

You Were Made to Reign

God's plan for your life is not survival. It is not just getting by until heaven. According to Scripture, you were made to rule and reign in this life, right now, through Jesus Christ. Here is what that means and how to walk in it.

What Does It Mean to "Reign in Life"?

Romans 5:17 lays out a powerful contrast: "For if by one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:17

Through Adam's disobedience, sin and death entered the world and began to reign over all of mankind. But through Jesus, something far greater happened. Those who receive God's grace and the gift of righteousness are not just freed from death's grip. They are positioned to reign as kings in this life.

The Easy English Bible puts it plainly: "Because of what Jesus Christ has done, those people will rule like kings in their lives."

Is God's Goodness Only for Heaven, or for Right Now?

Too often, the church focuses entirely on the life to come and pushes all of God's promises into the future. But Scripture tells a different story.

Psalms 118:1 says, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." - Psalm 118:1

That phrase, "the land of the living," is not talking about heaven. It is talking about right here, right now. Psalm 138:6 echoes this: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." - Psalm 138:6

Jesus Himself promised His disciples that those who follow Him would receive a hundredfold now in this time, and eternal life in the age to come. Both. Not one or the other.

1 Timothy 4:8 confirms it: "Godliness has promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." - 1 Timothy 4:8

How Did Satan Get Authority Over This World?

To understand your authority in Christ, you have to understand how authority was lost in the first place.

In the beginning, God gave Adam dominion over the earth. Adam had genuine authority. But when Adam sinned and bowed his knee to Satan, he handed that authority over. This is exactly what Satan referenced when he tempted Jesus in Luke 4:6: "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." - Luke 4:6

Jesus did not dispute the claim. He knew it was true. That is why He came, not just to forgive sins, but to legally reclaim what Adam had surrendered.

Why Did Jesus Have to Come as a Human Being?

God does not operate outside of His own laws. He could not simply overpower Satan by force and call it justice. Authority over the earth had been legally transferred to man, and then from man to Satan. To reclaim it, God had to enter the world as a man.

Think of it like a title deed. If you sign a house over to someone, you cannot walk back in six months later and claim it is still yours. The legal transfer stands. God had to work within the framework He established.

Jesus lived without sin, giving Satan no legal ground to touch Him. Yet Satan overstepped and illegally seized the Son of God, bringing Him to death and into hell. That transgression became Satan's undoing. The debt for sin was fully paid, and death could not hold Jesus. He rose from the dead, and in doing so, stripped Satan of the authority he had held.

What Happened to Satan's Authority After the Resurrection?

After rising from the dead, Jesus stood before His disciples and declared: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." - Matthew 28:18

Compare that to what Satan said in Luke 4: "All this authority has been delivered to me." Now Jesus stands and says all authority has been given to Him. He took it back. Legally. Completely.

And then He said, "Go therefore." He did not keep that authority to Himself. He delegated it to those who believe in His name.

What Authority Do Believers Have in Jesus' Name?

Mark 16:17-18 records Jesus saying: "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 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." - Mark 16:17-18

Luke 10:19 adds: "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." - Luke 10:19

The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 John 5:19). But believers are not under that sway. They are positioned above it, with authority to trample on the very powers that oppress the rest of the world.

How Should a Believer See Themselves?

One of the biggest obstacles to walking in this authority is a wrong self-image. If you see yourself as a helpless sinner, you will live like one. If you see yourself as a victim, you will be treated like one.

God sees you as royalty. He sees you as a king or queen in this life. And you need to start seeing yourself the same way. When you wake up in the morning, speak it over yourself. Remind yourself who you are in Christ. You are not a piece of garbage. You are not defined by your past, your family's history, or your failures.

Identify with your heavenly Father. Identify with Jesus, the King of Kings. Those kings He reigns over? That is you. Those who have received the gift of righteousness and are reigning in life.

How Do You Actually Fight the Devil?

Ephesians 6:12 reminds us: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." - Ephesians 6:12

The real enemy is not people. People are often under the influence of the wicked one. The root problem is demonic. And the way to fight it is not through striving in the flesh. It is through speaking the Word of God with confidence in the name of Jesus.

