

Spiritual Authority & Command Prayer

Lecture 5 of the course *Praying To Get Results*

Part 1: The Spiritual Basis

- ▶ We have ascended with Christ into the heavenly realms and rule with Him there and this position of power gives us the power to cast out demons and to do works of power through authoritative command!
- ▶ Ephesians 2:6 & 1:19-22
- ▶ Matthew 11:11-13
- ▶ Hebrews 1:14, 1 Corinthians 6:2,3
- ▶ Matthew 9:8, 10:1
- ▶ John 17:2; Matthew 28:19,20

The Same Love, Glory and Holiness...

- ▶ The same unity and relationship – John 17:21
- ▶ The same glory – John 17:22
- ▶ The same love – John 17:23, 26
- ▶ Not ashamed to call us His brothers: Hebrews 2:10-13
- ▶ Adopted as sons: Romans 8:15,23
- ▶ We operate at the “son of God” level in the heavenly realms, far above the angelic level, and the angels serve us and we can judge them.
- ▶ We have a glory greater than the angels and a love greater than that given to the angels – the love of redemption and the Cross even the love that is within the Trinity!

Spiritual Authority vs Religious Authority

- ▶ Matthew 11:23-27, 7:29,
- ▶ John the Baptist had great spiritual authority but he had no religious authority as, for instance, a High Priest (even though he was a Levite).
- ▶ His baptism for repentance and forgiveness of sons completely bypassed the Temple rituals and structure as well as his proclamation of the Kingdom of God!
- ▶ Jesus, similarly (being from the tribe of Judah) possessed no known religious authority at the time and so was questioned about where he got His authority from.
- ▶ Jesus got His authority directly from heaven as a priest forever by the order of Melchizedek, bypassing and replacing all human priestly and ecclesiastical systems.

The Order of Melchizedek

- ▶ Genesis 14:17-24
- ▶ A priest of God Most High, bread and wine, greater than Abraham, blesses Abraham, seems to call Abraham to separation from Sodom (the world system)
- ▶ Psalm 110 – has an eternal priesthood (forever) and has his own priestly order, that was prior to the Levitical order.
- ▶ Hebrews 5:1-10; 6:11-20; 7:1-28
- ▶ An eternal kingly priesthood that is directly from God
- ▶ Hebrews 7:1, 1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6, 5:10



Christians Are Kings and Priests!

- ▶ All born-again Christians are kings and priests of God of the order of Melchizedek, we have authority to confer blessings and to rule and reign upon the earth!
- ▶ We have an eternal priesthood that is far greater than any Levitical priesthood or any priesthood conferred by human authority alone.
- ▶ For instance we are not to go back to religious calendars (Galatians 4:10) or to religious initiation (Gal 5:1-11) or to human religious practices and philosophies (Colossians 2:8-23)
- ▶ We are GIVEN authority, through the new birth to bless, to bind, to loose, to tear down demonic strongholds and to take captive the evil spiritual forces that take people captive.



Authority To Bless

- ▶ Ephesians 1:3, Galatians 3:9,14
- ▶ Romans 12:14
- ▶ Romans 15:29
- ▶ Hebrews 11:20,21
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:7-11
- ▶ We have authority to pronounce God's gracious blessings, even upon our enemies (those who do not deserve to be blessed) and as we are a blessing, we will also inherit a blessing!
- ▶ Being able to pronounce blessings was a role strictly reserved for priest and patriarchs but now belongs to all Christians!
- ▶ It means we have the power to move in and to handle spiritual matters with authority and to impart grace and to designate certain spiritual things to happen...



Part 2: The Moral Basis of Authority

- ▶ You do not receive spiritual authority by "being good" or being moral or attending church twenty times a week or going to Bible College or even by being ordained!
- ▶ There are many ordained ministers in liberal Protestant denominations who have little or no spiritual authority!
- ▶ Authority is a gift that is received: "Jesus **gave them** authority.." (Luke 9:1, 20:2)
- ▶ Authority is retained by being a clean and worthy vessel.
- ▶ Authority is not *attained* by holiness but it is *retained* by righteousness. You are never adequate or qualified (1 Corinthians 2:16-3:6) but you can be disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:27 Colossians 2:18)!



