

How are we doing, Discover Church? Man, it is good to be in the house this morning. Before I jump into the message, I want to take a second and talk about our YTH Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser happening tonight. For those of you who have already signed up, thank you. Seriously. You stepping up for these students matters more than you know. Not just financially... but spiritually. You're investing in what God is doing in the next generation.

And if you haven't signed up yet that's okay. You can grab a ticket at the door tonight. We would love to see you there. Alright... shameless plug over.

Let's get into it.

We are in week three of our series: **Walking in His Authority.**

And last week, Pastor Mark did an incredible job showing us that authority comes with responsibility. That authority begins at home.

He talked about marriage not as control, but as sacrifice. Not domination but mutual submission.

Husbands leading like Christ by laying their lives down. Wives responding with respect not out of pressure, but out of reverence for Jesus.

The picture is not power... It's unity.

Then he moved into parenting and reminded us that authority doesn't stop with us... it flows through us. That we are called to disciple our kids not just once a week, but in everyday life.

And he said something that we can't miss: **Authority without love produces rebellion.**

You can't lead well anywhere if love isn't at the center.

And that brings us right here—this is the heartbeat of this entire series:

SLIDE Authority is not control. It is delegated power from God to advance His Kingdom, protect what He's entrusted to us, and reflect His character

I want you to keep that in the front of your mind today—especially that word *protect*.

Because what we're going to talk about today builds right on top of this truth:

You don't live at the mercy of your emotions. You don't live at the mercy of your circumstances. And you definitely don't live at the mercy of the enemy.

Because Jesus said in

SLIDE Luke 10:19: "I have given you authority... over all the power of the enemy."

Not some. Not part. **All.** So the question isn't: Do you have authority?

The real question is: **Are you using it?**

Let me bring something back. A few weeks ago, I shared this picture: A house that belongs to you... and someone breaks in... and starts living there like they own it. And a lot of you told me that hit home. It hit me too.

Because we realized... we've been living like a guest in a house God already gave us.

But here's what I didn't say that Sunday: The longer you let the intruder stay the more comfortable they get. At first, they're quiet. They stay out of the way.

But over time? They get bold. They start sitting where they want. Touching what they want. Rearranging things.

And eventually... they start talking like they own it.

"You don't belong here." "This isn't your house." "You should leave." And if you hear that long enough you start to believe it.

You shrink back. You second guess. You tolerate things you were never meant to tolerate.

Listen to me: That is exactly how the enemy works. He doesn't show up with authority. He shows up with deception. He doesn't kick the door down—he whispers lies... and waits for agreement. And if he can't take your life—he'll try to convince you it's not yours anymore.

SLIDE That's why James 4:7 says: "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Not he might. Not he could. **He will.**

But there's a condition: You have to resist.

SLIDE Here's the truth most people don't like: Authority unused is authority surrendered.

Just because something doesn't belong in your life doesn't mean it automatically leaves.

You can love Jesus... be filled with the Spirit... have authority... and still tolerate things that have no right to be there. Not because you're weak but because you're passive

You don't negotiate with an intruder. You don't say, "Hey... if it's okay... could you leave?" No. You remove them. Why? Because you know who you are. And you know what belongs to you. Some of us have been asking anxiety for permission to have peace. We've been asking fear for permission to step out. We've been asking shame for permission to move forward.

And it's backwards. Because those things were never given authority in your life.

Jesus didn't just die so you could go to heaven someday

SLIDE He died so you could walk in freedom right now.

So here's the question: If we have authority... why do we still struggle? Why do we still fall into the same things? Peter answers that. Because he shows us: **the tactics of the enemy.**

SLIDE 1 Peter 5 6-11 **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. **7** Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **11** To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The first one is pride. And pride always sounds simple... but it's actually incredibly subtle. Most of the time, this doesn't play out loud—it happens in the silent conversations we have with ourselves.

It doesn't usually sound like, "I don't need God."

It sounds like: "I got this." "I'll figure it out." "I don't need help."

And sometimes it disguises itself in ways we don't even recognize.

It shows up in comparison—scrolling, looking at someone else's life, and either feeling less than... or thinking you're better than.

