

The Authority of the Believer: Exercising Our Dominion in Christ

I. PARTNERSHIP: GOD GAVE THE DOMINION OF THE EARTH TO HUMANS

- A. God gave the dominion of the earth to humans forever. He does not move in the earthly realm except in response to redeemed humans calling on Him to do so through intercession and worship. He ordained us to rule the earth forever through partnership with Jesus as a bride filled with adoring obedience. The demonstration of the Spirit follows the declaration of His people.
- ²⁶Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth...***²⁸***God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over...every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26-28)***
- ¹⁶The heavens are the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)***
- ⁴What is man that You are mindful of him...⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... (Ps. 8:4-6)***
- ²¹For all things are yours: ²²whether...the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. ²³And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)***
- ²⁴Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me... (Jn. 17:24)***
- ²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)***
- B. At the cross, Jesus as a Man defeated Satan and all demonic powers and made a public spectacle of them before all in heaven and hell. This victory is finished, but must be enforced in this age.
- ¹⁵Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [His death and resurrection]. (Col. 2:15)***
- C. Authority is delegated power. An example that is commonly used is that of a police officer who stops a car by the authority of the government, not his own physical power. We use our spiritual authority against Satan who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy God's blessing in our life (by fear, addictions, emotional oppression, division, sickness, financial oppression, etc.).
- ¹⁰The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. (Jn. 10:10)***
- D. Believers must exercise their authority in Christ to release to the earthly realm, the victory that Jesus secured on the cross. God's Word is our weapon. We resist Satan by speaking the Word. We stand for all the ground we take from the enemy, as demons return to oppress (Mt. 12:43-45).
- ¹²We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...in the heavenly places. ¹³Take up the whole armor of God...having done all, to stand...¹⁶taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one ...¹⁷Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Eph. 6:12-17)***

- E. Our problems are often the result of several factors working together including psychological issues (our mindset, belief systems, and life choices), physiological issues (diet, alcohol, chemicals, etc.), sociological issues (what others do to us), and spiritual (demonic attack).
- F. By using our authority, we can remove the added pressure that demons bring to our problems. This makes it much easier to solve physiological, psychological, and sociological problems. Exercising authority against Satan's attack does not automatically cancel all the consequences of our wrong choices or all the effects of what others do to us. Demons can oppress a Christian's body and soul without possessing their spirit. There are degrees of oppression. A bad mood, a spirit of depression, or emotional funk can be the direct result of flaming missiles of demonic oppression.

II. OUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IS BASED ON JESUS' VICTORY

- A. Our spiritual authority is based on our union with Jesus. The power and benefits that Jesus received as an "exalted Man" are given His people. God gave Jesus to the Church (v. 22) as our head (v. 22) and made us His body or vehicle to express His power to the earth (v. 23).

¹⁷The Father of glory, may give to you...revelation in the knowledge of Him... ¹⁸that you may know... ¹⁹The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... ²⁰which He [the Father] worked in Christ when He raised Him...and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places... ²² He put all things under His [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him... (Eph. 1:17-23)

"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 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. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20).

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." (Matt. 18:18-19).

- B. We have been raised to sit with Jesus in heavenly places, thus are given access to God's throne. Our prayers in God's will reach His throne and find approval resulting in the release of power. We must know who we are in Christ and the authority we possess in Jesus, both individually and as the "Ekklesia" of God. We must take our place of authority in Christ as those seated in heavenly places with Jesus (Eph. 1:3, 20-22; 2:6).
⁶Raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ.. (Eph. 2:6)
- C. We are called to enforce Jesus' authority on earth as His body. Satan's attack against us will continue if we accept it, instead of refusing it or challenging it with our authority in Christ.

⁷*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jas. 4:7)*

- D. Fear, rejection, and addictive urges are a form of demonic oppression that must be rebuked. If they are allowed to gain dominance in our thinking, they will dominate our life with despair. We must take authority over the spirit of fear. It must not be accepted or allowed to grow.

The battle is usually in our minds (thought life) when we are alone, tired or spiritually empty. That's where and when the enemy attacks (The tempter came to Jesus after 40 days of fasting – Matt. 4:1-11). We have to take dominion over our thoughts, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Cor. 10:3-6)

We literally have to “bring every thought into captivity”. We forcefully “arrest” every stray thought that is not pleasing to the Lord, and we take them captive and make them obey Jesus.

After casting down “imagination” we have to renew our minds through God’s Word and by receiving as true and real what He says about us.

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:1-2).

An un-renewed mind will keep you in the place of bondage. Recognize the ploy of the enemy and take steps to correct it.

- E. The command of faith doesn't always bring results instantly. There are some things, as it relates to your own personal walk of faith with Jesus, that you have to war over in faith and perseverance through prayer and fasting and submitting to God in that area. Know that between the promise and the reality of it, there is a time span. It's called “the test of faith”.

¹²*Do not become sluggish, but...through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:12)*

- F. Our authority is based on what Jesus accomplished for us, not on our moods, feelings, fervor or words of victory. Settle it in your heart. Become Fully convinced of the promises (Rom. 4:18-22).

⁶*“Not by [human] might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the LORD of hosts. (Zech. 4:6)*

Receive God’s Word over your life, and then begin to thank Him for what you are asking Him to do and believing for, but have not yet realized in your life. God is faithful!