The Clean Vessel

- ▶ **2 Timothy 2:20-21 (EMTV)**
- ▶ *Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, having been consecrated and useful to the Master, having been prepared for every good work.*
- ▶ See surrounding context: 2 Timothy 2:14-26
- ▶ Cleansing leads to promotion and promotion leads to authority. Clean vessels are used for better things!



Impurity Sets Off The Whirlwind!

- ▶ Hosea 8:7 – *They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind..*
- ▶ The consequences of disobedience in areas of spiritual authority can be disproportional, violent and chaotic.
- ▶ Stricter judgment for teachers (James 3:1)
- ▶ David's sin with Bathsheba led to constant war
- ▶ Dathan and Abiram consumed by fire (Numbers 16)
- ▶ Solomon's sin led to a Divided Kingdom
- ▶ Cults: Jim Jones, David Koresh,
- ▶ Judas, Ananias and Sapphira etc



The Strange Place

- ▶ Spirituality creates a spiritual context around us, a bit like a "vortex" and when this goes wrong people end up in a demonic **strange place** of disputes, accidents, illnesses, "bad luck", nightmares, addictions, violence, seeing ghosts, etc.
- ▶ This "strange place" seeks to expand and to involve and to devour others.
- ▶ This "strange place" is fed by resentments, hatreds, idolatry, unforgiveness, witchcraft, the occult, bizarre thinking, superstitions, evil thoughts, strife etc.
- ▶ We need to undergo confession, conversion and spiritual cleansing and the breaking of bondages and curses to get rid of this!
- ▶ If we attempt spiritual leadership from "the strange place" it goes very badly astray! Acts 8 – Simon Magus



The Pure Heart

- ▶ The pure heart is one that is truly aligned with God so that God dwells there and His will is done "on earth as it is in heaven" in purity and truth, via that person!
- ▶ 1 Timothy 1:5, Matthew 5:8, 1 Peter 1:22
- ▶ The pure heart is cleansed by the blood of Jesus! 1 John 1:7-10, Hebrews 10:22, Psalms 24:4, 51:10
- ▶ A pure heart is the result of constant self-examination and cleansing, keeping short accounts with God
- ▶ A pure heart helps us to retain spiritual authority and to minister as true servants of God.



A Dynamic Process

- ▶ We do not start out with a pure heart! Purity is a process!
- ▶ The heart of man is “desperately wicked..” Jeremiah 4:14, 17:9
- ▶ It is full of madness and evil imaginations (Genesis 6:5, 8:21, Romans 1;21; Ecclesiastes 9:3)
- ▶ The pictures in our mind and imagination are evil, selfish, mad, foolish, vain and wicked and this is constantly the case!
- ▶ We need to be born-again
- ▶ We need to become Spirit-filled
- ▶ We need to be “washed with the Word’ and renew our minds
- ▶ We need to adopt the disciplines of a pure life including daily *self-examination, repentance* and asking for the “*godly opposite*” e.g. if your heart is full of envy ask for God to fill you with thankfulness, gratitude and inner security. (Believe - Receive - Experience)

The 9C Model of Spiritual Authority

- ▶ *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus give requirements for spiritual leadership:*
- ▶ **Character:** depth, sound morals, a dignified life, faithful
- ▶ **Competence:** apt to teach, prayerful, diligent, knows the “stuff”
- ▶ **Connections:** has many good relationships with good people
- ▶ **Content:** sound doctrine, wisdom, knowledge, learning, ideas...
- ▶ **Charismatic:** anointed, Spirit-filled, spiritually gifted
- ▶ **Care:** good judgment, few mistakes, never slack or careless
- ▶ **Clean:** no basis for accusation or reproach
- ▶ **Courage:** able to suffer hardship, not afraid to tackle things
- ▶ **Command:** able to bring people and issues into line

The Limits of Spiritual Authority

- ▶ You never have authority to engage in violence (the weapons of our warfare are not carnal) or in manipulation (craftiness) or in changing or adulterating the Word of God.
- ▶ Your calling and gifting limits your authority (e.g. an evangelist may have limited authority as a teacher)
- ▶ Your designated area of operation limits your authority (Jews or Gentiles etc) and this may include a particular “place”
- ▶ Your knowledge limits your authority as you cannot be wrong or mistaken or ignorant about issues and have authority
- ▶ Legal issues limit your authority: in matters of law, medicine and giving financial advice (unless you actually know these areas) and you can get in trouble if you overstep the bounds!