It shows up in judgment—looking at other people and thinking, "*How in the world can God love them? Look how messed up they are.*" "they are a steelers fan, no way god loves them!"

That's pride.

And here's the tension we hate admitting about ourselves. Because pride is the one sin we're really good at spotting in everyone else... and almost blind to in our own lives.

But Scripture doesn't soften it. The Bible says God opposes the proud.

And just think about that for a second when in the history of everything has it ever been a good idea to position yourself in opposition to God?

And here's what pride really is at its core: it's trust. But it's a misplaced trust. It's trusting yourself more than you trust God.

And the moment you step into pride... you step out of dependence. And when you step out of dependence on God, you step out of walking in His authority.

Because authority in the Kingdom has never been about independence—it has always been about dependence.

So pride doesn't just make you arrogant... It disconnects you.

It disconnects you from God, from others, and from the very authority He's already given you to walk in.

Then Peter says: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

Not manage it. Not carry it. Not overthink it. Cast it. And that word “cast” literally means to throw something completely off of you.

But if we’re honest... a lot of times when we hear “cast,” our minds go straight to fishing. Like we’re casting a line out there.

And the problem with that picture is this—we think we can reel it back in.

So we come to the altar, we say, “God, I’m giving this to you,” we “cast” it... but we never really let it go. We hold onto the line.

So the moment we walk away... we just reel it right back in.

The anxiety. The stress. The control.

But that’s not what Peter is talking about. Casting isn’t a one-time emotional moment—it’s a daily decision.

It’s waking up every single day and saying, “God, I’m giving this to you again.”

Because if God is who He says He is... and He loves you the way Scripture says He loves you... what do we really have to be worried about?

So the real question becomes: Are we putting our faith in our circumstances... or in our Savior?

Because here’s what anxiety really is: It’s misplaced faith.

It’s trusting every possible outcome more than you trust God’s character.

So now you’re carrying things you were never meant to carry— your future, your family, your calling, your reputation.

And the enemy loves that... because anxious people don’t walk in authority.

They walk in fear. So Peter says: stop carrying it. Throw it on God—because He actually cares about you. Bring Him everything. All of it.

Because if it matters to you... it matters to Him.

Then Peter keeps going. He says: “Be alert and of sober mind.”

In other words—wake up. Because if we’re being real... some of us need to wake up.

We’re just sitting on the couch, letting life pass us by. Letting culture shape us.
Letting distractions consume us.

And we call it normal. But Peter is saying—that’s exactly where the enemy wants you.

Because one of the easiest ways the enemy wins isn’t through obvious attacks... it’s through distraction.

You’re not necessarily doing anything “bad”... you’re just not paying attention.

You're coasting. You're scrolling. You're numb. You're spiritually half-asleep.

And the enemy doesn't panic at that—he prefers it.

Because he doesn't need to destroy someone who isn't resisting anything... he just lets them drift.

And if we're honest, part of the reason we drift is because we've bought into something that sounds good... but is actually at odds with the Gospel.

The pursuit of comfort. There's a version of the American dream that says life is about being comfortable. Safe. Easy. Convenient.

But where in Scripture does it ever tell you to pursue comfort? Where does it say God owes you that? It doesn't.

In fact, Jesus says the opposite.

He calls us to lay down our lives. So we have to be careful—because if your goal is comfort, you will avoid anything that requires sacrifice.

And if you avoid sacrifice... you will avoid obedience.

At some point, you have to decide: Am I following Jesus... or am I just trying to stay comfortable?

Because those two paths will eventually collide. If you want to live a comfortable life above all else... following Jesus is going to frustrate you.

Because He will constantly call you out of what's easy and into what's eternal. So Peter says: be alert. Stay engaged. Don't go spiritually passive.

Because you were never called to coast— you were called to walk in authority.

Then he says: "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion..."

And that image matters. Because lions don't attack the whole herd. They don't go after what's protected.

They go after what's isolated. What's separated. What's alone.

And that's exactly how the enemy works.

Because isolation removes covering. It removes accountability. It removes correction. It removes encouragement.

And slowly—you start believing things in your head that nobody is there to challenge.

Think about it— even in prison, the ultimate form of punishment is isolation.

