

3.1 THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Key Verse: Luke 4:36

“They were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, ‘What a word this is!’ For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.”

Insights:

- Jesus had just cast out an unclean spirit from a man, by exercising His spiritual authority
- ‘Authority’ - NT:1849 - ‘Exousia’ (Greek): the power of rule or Government; the delegated legal right to speak and act on behalf of a king
- Authority is a delegated and legal right to speak or initiate action
 - Example: a policeman in uniform has a delegated right to speak and act on behalf of the Government
- ‘Power’ - NT:1849 - ‘Dunamis’ (Greek): the supernatural strength and ability to carry out a task
- Jesus received His authority from His heavenly father, as part of His commission
- Through intimacy and obedience He maintained His authority and power (John 5:19)
- Jesus exercised His authority by strong forceful verbal command (v 35)
- The power Jesus demonstrated was the Holy Spirit flowing through Him (Matt 12:28)

3.2 WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED ON OUR BEHALF

Key Verses: Col 2:12-15

“ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped

out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (NKJV)

Insights:

- All through Jesus life He walked in obedience and overcame every assault of Satan against Him
- Jesus acted as the representative of all mankind and disarmed all spiritual principalities and powers by His death and resurrection
- “Disarmed” - NT 554 - to strip off all clothes or weapons, to totally put off
- “Triumphed” - NT - to celebrate a complete and decisive victory over ones enemies
- Jesus victory at the cross caused a complete transfer of spiritual authority to take place from those defeated to the triumphant conqueror
- Satan lost all “legal rights” over humanity that Adam had surrendered to him in the garden
- All authority in heaven and earth now legally belongs to him as the triumphant victor and the champion of humanity (Mt. 28:18)
- At the cross Jesus has legally broken the power of:
 - Sin Col. 2:14
 - Curses Gal. 3:13
 - Griefs and trauma Is. 53:4
 - Sicknesses Is. 53:5
 - Iniquity Is. 53:5
- Followers of Christ, joined to His spirit and abiding in Him, are raised to a new level to share with Him in His victory and authority
- Followers of Jesus have been delegated authority to speak and act on His behalf to advance His kingdom
- In spite of the cross the majority of people still give the devil legal rights to enter and manipulate their lives

3.3 YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Key Verse: Luke 10:19

“Behold, I give you the authority (exousia) to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (dunamis) of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you”

Insights:

- Jesus was responding to testimonies given by the seventy disciples of their dominion over demons
- 'Authority' - NT:1849 - the power or right to give a command or to exercise force
- 'Serpents and scorpions' - symbols of evil spirits and demonic powers
- Jesus identifies them as our enemy, ones that hate and desire to hurt us
- God gives every believer spiritual authority
- Spiritual authority flows out of:
 1. Our status (standing) with God (Rom 5:1-2)
 2. Our continuing relationship with God (John 15:5)
 3. Our yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit, by faith (Matt 12:28)

3.4 INSIGHTS ON THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

- We do not own it – it is an entrustment from God (John 6:38)
- We must use it rightly – for the purpose it was given (2 Cor 13:10)
- We must not presume – do not act out of pride or independence (Matt 7:21 -23)
- We are accountable – to the one who gave us authority (Rom 14:12)

3.5 WHAT YOU HAVE AUTHORITY TO DO

Key Verse: John 14:12

“Most assuredly I say unto you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to My Father’

Insights:

- Jesus has entrusted you (a believer) with His authority and power
- You are called to do the supernatural works that Jesus did
- You must choose to exercise the authority entrusted you as a member of God's family

Examples:

You have been given authority to act as a representative of Jesus and to:

- Preach the gospel	Mt.28:18-19
- Make disciples	Mt.28:18-19
- Bless (speak empowered words)	Mt.10:12-13
- Break bondages	Is.10:27
- Break curses	Mt.16:19
- Cast out demons	Mt.10:8
- Authority to heal the sick	Mt.10:8
- Raise from the dead	Mt.10:8
- Bind and loose	Mt.16:19
- Forgive	Jn.20:23

3.6 KEYS TO EXERCISING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

1.Faith: Know Who You Are – Your Standing With God

Key Verse: Rom 8:15-16

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father”. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”

Insights:

- Your authority flows out of the position (status) that God has given you
- Spiritual authority is part of who you are....who God says you are
- You carry authority in the spirit realm because you are a child of God, a member of a royal family
- To exercise spiritual authority you must be confident who you are – an ambassador!

2.Humility: Position Yourself Under Authority

Key Verse: James 4:7

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (NKJ)

Insights:

- ‘Submit’ – NT:5293 – to place yourself under the authority of a superior officer

so as to work together to gain a military victory

- Submission is an attitude of humility that recognizes and yields to the authority of God and to those He has delegated authority to
- Positioning yourself under the authority and direction of the Holy Spirit enables you to move in authority
- e.g. The centurion in Matt 8: 8-10 – submission to the Word of God = great faith
- 'Resist' - NT:436 - to stand against, oppose, withstand

3. Revelation : Listen to The Voice of God

Key Verse: John 5:19-20

“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. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

Insights:

- Jesus' authority flowed out of His position as a son, and also out of personal intimacy
- Jesus never presumed or acted independently
- He was submitted to the Father to do the things that pleased Him
- As you have fellowship and develop intimacy with God, your authority grows
- To exercise authority on behalf of God, you must know what He wants to accomplish

4. Use Your Voice: Speak Forth Strong Verbal Commands

Key Verse: Mark 11:22-23

“So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

Insights:

- The entire invisible spirit world is listening when we direct words toward it
- To assert authority you must do it vocally, by issuing a command
- Command (Webster's Dictionary) - to issue an order with expectation that it will be carried out
- The spirit world cannot turn a deaf ear to the commands of God's anointed servants who are speaking and acting on His behalf
- Jesus commanded:
 - Sickness (Luke 4:39)

- Demons (Mark 9:25)
- Winds (Luke 8:24)
- Trees (Mark 11:14)
- Dead people (Luke 7:14)

5. Boldness: Speak as Jesus Representative

Key Verse: Acts 16:18

“And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour”

Insights:

- ‘In the name of Jesus’ means you are acting as Jesus’ personal representative upon the earth
- It means you are acting directly under His authority
- It means that you are doing what He requires to be done
- You are Jesus’ ambassador bringing Heaven to earth
- It is not some ‘magic formula’ for power to flow
- It means you speak as the representative of Jesus as He would speak, forcefully

6. Active Faith: Expect a Response to Your Command

Key Verse: Mark 11: 22-24

“Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (NKJV)

Insights:

- Commanding must be forceful, strong, and must flow from within your spirit man
- Spiritual kingdoms are enforced by spirits that ride upon, or are activated by, words spoken by someone with authority to do so
- 'Not doubt in your heart' - there must be confident expectation that the words you speak carry weight i.e. will be heard and responded to!
- God's word is more than sounds and sentences. It describes reality.
- The words you speak must be empowered by faith from your heart or it is simply sounds and noises

Exempl

- es:
- Peter: "In the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6)
 - Paul: "said with a loud voice 'stand up straight on your feet' " (Acts 14:10)
 - Paul: "said to the spirit 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ come out of him" (Acts 16:18)
 - Peter: "turning to the body and said, 'Tabitha, arise!' And she opened her eyes" (Acts 9:40)

NOTE THE PATTERN

Revelation + Words Spoken + Active Faith =
Manifestation of Holy Spirit