Authority For A Season

- ▶ There are ‘times and seasons’ for every action and every ministry (Ecclesiastes 3:1-12)
- ▶ You may be given authority “for a season” e.g. the Anti-Christ has authority for three and a half years and then it is removed.
- ▶ Jesus: “You would have no authority unless it was given to you...” the government had temporary authority over Christ in order to crucify Him but now he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and governments will bow down at the name of Jesus!
- ▶ You may be given great spiritual authority in the midst of an emergency but then it will “vanish” and you go back to normal!

Part 3: Authority From The Throne...

- Imagine an old-fashioned court ruled by Great King Humungous, during a time of great conflict.
- General Dashing comes forward and asks for ten-thousand troops, vast provisions, and 60 cannon for the Western Front
- He gets permission from the King Humungous.
- General Dashing takes the written order “in the King’s Name” to the Army HQ, to the grocery stores, and to the cannon manufacturer and receives whatever he asks for!
- In fact General Dashing can give orders based on his written instructions “in the King’s Name”

What We Can Get Authority For...

- ▶ Fighting God’s battles for the sake of the gospel: healing, salvation, exorcism, counsel, miracles, loving others etc.
- ▶ For the provision we require to do God’s will
- ▶ For bringing people and institutions into obedience
- ▶ It is not about our selfish temporal desires, but about God’s eternal will and purposes! You cannot go to the King and ask for booze to get high!
- ▶ Once we get the authority we can then ACT in that authority without having to go back to the King for everything (say for every pencil and shoe-lace for the troops)
- ▶ What we have we give you..in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk! (Acts 3)

It Is Written....

- ▶ In the Wilderness Temptation (Matthew 4, Luke 4) Jesus just said “It is written...”
- ▶ The Scriptures (especially the New Testament) are the written authority of the King that we can use in prayer! (we sometimes have to be cautious about personal application of some OT passages in the Law or about national destiny)
- ▶ We can pray with written authority on matters of redemption and on matters that are clearly spoken about in Scripture and in direct inferences on the basis of biblical principles.

Requesting and Commanding

- ▶ A) We request the King for all good and godly things
- ▶ B) We then give orders to His obedient subjects “in His Name”
- ▶ C) We cast out and tear down the resisters and the Enemy
- ▶ We ask for the Holy Spirit and for the powers of Heaven (Lk 11:11-13)
- ▶ We command mountains to move! (Matt 21:21-23, Mk 11:22-24)
- ▶ We say to the sick “Rise up and be healed! (Matthew 10)
- ▶ We cast out demons
- ▶ We tear down strongholds
- ▶ We use authority to enforce obedience (2 Cor 10:2-6)

Authority

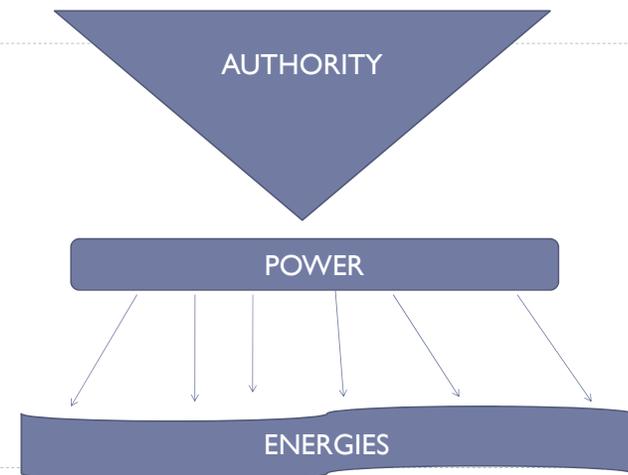
- ▶ **Authority** – (Gk. ‘exousia’)
 - ▶ Positional authority, command authority, the legitimate right to exercise power, privilege, mastery, magisterial power, the power of a potentate.
 - ▶ Christian authority is always ‘in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ - and is not our own authority to wield as we like. It must do God’s will.
 - ▶ (*Matthew 7:29, 8:8-13, Luke 9:1,2; 10:17-19, John 1:12, Acts 26:18, Ephesians 1:20,21; Revelation 2:26,27; 6:8, 9:3,4; 11:6*)

