

Living Life For His Glory #3
Living in Authority
Colossians 1:9-14

As we continue our series on “*Living 2017 for God’s Glory*,” I want to talk to you today about “*Living in Authority*.” One of the most powerful revelations you can get hold of as a believer concerns the authority God has given you in Christ Jesus. I am convinced that there is no message in all the New Testament that the devil fights harder than this one concerning *the authority of the believer*. If you are going to reign in life as God intended, it is essential that you understand the basis of your spiritual authority and how to exercise it. And you can ask God for *wisdom* and *revelation* so you can know the *authority* He has freely given you.

The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” As new creations we have been put in a position of power and authority – a position delegated to us by God through Jesus Christ. Along with that *authority* come certain *responsibilities*. As we continue our series concerning “*Living 2017 for God’s Glory*,” I want to talk to about how to “Live in Authority.”

When you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart, to forgive you of your sins, and make you a Christian, Colossians 1:13 says you were “delivered...from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” The Greek word translated “power” is literally translated “authority.” You have been delivered from the power, or authority, of darkness and placed into God's kingdom. In Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” That power was given to every believer as part of our inheritance in Christ Jesus. You have entered into this *position of authority* because you are in Him.

In Ephesians chapter 1 and 3, we find the record of Paul's prayers for the believers at the Church in Ephesus. But these prayers also apply to *every believer*. In Ephesians 1:16-23 Paul says,

"(I) do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. **And in Ephesians 3:14-21 he continues,** "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." **These prayers are Spirit-given and Spirit-anointed.** Therefore, you can pray them for yourself, substituting "me" and "my" for "you" and "your."

In order to understand our authority as believers, we must understand that Jesus succeeded in securing "all power" by going to the cross, dying a horrible death, suffering the penalty for sin, and defeating Satan in the very pit of hell itself. This truth is seen in Ephesians 4:7-10, "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the

lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)” **The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus came to earth as a man for one reason: to re-capture the authority that Satan had stolen through Adam's disobedience in the garden.** 1 Corinthians 15:45 says, "The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam (Christ) was made a life-giving spirit." This same truth is shown for us in Romans 5:12-21, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." After securing that *power* and *authority*, He freely gave it over into the hands of those who would believe on Him - you and me, as seen in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

The authority we have in Christ already belongs to us. But just as with any other *blessings, right, or privilege*, our *authority* does not do us any good unless we know about it. Jesus said in John 8:32, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Child of God, you cannot believe what you do not know. That is why the devil doesn't want you to find out what rightfully belongs to you in Christ Jesus. By obscuring from you the *knowledge of the truth*, the devil knows that he can keep you in *bondage*. He also knows that *if you understand your spiritual authority and begin to exercise it*, you will begin to live in victory over him.

Now, listen very carefully, it is not enough just to "know" about our authority as believers, we must act on that authority. In other words, it is not enough for us to simply accept Jesus' work at Calvary, we are held responsible for much more. We are responsible to *receive* and *act* on the promises in the Word of God.

One of those promises is that we are seated with Christ in high authority. Listen to Ephesians 1:19 Paul prays that we might know "the exceeding greatness of his power to those who believe." That "exceeding great power" is the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies as seen in Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." Ephesians 1:21 tells us that Jesus is seated "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named."

The work God did in Jesus was supreme. He raised Jesus from the dead and set Him "far above all" other authority - not only in this world, but also in the heavenly world. Then Ephesians 1:22 says that God has put *all* things under His *feet* and made Him *head* over the *church*, which is His *body*. **Where are the feet? The Church is the body.** Ephesians 2:1-2,4-6 tells us this about believers, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ

Jesus.” The Bible tells us that we are seated with Him. Where? “Far above all principality and power and might and dominion.”

These verses are not talking about something that God is going to do in the future. He has already done it! Even while “we were still dead in our trespasses and sins, God made us alive, (raised us up), and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”! As a child of God, you have accepted the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus a Calvary. Therefore, you are a part of His body and are seated with Him in that heavenly place, equipped with the same power, the same authority that He has.

Therefore, one of the most vital areas of our authority as believers is our power and authority to successfully stand against Satan in our everyday living. In Luke 10:19 Jesus has given us this promise, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Ephesians 4:27 says, “Neither give place to the devil.” In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul describes the armor that we as believers are to wear in combat against Satan. He explains each piece of that armor. It is the armor of God. But not once does he say that God will put the armor on you or that God will fight the devil for you. You is the understood subject of these verses. He says, “You be strong in the Lord. You put on the whole armor of God that you will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. You put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day; and having done all, you stand.” God has given you the power and the authority to stand against Satan and his destructive works. God has provided the armor, but it is your responsibility as a believer to put on that armor and stand against the devil. James 4:7 says, “(You) resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” The armor and the weapons are at your disposal. God is there with you to back His Word; but all is worthless unless you take your position of authority and assume the responsibility to use what He has provided. That is why Paul could say in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Child of God, you have the power and the authority to take the Word of God, the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit and run Satan out of your affairs!

Let me give you an example of what I am trying to say right here. In Mark 4:35-40 we have the story of Jesus calming the sea, "On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

When Jesus spoke the words, "Let us pass over unto the other side," there was enough power and authority in those words to accomplish the job. **One thing I want you to notice is that Jesus did not take command of the boat to see that His words were carried out.** He walked to be back of the boat and went to sleep. Jesus *delegated the authority* to His disciples and they accepted it. **But when the storm came, they were filled with fear as the boat was on the verge of sinking.** Jesus had to carry out the *responsibility of authority* that He had delegated to them by rebuking the wind and the sea.

I want to remind you once again that you have the power and the authority to take the Word of God, the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit and run Satan out of your affairs!

I want you to see the parallel here. **You are the captain of your ship!** You have control of your own life - your *spirit*, your *soul*, and your *body*. **Jesus has delegated power or authority over Satan to you as a believer.** Therefore, it is your responsibility to make godly choices! And one of those choices is that you are not to give the devil any place in your life!

As a child of God, you were born again by the Spirit of God, you were immediately filled with the Spirit of God, and you have been given the Word of God! Those three elements are enough for

you to carry out your spiritual authority here in the earth. You do not need any more power! You have all the power necessary. You simply have to exercise your authority!

If you are not saved – why not today?

Everyone please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true! Give me the courage to make Kingdom choices as I seek to live my life in a way that is pleasing to You. In Jesus name. Amen.