  - The reason we need to know this is because you can be in a public place and whisper it. Or, you can be in a bad mood or tired, and it still works, because it's not based on your volume or

your mood or your mode. It's based on a Man who was exalted at the right hand of the Father.

- Declare it out loud. Use your authority to remove the enemy.
- Only speak to the enemy, never with the enemy
- You do not have to be wordy.
- Spend significantly more time talking with God than to the enemy.
- Have confidence in your authority