

TAKE YOUR AUTHORITY

Lesson 1 – We’re in a Spiritual Battle

I. SERIES INTRODUCTION

A. Objective

1. To gain a biblical understanding of our authority as believers.
2. To learn how to recognize who our real enemy is and how to resist and defeat him every time.

B. WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED TO BE TAUGHT ABOUT AUTHORITY?

1. Understanding our authority will empower us to have victory in every area of life.
 - a. No knowledge, no power
 - b. God said, “My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6
2. Satan’s number one concern is keeping the church ignorant of who we are, what we have & what we can do.
3. An ignorant church is a powerless church/An ignorant believer is a powerless believer.

II. LESSON INTRODUCTION:

Example: Demon possessed child

James 4:7 (AMP) – So ***submit*** to [the authority of] God. ***Resist the devil*** [stand firm against him] and ***he will flee from you.***

A. The boy whom the disciples could not heal.

Matthew 17:14-21 (NKJV)

1. Jesus called them faithless
2. He rebuked the demon & it came out
3. The disciples asked why they couldn’t cast it out

4. Jesus responded, “Because of your unbelief”
 - a. This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting
 - b. “This kind” – not this kind of devil, this kind of unbelief
5. Understanding our AUTHORITY will activate the faith we need to move mountains, cast out demons, and live in victory.

III. AUTHORITY OVER THE DEVIL BELONGS TO ALL WHO BELIEVE

- A. We received authority when we were born again.
- B. Our authority is backed up by the name of Jesus.
- C. *“These signs shall follow them that believe”* **Mark 16:18**
 - a. IN MY NAME THEY SHALL....
 - b. The authority is in His name
 - c. The Word is the weapon that enforces our authority

IV. WE’RE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE (Lesson Title) **Ephesians 6:10-18**

- A. Our battle is not with flesh and blood
 1. Our fight isn’t against people, but the spiritual forces that are influencing them.
- B. This is not a physical battle
 1. Understanding this will change the way we respond

V. SATAN USES PEOPLE

Anyone can let themselves be used by the enemy

- A. Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do men say that I am”.
 1. They answered John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the great prophets
- B. Jesus asked, “But who do you say I am?”
 1. Peter under the influence of God responded:

“Thou are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”
(Matthew 16:16)

2. Jesus affirmed Peter:
 - “Blessed art thou Simon Barjona:
 - “Thou art Peter and upon this rock (this insight) I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”
- C. Jesus begins to explain about the crucifixion and Peter rebukes him (**Matthew 16:22**)
- D. Jesus recognized it was the enemy speaking through him (**Matthew 16:23**) “Get thee behind me Satan!”
- E. We need to recognize that Satan as well as God can speak through and use people in our lives

VI. IN THIS BATTLE ACTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

Before you act, realize that spiritual forces are at work

- A. When you get angry at someone and you vent anger, frustration, resentment or unforgiveness it affects YOU.
- B. **James 1:20** says, *“The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”*
 - a. You will never accomplish God’s purposes by acting out by getting in the flesh, giving in to anger and losing your temper
- C. **James 3:16** Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and **every evil work.**
 - a. Envy and Strife open the door wide for the enemy, making you a target for his attack.
 - b. Guard your actions and the way you respond
 - c. Anger, venting, griping and complaining attract the devil like trash draws flies and rats.

VII. SPIRITUAL DYNAMICS

Dynamics definition – Forces at work

You need to learn to recognize the spiritual dynamics happening in your life.

- A. You’re either submitting to God and His influence or to Satan and his influence.
- B. Your actions release spiritual power into your life – God’s power or the devil’s.

VIII. GOD IS THE GOD OF PEACE, NOT CONFUSION

1 Corinthians 14:33 God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.

- A. If God is not the author of confusion, who is?
- B. **Romans 15:33** and 16:20 says he’s a God of peace and **Galatians 5:22** says that peace is the fruit of the spirit
Then we should make every effort to walk in peace and keep strife out!
- C. **Strife:** trouble, conflict, discord, contention, fighting, friction
Strife is much more deadly than a poisonous snake!
- D. Envy & Strife are inroads that allow the devil access to your life
- E. We’ve got to wake up and realize that we are in a spiritual battle
 - IT’S TIME FOR US TO KNOW OUR ENEMY
 - KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT HIM
 - KNOW THE AUTHORITY WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN
 - TAKE THAT AUTHORITY