

## LEARNING TO WALK IN GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

### INTRODUCTION

The king of Syria was making war with the king of Israel. God would show Elisha the prophet where the king of Syria was, and He would warn the Israeli king. It troubled the Syrian king and then his servants told him about Elisha.

And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

**2 Kings 6:13-16** So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan." 14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

**Daniel 10:11-13 & 20-21** (AMP) So he said to me, "O Daniel, you highly regarded and greatly beloved man, understand the words that I am about to say to you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And while he was saying this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in opposition to me for twenty-one days. Then, behold, Michael, one of the chief [of the celestial] princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

20 Then he said, "Do you understand [fully] why I came to you? Now I shall return to fight against the [hostile] prince of Persia; and when I have gone, behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. 21 But I (Gabriel) will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. There is no one who stands firmly with me and strengthens himself against these [hostile spirit forces] except Michael, your prince [the guardian of your nation].

Here is a powerful picture of what is taking place in the spiritual realm, as well as the authority we have in the Lord. The spiritual realm is very real, and as Christians we need to be aware of it, as well as of how to see things, and deal with things in a spiritual manner.

As a church that seeks God's will, we sometimes find it that when the Lord brings people to us, they come from backgrounds where the enemy has had a field day. Not only do we need to help those people onto a healing, recovery track in the Lord but often, we need to deal with the demons that one way or another have inhabited them.

As God's army, we also deal with the enemy in the heavenly realms, the principalities and powers and dark forces that are intent on destroying our nation.

**Matthew 11:12** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, **and the violent take it by force.**

If we are going to build the Kingdom, we can't expect that the enemy will not resist, and we are going to have to be ready to take the Kingdom by force!

The key to dealing with the dark forces of the devil is to know who we are in Christ and what our authority is. Many people either don't truly understand their authority or are afraid of the devil and his hordes. Today are going to look at our God-given authority.

## MESSAGE

### OUR AUTHORITY COMES FROM THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

**Exodus 15:11** "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

**Ephesians 1:19-21** (NLT) I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

**Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For **there is no authority except from God**, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

All power and authority belong to God. Any power and authority that anyone possesses can only be that which God grants! There is no other source of power and authority.

### TO WHOM DOES GOD GIVE AUTHORITY?

#### 1. God has given Jesus Christ authority

**John 17:1-2** Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as **You have given Him authority over all flesh**, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

1. God has given Jesus authority **over ALL flesh**...why, to give eternal life.

2. Jesus also has authority **over the elements**

- The wind and the waves were subject to Him
- The fig tree died when Jesus cursed it
- The water became walkable when Jesus needed it to be!

3. Jesus has authority **over demonic powers**

- As Jesus spoke, demons fled – they were subject to Him!

4. Jesus has authority **to execute judgment**

**John 5:26-27** For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given **Him authority to execute judgment** also, because He is the Son of Man.

The Greek word describing Jesus power is **exousia** which means:

- Authority or right to act, Dominion, strength, manifested power
- *Exousia* is the right to use *dunamis* – great might, force or strength
- Jesus used His authority, His power to forgive sin, heal sickness and cast out demons and also to preach – He spoke with great authority!

**2. God has given governments authority**

**Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

- This is why, like it or not, we have to be subject to our government, because in doing so, we are submitting to God!
- If we rebel against the authorities that are appointed, in effect we are rebelling against God!

**3. God gave the apostles – in today's terms, the church leaders, authority**

**Mark 3:14-15** Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power (*authority*) to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.

Jesus gave them authority to preach, teach, heal and deliver! This was **exousia power – the same authority that Jesus had!**

**4. God gave the 70 – in today's terms, the believers, authority**

**Luke 10:1 & 17-20** After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go... 20 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

**John 14:12** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

In fact, we are partakers in God's divine nature: **2 Peter 1:4** (NKJV) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- Jesus appointed them and gave them authority – this is the same *exousia* power that was made manifest in the ministry of Jesus, and in the ministry of the apostles!
- He has given us authority to trample on demonic power and over ALL the power of the enemy!
- He said **those who believe in Him** would do greater works than what He had done – that is powerful authority!
- He made us partake in His divine nature.

**Every time Jesus spoke about the authority He gave, it was in connection with them going to preach the gospel – it is linked to the great commission!**

**Mark 16:15-18** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- These signs are a result of *exousia* power at work!
- These are mighty exploits in Christ!
- This authority of the believer comes from Jesus: It is His anointing, authority, His power, given to do His work! His seal of approval is the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit comes upon us we receive POWER! (Acts 1:8)

**We have the power of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 1:8, we also have, mighty weapons of power and authority:**

**2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal **but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds**, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 **and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled**.

### **We have received authority to bind and loose:**

- **Matt 16:19** "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- **Matt 18:18** [AMP] "Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven."

**When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, God gives us the keys of the kingdom of heaven! He restores our authority and once more when we speak, we find victory both in the natural and in the spiritual realm!**

***Have we been walking in the power and the authority that God has given us?***

### **CONCLUSION**

We need to realise that there is an unseen spiritual realm all around us where a war is going on. It may be unseen but many things that take place in the natural realm are driven by what takes place in the spiritual realm. As believers, we have God-given authority and power. This is not limited to pastors, it is available to all who believe.

- Are we aware of the authority we have, are we walking in it?
- Are we using the authority we have to perform mighty exploits as we obey Jesus command to "preach the gospel to every creature?"
- Do demons flee when we speak, are the sick being healed and the captives being set free?
- Are we taking authority in the spiritual realm, binding and loosing, and taking the kingdom of heaven by force?
- Are we using our authority to even bind strong men and princes of the air over our city and nation? Or are we shrinking back, unfulfilled and weak, walking by sight and not by faith, and allowing the enemy to have a field day?

Today we must choose to stand up in the authority that we have. **The battle is the Lords, the strength, authority and power are all given by Him and praise His mighty name, the victory is ours.**

Let us speak to the Lord, let us request and even cry out for His power and His authority to do His work.

Having a form of godliness is not an option, let us be the mighty men, women and young people of valor that God has called us to be and let us take this kingdom by force!