Why? Because it breaks you down. And if we're honest, as a Western Christian culture... we've failed here.

More often than not, churches have pushed the weak and the wounded to the outside instead of pulling them in. We've ostracized people who needed support the most.

So if that's been your story—if you've ever walked into a church hurting and instead of finding help, you felt judged or pushed away—hear me clearly:

Don't reject Jesus because you had a bad experience with religious people. That's not His heart for you.

But at the same time, we can't use that as an excuse to stay isolated.

Because some of us say, "I'm not alone—I've got 600 friends on Facebook." Let's be real... those aren't your friends.

That's not community. You were made for something deeper than that.

Some of you aren't losing because you're weak... you're losing because you're alone.

And God never designed you to fight alone. You were made for community.

Real people. Real conversations. Real accountability.

Not surface-level. Not digital-only. But people who actually know you... and are willing to walk with you.

Now this last one isn't explicitly said in the scripture, but I think we can all see exactly where this fits.

The fifth tactic I want to talk about is lust. Let's talk about this one—because this one? This one is destroying lives.

And I'm just going to say it straight: the enemy is taking more people out with lust than almost anything else right now. In my opinion... this is the heavyweight. The one that quietly wrecks everything.

How many people have blown up their lives because of this? Marriages. Families. Friendships. Kids. Careers.

Gone... because of lust.

And here's what's crazy—the Bible actually tells us exactly how to handle it.

In every other area of spiritual warfare, we're told to stand firm. Put on the armor of God so we can stand against the schemes of the devil. Stand your ground. Fight.

Why? Because greater is He who is in you than anything coming against you.

But when it comes to lust... the instruction changes. It doesn't say stand.

It says flee.

SLIDE

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

That should tell you something.

FLEE. Let me make it real simple: Most of us haven't fallen into lust because we were overpowered... We fell because we got too close.

So let me ask you:

SLIDE *Are you fleeing... or flirting?*

Because a lot of us aren't running—we're lingering.

We're entertaining it. We're justifying it. We're thinking, "I got this."

And I'm telling you right now—you don't got this.

In every other area, we're called to resist and stand firm.

In this one? We run. So let me ask it this way:

Are you fleeing your flirting? Because the truth is, we keep access to the very things we're asking God to deliver us from.

And one of the most practical tools you have?

The block button. Block it. Remove it. Get it out of your feed. Cut off access.

Don't manage temptation—eliminate it. I'll make it personal—my wife Anastasia has every code to my phone. She can go through it anytime she wants.

Why? Because I'm not trying to hide anything I'm trying to stay free.

Because the enemy does not want your marriage to succeed. So he will use lust to try and destroy it before it ever becomes what God intended.

Let me paint it like this: If you walk out of church today and the devil is sitting in your truck—you stand on the authority of Jesus.

You grab some brothers, you stand your ground, and you say, "No—this doesn't belong to you. "And he has to go.

Why? Because you're standing in the authority that Jesus gave you.

But if it's something else in that truck...

Maybe it's that girl at the gym. Maybe it's that guy at work. Something you already know you're weak to...

You don't stand there trying to prove something. You run. You get out.

Because you don't hang around and test your strength—that's how you lose.

Scripture says it like this: "Can a man hold fire to his chest and not be burned?"

Of course not. And yet we keep trying.

We keep getting close to something that was never meant to be handled—only avoided.

And listen—this isn't small. This isn't just a "bad habit."

This destroys marriages. It destroys trust. It distorts identity.

It rewires how you see people—from image-bearers of God... to objects.

And it doesn't just affect you. It affects your future. Your spouse. Your kids.

So this isn't something you "manage."

This is something you go to war against. And the first step?

You flee. Not later. Not eventually. Immediately.

You cut it off. You remove access. You bring it into the light. You get accountability.

Because if you keep trying to fight this in the dark... you will keep losing.

So don't play with it. Don't flirt with it.

Run from it. And step back into the authority God already gave you.

Because lust isn't just about temptation It's about discipline... or really, the lack of it.

And every time the enemy finds a foothold in this area, it's not just a moment of weakness...

It's a life that hasn't been trained to run when it needs to run.

