

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 4 – True Authority in Christ

### Lesson 12 - Authority Part 2

One of the reasons why so many of us struggle with the area of authority is because we don't understand the power of it. We look at authority and submission as oppressive. We look at it as if it's going to somehow take something from us. But quite the contrary. It actually gives something to you.

**Isaiah 55:11** *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

God wants us to function this same way. God wants us to live in a place that what we speak comes to pass. Jesus said "As the Father has sent Me, even so send I you." (John 20:21 paraphrased) If we are not truly, fully under the authority of God, the authority of His Word, and the authority of His character, and we had the right to exercise all power and authority that what we speak comes to pass, what would happen if you were driving down the street and you got angry at somebody because they cut you off, and you said "Get off the road!"? Well, if you had the authority of God in your mouth, that car could go flying off the road! What you spoke would come to pass.

#### **How has God set up the release of authority in your life?**

He has set it up that only to the degree that you're under His authority will He release authority to you.

God wants to give us that kind of power and authority that whatever we speak comes to pass, but He dare not! He dare not give it to us yet. He has set it up that way, and it will protect you and it'll protect people around you.

This is why God got so angry at Moses when he misused the authority God had given him. Moses was upset with the people of Israel because they were whining and complaining again and they just never seemed to believe God. God told him to speak to the rock and water would come out. Moses had struck a rock before and water came out, but this time he was told to speak to the rock. Moses was so mad that he got up and rebuked the people. He took the rod of authority that God had given him and he misused that authority. He struck the rock out of anger instead of speaking to the rock. The miracle still happened because God had given him that level of authority. The miracle took place and the water flowed, but God said, "Judgment now comes on you Moses because you violated, you misused the authority I've given you. You don't get to go into the Promised Land." (see Exodus 17:1-7)

I'm telling you prophetically in the name of Jesus, this end time church, the true end time army is going to walk in a level of authority that no generation has ever known before. They're going to

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walk in a legal right to exercise the miracle power of God. But the only way they're going to get there is to walk in a level of being under authority like no generation before.

Why does it work when God speaks? If we understand why it works when God speaks, we'll understand why it can work when we speak.

**Matthew 17:20** *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, what you speak will come to pass. Mountains will be moved. Nothing will be impossible! Now a lot of people teach that you first have faith the size of a mustard seed which is the smallest of all seeds, but it grows over time into the biggest of all trees. And then once it grows and matures, then you can have the ability to move mountains. That's not what Jesus said at all. He didn't say the faith the size of a mustard seed, then after it grows up and matures. He said if you have the smallest measure of real faith.

Remember that faith is an authority issue. He says if you have even the smallest measure of faith, you have enough power to do the impossible. How do you get that faith? By coming under authority.

**Mark 1:23-27** *Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."*

Jesus made a demand. He opened His mouth. He commanded. They were amazed! They said He doesn't teach like the others, for when He speaks, He speaks with authority. When He speaks, His words carry power. When He speaks, His words carry power to bring the impossible to pass! They rightfully called this authority.

#### **How did Jesus have such authority?**

Jesus had this authority because He was under His Father's authority.

**John 5:19** *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

Now why does it work when God speaks? We saw that it worked when Jesus speaks because Jesus was under the authority of the Father, but why does it work when the Father speaks?

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**Psalms 138:2** *I will worship toward Your holy temple,  
And praise Your name  
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;  
For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*

Now you have to understand kingdom talk. Name speaks of your rank. Name speaks of your authority. The word actually means authority when you look it up in the original language.

God has exalted His Word, truth, even above His name. Why does it work? Because God is truth. Jesus said, “I am the way. I am truth. I am life.” (John 14:6 paraphrased) There is no lie in the Father. What He speaks comes to pass. What He speaks is true! And here, God Himself has submitted Himself to His own Word!

**Numbers 23:19** *God is not a man, that He should lie,  
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.  
Has He said, and will He not do?  
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

God Himself is in submission to His own Word. It’s why when He speaks, He has the right to function in power because it’s a heavenly principal that He established. When you’re under authority, you have the right to exercise authority. And God has submitted Himself to His Word.

