

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 4 – True Authority in Christ

Lesson 11 - Authority

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

God says the way to get the necessities of life is tied to the first part of that verse: seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

What is the Kingdom of God?

A kingdom is a place where a king rules. It's a king's dominion, and speaks of a place where a king rules. Here the King is God, and the kingdom is the domain where God, the King rules and reigns.

We have some teaching on the righteousness of God and holy living, but there's very little teaching on the Kingdom of God. It is becoming more prominent, because there's a restoration of this understanding. The kingdom is the place where He, His Word, His authority rules and reigns. The Bible says in Isaiah, talking about Jesus, of the increase of His government there shall be no end. (Isaiah 9:7)

Everything in the Kingdom of God is about authority.

Sin is an authority issue. Faith is an authority issue. Even the love of God is about authority.

The definition of the essence of sin is the rejection of God's legal right of authority over our lives. You cannot do an outward act of sin until you first reject God's right to tell you what to do and how to do it; what to say and how to say it.

Lucifer in heaven made the decision that he was no longer going to limit himself to what God had said his job was. He was the chief worship leader in Heaven. He was the most beautiful of all creation, but he wasn't satisfied with that. He said, "I'm gonna make myself like the most high God." (Isaiah 14:14) In order to do make that decision to make himself like the most high God, he had to reject God's legal right of authority. God who had created him had the legal right of authority to tell him what to do and what not to do.

God is supreme. He is the creator of all things. He created us. He owns us. He has authority. He has the legal right over us. And the Bible says, now watch this, "Seek ye first [what] the kingdom [the government of God] and all these things shall be added unto you." (Paraphrasing) Sin is an authority issue. It is a rejection of God's legal right of authority.

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Repentance is also an authority issue. Repentance is to accept God's legal right of authority over our lives. It literally means to change your mind about sin. Change your mind about rejecting God's legal right of authority, and now accept God's legal right of authority.

Matthew 8:5-10 *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*

All authority is imparted. All authority is given. The centurion was given authority by the Roman government and he understood that Jesus had been given authority from God. He understood that Jesus walked in such authority that He could simply speak the Word and his servant would be healed. And Jesus marveled at his faith.

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

The Father sent Him with power and authority, so that when He spoke the Word, what He spoke came to pass. The centurion understood that Jesus had the legal right to speak the Word, and that sickness must obey His voice because He was a man under authority. And because Jesus was under authority, He had the legal right to exercise authority.

You do not have, in any area of life, the right to legally exercise authority unless you are under authority.

Do you know what we call a person in authority in a country that was never given that right, whether it was elected or whether it was through birth through the lineage of a king, but just went in and took over? We call them a dictator. We recognize them as an illegal oppressor, one who illegally took authority, one who took control of something that he was not rightfully given. He does not have legal right for his authority, he stole authority. That's what the devil was trying to do. He was trying to steal authority.

No one wants to come under the authority of anybody. Nobody wants anyone to rule over them. We don't want to be under authority. We all want to do our own thing. This is a disease that we see in the Church. People run around constantly doing their own thing. And they don't recognize that you do not have the right to exercise authority unless you are under authority.

We've got to be very careful Church in the day that we live in because we've got a lot of people and Pastors of churches running around with an independent spirit. The Bible never says we are to be independent. The Bible says we are to be interdependent, mutually depend it says, one upon another. We are not independent from each other.

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It's amazing that we've got so much teaching today on how you can get your things met...needs met. Usually based on giving and offering and yet Jesus says to seek His kingdom first. People want to be blessed but they don't want to get under authority. The authority is not just God by Himself. It's never just you and God. Outside of the original twelve disciples, God in Scriptures never called anybody.

Jesus appeared to the Apostle Paul, but Jesus didn't call him. He sent Annonias to prophesy to him what he was supposed to do. He sent somebody in His government. And then we see the Holy Spirit speaking to the leaders at Antioch to separate Barnabus and Saul for the work to which God had called them to. Then they gathered together and the elders laid hands on them and sent them. They were under authority.

We are not a law unto ourselves. God wants us to operate in supernatural heavenly authority, but we will never be able to operate under supernatural heavenly authority until we get under the authority of Heaven. Authority in our righteous living. Authority in our character where this Word takes precedence over everything. But also under the authority of the government of God. All authority is given, it is not taken. You can't just up and take authority unto yourself. But when we have authority, then we will be able to function in our call and giftings.

Isaiah 54:17 *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.*

The heritage of the servants of the LORD is the function of authority. The heritage of the servants of the LORD is to exercise power. The heritage of the servants of the LORD is to open their mouth and speak, and what they speak comes to pass.

What does 'authority' mean?

The Greek word for authority is 'exusia' and it means the legal right to exercise power.

Luke 10:19 *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.*

Jesus said to His disciples, "Behold, I give unto thee 'exusia'." Now we've translated it into 'power', but He said, "I give unto thee exusia...authority over all the power, the authority of the devil. I give you the legal right to exercise power." But hear what Jesus said, "I give to you the legal right to exercise power over all the power of the enemy." In context there..."and he shall by no means harm you."

Now I know there's a lot of people running around believing we have all power over the devil but look at the context. Jesus was speaking of you having power over all the power of the enemy that would try to harm you.

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To what degree has Jesus given a believer the legal right of authority?

When you get born again, Jesus has gives you the legal right of authority to the degree that you submit to God's Word. Now if you don't submit to His Word, the devil still has authority in your life.

If you don't submit to God's Word, the devil can still come in and wreak havoc with your life. When we submit to God's Word, when we obey God's Word, then we have the legal right of authority over all the power of the enemy that would come and attack us. The Bible doesn't say that we have all power and authority. It says that Jesus has all power and authority.

Matthew 28:18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*

Then Jesus gave a dimension of that authority to us who believe. And God is raising up a generation to a place and a power that when they speak, what they speak will come to pass. They will lay hands on the sick and the sick shall recover. When they set their hands to do things, everything they do shall be blessed. They will have authority (exusia), the legal right to exercise power.

We have to continually stay in submission to the One who grants us authority in order to function with the power and authority that we have been granted. If we violate that authority we'll lose our authority. Just because you've been given authority for a season doesn't mean you are guaranteed to walk in it forever. In order to stay under or function in authority you must continue under authority.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom, the government, the authority of God, and all these things shall be added unto you." We must seek His first authority business. Repentance is an authority issue. Faith is an authority issue. And everything else in the Kingdom of Heaven is about authority. And Jesus came preaching, "Repent, for the authority, the Kingdom of Heaven, is at hand.

For Further Study:

Ephesians 1:22-23 *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.*

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.*