Power

- ▶ **Power** - (Gk. ‘dunamis’)
 - ▶ the ability to do something or to make something possible.
 - ▶ Miraculous power, God’s power;
 - ▶ A mighty work, ability, abundance, power, strength.
- ▶ (*Matthew 17:20, 19:26, Mark 9:23, Luke 1:37, Matthew 11:21, 14:1,2; 22:29, 24:29,30; 26:64; Mark 5:30, 9:1,39; Luke 1:7, 4:6,36; 6:19, Acts 1:8*)

Energies

- ▶ **Energies** (Gk. ‘energeia’)
 - ▶ energies that work in or through a person (sometimes used in combination w. *dunamis*)
 - ▶ resurrection power;
 - ▶ including divine or demonic energies, occult energy, spiritual gifts, influences, demonstrations of power;
 - ▶ (*Ephesians 1:19,20; 2:2, 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 9; 1 Corinthians 12:6,11; 16:9, Mark 6:14, Galatians 2:8, 3:5; Ephesians 3:7, 4:16, Philippians 3:21, Colossians 1:29, 2:12, Hebrews 4:12*)



Aligning Earth And Heaven....

- ▶ **"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."**
- ▶ **Matthew 18:18-19** I assure you: Whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven. Again, I assure you: If two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.
- ▶ **Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- ▶ **Colossians 1:19-20** For God was pleased to ...reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross — whether things on earth or things in heaven.

For Building Up / Bringing To Maturity

- ▶ **2 Corinthians 10:8** For if I boast some more about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I am not ashamed.
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 13:8-10** For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. In fact, we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. We also pray that you become fully mature. This is why I am writing these things while absent, that when I am there I will not use severity, in keeping with the authority the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

Part 3 : Walking In & Experiencing Spiritual Authority

- ▶ We **cast out** demons (Matthew 10:1,8; Mark 3:14,15; 16:17; Luke 9:1,2, 10:17,18)
- ▶ We **wrestle against** principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- ▶ We will **judge** the fallen angels (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)
- ▶ We will **crush** Satan under our feet (Romans 16:20)
- ▶ This is done by the delegated authority we receive from God and by His power and assistance

Receiving Authority

- ▶ Great authority can be given in an instant: Joseph, Daniel, Queen Esther etc.
- ▶ It is entirely the decision of the King as to who gets the position of authority. It is not earned.
- ▶ We are given the authority to become sons of God when we believe in His name (John 1:12, Ephesians 1:19-21, 2:6)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit delegates authority to carry out God's work (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) - (Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11, 2 Timothy 1:11)
- ▶ Faithfulness leads to an increase in authority while careless unfaithfulness leads to a decrease in authority (Matthew 24:45-51, 25:14-30)

Receiving Power

- ▶ Power is given when the Holy Spirit “comes upon” someone to work through them: Numbers 11:25, 24:2, Judges 14:6, 19; 2 Kings 2:9, Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, John 1:33)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit comes upon Christians via the baptism in the Holy Spirit:
(Acts 1:8, 2:17, 18; 10:44, 45; 11:15, 19:6)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit **within us** produces wisdom, regeneration and sanctification (e.g. Galatians 5:22, 23)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit **upon us** gives us power in ministry.

Receiving “Energy”

- ▶ “Energiea” power is unleashed by faith – by believing in His name (Galatians 3:5, Ephesians 1:18, 19)
- ▶ It is a gift that is given as the Holy Spirit wills. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31)
- ▶ It is closely linked to doing miracles and moving mountains and having the ‘energy’ of God working through us in body-life ministry. (Philippians 4:13, Ephesians 3:7, 4:16)
- ▶ It also works through us via self-purification and humility (getting out of the way) Philippians 3:7-14
- ▶ The Earthen Vessel (2 Corinthians 4:7-18, 2 Timothy 2:20, 21)

The Purpose...