**Psalms 89:34** *My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.*

You know why God will not break His covenant with you? Because He will not violate the submission to His own Word. If God stopped submitting to His own Word, He would lose His legal right of power and legal right to exercise power. He established it that way! And He Himself is submitted to His own Word.

That’s why you can trust in God. That’s why you never have to be shook. That’s why you can know that you know that you know that whatever God speaks, God will do! Because God, in order for God to remain as God, to function in the authority, He has to submit Himself to His own Word. The Father is in submission to His Word. He is under the authority of the Word! And that gives Him the legal right that what He speaks will come to pass.

So too, shall we take on that same example. So too shall we take on that same purpose. So too do we need to submit fully and completely to His Word. In every fashion, in every aspect.

We are to submit to His Word. “Oh I do Brother Steve. I submit to His word. I just have to do my own thing.” Then you’re not really submitting to His Word. Cause the Bible says in Ephesians that God gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, pastors and teachers for the prophetic and full equipping of the saints. (Ephesians 4:11-15) The Bible says to obey them that have rule over you.

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**Hebrews 13:17** *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

God is telling us here in Hebrews to submit to authority. God has set up authorities over your life. It's not just you and God. We've got all this independent spirit. People are running out doing their own thing, and they wonder why they don't have any real power; why what they speak doesn't come to pass. Because until you are under authority, you do not have the right to exercise authority.

Now granted, we have some carnal leaders that are using these principals to oppress the people. Absolutely true. We have carnal leaders that are teaching everybody under them to submit to them, but they're not truly in submission to anybody else. They're out to just do their own thing. They're not in submission. I've seen this happen many times and because of it people become fearful and so they pull themselves out from under authority.

Fear is a sign that you don't trust God. The Bible says we are to trust the Lord and lean not on the flesh and He will drive fear far from us. That fear will be driven from us. Fear will always cause you to pull back. Fear will always cause you to take back control. Trust will cause you, requires you, to release control.

Now you don't have the right of authority unless you're under authority, so what condition are we in when we've got this fiercely independent spirit? When God can speak to His servants, to His leaders, and they can hardly say anything now where everybody wants to do their own thing. Everybody wants to be independent. Everybody wants to have total control. They fear the abuses. And it's a strategy of the devil to keep the church powerless.

I found myself in a difficult situation, and even though my pastor would not release me and bless me, the one who he claimed was his authority stepped in and God used him. God did not bypass the authority structure. He used the authority structure and anointed this man who probably wouldn't have done it before and wouldn't have done it afterwards to speak the Word of sending. The word of blessing. The word of release. Because I stayed under authority and was even willing to submit to an authority that was ungodly and trust God to work on my behalf, God was able to bless me.

In the midst of it all I was willing to trust that God would deliver me. I understood that if I want to walk in great authority, I must be one that's willing to be submitted under authority. Even when I don't agree with that authority. Even when that authority might be wrong I can trust God!

I'm not talking about if the authority commands you to do something that's contrary to the Word. Remember, all authority comes from being under the Word. But even when I don't fully understand, I say, "God I'm not here to take matters into my own hands. I'm not gonna pull 'em into my own hands. You are going to do this!" And He did! And the blessing of God that came out of it! I know it's hard. Many are fearful. But God said trust in Me for all things work together for my good. (Romans 8:28)

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#### How does authority work when God speaks?

It works because He's under the authority of His own Word.

Why does it work when I speak? It works to the dimension that I'm under the authority of His Word and of His government which includes His leaders. When I'm under authority, I have the legal right to function in authority. When I'm under authority, I'm no longer functioning in just my power. I'm functioning in the power of the One who sent me.

What did Jesus say? Peace be unto you. As the Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. (John 20:21) Go. Preach the Gospel. Cast out devils. Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Lay your hands. Freely you have received. Freely give. (See Matthew 10:8 and Mark 16:15-18)

You're going to walk in this end time authority to the level and dimension that you get under authority. And you will never be truly willing to come under authority until you choose to trust in the Lord your God. That trust is going to come out of a relationship with Him. That trust will come out of intimacy with Him. That trust will come when you begin to spend time in the secret place of the Most High.

#### For Further Study:

**Exodus 17:1-7** *Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** *And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

**1 Timothy 5:17** *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.*