And that leads us right here. If you miss this, you miss everything we've been talking about in this series.

SLIDE Because here's the truth: Spiritual Authority Requires Spiritual Discipline

You can have authority in Christ... and still live defeated if you don't have discipline to walk it out. Because authority is what Jesus gives you. But discipline is what teaches you how to live in it.

And Scripture doesn't stay quiet on this. Paul says in **1 Corinthians 9:27**:

"I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

In other words "I don't just believe the right things... I train my life to follow them."

That word "discipline" literally means *to strike under control* to bring something into submission so it doesn't lead you.

Then Paul says in **2 Timothy 1:7**: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control."

Self-control. That's not a personality trait. That's a Spirit-filled life.

And Peter backs it up right here when he says: “Be sober-minded. Be watchful.”

That’s discipline language. That’s not emotional Christianity. That’s trained Christianity.

Because without discipline... you’ll believe in authority on Sunday and surrender it by Monday.

You’ll pray with power and then live with compromise. You’ll know the truth but not practice the truth. And over time... you don’t lose your faith, you lose your formation.

But Peter doesn’t leave us there. He doesn’t just expose weakness... he shows restoration.

Because he says: “After you have suffered a little while...” Listen, that means it won’t always feel like this. “This moment is not forever.”

And then he says: “The God of all grace will Himself restore you, confirm you, strengthen you, and establish you.”

In other words God doesn’t just forgive broken people... He rebuilds disciplined people He doesn’t just pull you out of failure... He puts structure back inside of you.

He restores what got damaged... He strengthens what got weak... He establishes what got shaken.

So let’s bring it all the way home. What do we do with all of this?

We respond. Not emotionally. Not just inspired for a moment. But decisively.

SLIDE If it’s pride—humble yourself.

If it’s anxiety—cast it on God.

If you’ve been asleep—wake up.

If you’re isolated—get connected.

If it’s lust—run and get help.

And above everything else step back into your authority.

Because here’s the truth: The enemy isn’t intimidated by loud Christians. He isn’t intimidated by emotional moments. He isn’t intimidated by knowledge of Scripture. But he is afraid of one thing

A disciplined believer who knows who they are in Christ and actually lives like it.

SLIDE Because authority in your mouth without discipline in your life has no power in your walk.

But when discipline and authority come together you don’t just survive the enemy... you push him back.

So yeah the enemy has tactics. Pride. Anxiety. Laziness. Isolation. Lust.

Same plays. Over and over again. But here’s what you’ve got to leave here knowing:

None of those tactics override your authority. You don’t have to live defeated. You don’t have to stay stuck. You don’t have to keep losing the same battles.

Because the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead— **lives in you.**

So when the enemy shows up?

You don't panic. You don't fold. You don't back up.

You stand. You resist.

You remind him: "I don't belong to you."

"My family doesn't belong to you."

"My future doesn't belong to you."

"I've been given authority and I'm not giving up ground."

That's the difference. The enemy may have tactics... But we have **authority.**

So Father, we come to You right now.

And we don't come pretending.

We come honest.

We ask You to build discipline in us

where we've been inconsistent.

Where we've been weak.

Where we've been passive.

Holy Spirit, produce in us self-control.

Train our thoughts.

Train our habits.

Train our lives.

God, restore what's been broken.

Strengthen what's been weak.

And establish what's been unstable.

And today, we reject every lie

that says we are powerless, stuck, or defeated.

Because Jesus, You didn't just save us—

You gave us authority.

So we choose to walk in it.

Not just believe it.

Not just hear it.

But live it.

LETS PRAY

And we declare today:

The enemy has no authority here.

Fear has no authority here.

Addiction has no authority here.

Shame has no authority here.

Because this house belongs to Jesus.

And we belong to Him. In Jesus' name... Amen.

Authority Over the Enemy notes

- Authority unused is authority _____
- He died so you could walk in _____ right now.
- Spiritual Authority Requires Spiritual _____
- Because authority in your _____ without discipline in your life has no power in your _____.
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- The _____ may have tactics... But we have _____.

Scripture: Luke 10:19, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5 6-11, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Corinthians 9:27:
2 Timothy 1:7: Galatians 5:23