

The Authority of the Believer

Today I am compelled to begin a new series on the authority of the believer.

Many Christians know nothing about the authority of the believer. They really don't believe we have any authority.

They think that their constant victimization is a sign of holiness. That their suffering is a badge of devotion.

While it true that as Christians suffering is and always has been part of our journey.

We need to know what we are suffering for righteousness sake and what we are suffering due to ignorance.

Historically Christians have suffered unjust persecution. They have endured the loss of lands, possessions, jobs, families and even their lives.

But this suffering is cultural, judicial, societal and spiritual

But we ought not to suffer from those things we have been redeemed from.

- **Sickness**
- **Poverty**

But religion has lumped both sickness and poverty together with persecutions and taught people to bear them gladly.

Religion gets people so confused that they resist God and submit to the devil

Jas 4:7 (NASB) Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We need to learn what we ought to submit to and what we ought to resist.

Hos 4:6 (NASB) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.

They are not destroyed for lack of education.

They are not destroyed for lack of information.

They are destroyed for a lack of knowledge concerning God's Word and Will.

They are not destroyed due to divine ordination.

God did not say that they are destroyed because it is MY will for them to be destroyed - He said they are destroyed because they don't know ME

Ignorance leaves us vulnerable to loss, fraud, heartache, disease and all manner of suffering.

2Co 2:11 (NASB) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

If we are ignorant of the enemies schemes, plan of action, strategy we are at a disadvantage and he has an advantage.

In any area of life where we lack understanding we are vulnerable.

Pro 2:11 (NASB) Discretion will watch over you, Understanding will guard you,

Understanding watches you like a body guard. To protect you from harm.

But when you lack understanding you are unprotected.

Watch this

Gen 3:1 (NASB) Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Some of you have heard me say before that the enemy of your destiny will always probe for your weakness (ignorance is a weakness) by asking you 2 questions.

I don't suppose he ever ask more than these two questions cause they work so very well.

1. Has God said?

Our strength is found in the declaration, God has said!

Gen 3:2-4 (NASB) The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; [3] but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" [4] The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die!

As soon as the serpent heard this he knew he had the advantage and he pressed it.

Gen 2:17 (NASB) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die."

So the enemy will ask you

1 Has God said?

Mat 4:3 (NASB) And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God,

2. If you are a child of God

He will question God's word and your identity

If he discovered ignorance in either of these areas he knows he has an advantage over you and he will press it as far and for as long as he can.

- *What if Eve had answered correctly?*
- *What if you had answered correctly?*

People do business deals in areas that they have no understanding and they lose their money to those who have understanding.

Before you do a deal either pay the price to gain understanding (take some classes, read some books, ask some questions) or hire someone who has understanding (real estate agent, lawyer etc)..

- If we are ignorant financially we will always be poor.
- If we are ignorant relationally we will forever be hurt

- If we are ignorant spiritually we will be taken advantage of by the devil.

But when we gain understanding of

1. **Who our Father is**
2. **How Great is His love for us**
3. **Who we are in Him**

Jas 4:7 (NASB) Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit -accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person:

How do you know if what you are submitting to is God?

If it is written our uncertainty is unnecessary

We must dig into the Word.

One of the most frustrating thing in our lives, and I think we have all done it a time or two is to submit to something we ought to resist and to resist something we ought to submit to.

We gotta know God!

STORY OF J.I. PACKER

When we know what and who we are to submit to now we can resist.

I gotta say this and I will say it many times in this series.

Your power to resist the devil is direct proportion to your submission to God.

The rebellious have no power to resist.

Act 19:13-19 (NLT) A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" [14] Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were

doing this. [15] But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” [16] Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. [17] The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. [18] Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. [19] A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.

But when we surrender our will to HIS will and we are submitted to HIS authority we can push back against the devil with such power and authority that he will run away from us.