When Jesus was tempted, He did not argue or reason with the devil. He simply said, "It is written." Three times. And the devil had no answer for it. That is your model.

When symptoms of sickness come, resist them. When fear tries to take hold, resist it. When an evil Spirit tries to push you into behavior you do not want, recognize it for what it is and speak to it. "In the name of Jesus, I resist this." That is not arrogance. That is walking in the authority Jesus secured for you.

Stop Talking Like a Victim and Start Talking Like a King

The words you speak matter. A king does not sit on his throne wringing his hands over every problem. He exercises his authority and deals with it.

You have warrior angels assigned to minister to you as an heir of salvation (Hebrews 1:14). You have the Holy Spirit living inside you. You have the name of Jesus, before which every demon trembles. Start speaking and acting like someone who knows that.

Stop saying things like, "I think I'm catching a cold," or "I'll never get out of this." Those words give the enemy ground. Instead, declare what the Word says. "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." "I am more than a conqueror." "Nothing shall by any means hurt me."

He whom the Son sets free is free indeed. Declare it. Live it. And then look around for who else you can help set free.

Life Application

This week, make a deliberate decision to stop speaking like a victim and start speaking like someone who knows their authority in Christ. Each morning, remind yourself out loud who you are. You are a receiver of God's grace. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. You have authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus.

When a challenge comes, whether it is a symptom of sickness, a temptation, fear, or oppression, do not accept it passively. Speak to it. Resist it in the name of Jesus. Practice this every single day this week.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I actually believe that God has good things planned for me in this life, not just in eternity?
- When I face opposition, do I respond like a king with authority, or like a victim with no options?
- Am I identifying more with my past and my circumstances, or with who God says I am in Christ?
- What area of my life have I been tolerating defeat in that I need to start exercising my authority over?

Your best days are not behind you. They are ahead. God's plan is for you to go from glory to glory, from better to better, reigning in life through Jesus Christ. Start walking like it today.

Quotes

1. You were not created to merely get by until heaven.
2. Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness are called to reign in life through Jesus Christ.
3. I would have lost heart if I had not believed I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
4. Your best days are not behind you; they are still ahead.
5. God wants you reigning, not barely surviving.
6. Stop seeing yourself as worthless; start seeing yourself as royalty.
7. The world may lie under the sway of the wicked one, but we are of God.
8. If you see yourself as a victim, you will live like one; see yourself as royalty called to reign.
9. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

10. You have authority over all the power of the enemy.
11. The devil cannot touch what God has placed under your authority.
12. Resist the devil in the authority of Jesus' name, and he will flee.
13. When you see yourself as righteous, you stop playing with unrighteousness.
14. Do not take your identity from earthly people; take it from your heavenly Father.
15. Stop talking like a victim; start talking like someone called to reign.
16. I am more than a conqueror because the Greater One lives in me.
17. I refuse to live as a victim; I rule and reign in life through Christ.
18. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed, so declare, "I am free."
19. Anything trying to dominate and enslave you is not from God.
20. Speak like someone who knows the authority God has given you.

Verses

1. Romans 5:17
2. Psalm 27:13
3. Psalm 23:6
4. 1 Timothy 4:8
5. 1 John 5:19
6. Ephesians 6:12
7. 1 Peter 5:8
8. Matthew 28:18
9. Luke 4:1-8
10. Mark 16:15-18
11. Luke 10:19

Summary

You were not made to simply survive. According to Romans 5:17, those who receive God's grace and the gift of righteousness are positioned to reign in life through Jesus Christ. This authority was lost when Adam surrendered dominion to Satan, but Jesus came as a man to legally reclaim it. After His resurrection, He declared that all authority had been given to Him, and He delegated that authority to believers. The real battle is not against people but against spiritual forces, and the weapon is the spoken Word of God in the name of Jesus. How you see yourself matters deeply. God sees you as royalty, and it is time to start seeing yourself the same way. Stop speaking like a victim and start living like someone who knows their authority in Christ.