- ▶ “For the building up of the church in love...” (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- ▶ For mutual benefit (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
- ▶ For edification and building up (1 Corinthians 14:26, 2 Corinthians 10:8, 12:19, 13:10, Jude 1:20)
- ▶ It is not for ‘solo’ purposes but for the greater good
- ▶ Must be exercised in love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- ▶ And in the will of God (Matthew 7:21-23)

Authority Over Lies and Pretensions!

- ▶ **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (EMTV)**
- ▶ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty by God to the pulling down of strongholds, *casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,*
- ▶ We have authority over lies, evil imaginations, deceptions, false doctrines and thought temptations!

Canceling Ungodly Agreements

- ▶ Sometimes our thoughts / inner belief system starts agreeing with ungodly, wicked or blasphemous lies of the Devil and we have to confess, renounce, rebuke, cancel, forsake and cast down such ungodly agreements and then replace them with the truth!
- ▶ “I have no hope for my life, its all over...”
- ▶ “God is sick of me and just wants to destroy me for my sin...”
- ▶ “I am better than other people and deserve a lot more happiness than other people and God had better give it to me or I will turn to the Devil for self-gratification.....”
- ▶ “I am secure because I am rich, I will build bigger barns..”
- ▶ “People who trust in God are just stupid and don’t know how to make things happen in life...”

Commanding

- ▶ **Authority- Command Prayer,**
- ▶ giving orders, ‘say to this mountain...’ ,
- ▶ Casting out demons ‘with a word
- ▶ Rebuking sickness
- ▶ Calling wholeness into being
- ▶ opening up the boundaries of your faith, mustard-seed faith, believing God, and speaking it into being
- ▶ Focus on the desired (will of God) picture of perfection
- ▶ (Matthew 17:20, 21:21, Mark 11:22-26, I Corinthians 13:2)

Receiving Power And Energy

- ▶ Ask for the Holy Spirit to come ‘upon you’. Ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Laying on of hands. (Acts 8:18,19, Hebrews 6:2)
- ▶ Seek spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 14:1,2)
- ▶ Spend time in worship. (I Corinthians 12-14)
- ▶ Move as the Spirit leads you to move. (Acts 3 – healing of the lame man)
- ▶ **Energies – Releasing Prayer,** letting Christ in you do the ministry, trusting God to move through you as an earthen vessel.

The Role Of Faith

- ▶ Mark 6:1-6 And He went out from there and came into His native-place. And His disciples followed Him (3) *Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him. (4) But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor, except in his native-place, and among his own kin, and in his own house. (5) And He could do no work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick ones, He healed them. (6) And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went around the villages, in a circuit, teaching.*
- ▶ Jesus who had great power and authority was **UNABLE** to do any **mighty works (dunamin)** in Nazareth because ‘of their unbelief’.
- ▶ Skepticism kills the ability of even the best healer or miracle worker

The Revelation Of Our Power

- ▶ **Ephesians 1:17-23** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened; that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power (**dunamis**) toward us who believe, according to the working (**energeian**) of His mighty power (**kratos**) and strength (**ischus**) which He worked in Christ, having raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, above every ruler (arches) and authority (**exousia**) and power (**dunamis**) and dominion, (**kuriotes**) and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the coming age. And He subjected 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 filling all things in all.
- ▶ **Later Ephesians 3:16 PROMISES us all these powers through the Holy Spirit.**



KRATOS – Great Power, Dominion

- ▶ In Greek Kratos was the god who personified war, strength and power and was also the Titan who bound Prometheus for sinning against the gods by giving fire to humans.
- ▶ Jesus is called *pantokrator* “all powerful one..” the one who is King of Kings, Lord of Lords and is dominant over the “powerful ones” and who is irresistible.
- ▶ Kratos power is almost “god-like” power to have great dominion, power to absolutely dominate, to bind, to conduct war, to annihilate Satan
- ▶ We are given mighty kratos power through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16)



Ischus – Inner Strength, Might

- ▶ The ability to have massive strength, power and endurance infused into us by God for the meeting of great challenges.
- ▶ Authority that gives way under great challenge is no authority at all! (Proverbs 24:10)
- ▶ If we are to make God’s Kingdom come and see His will done on earth as it is in Heaven then we will have to be strong, endure, and to suffer hardship and persecution.
- ▶ Philippians 4:13 (see context)
- ▶ Colossians 1:11
- ▶ 2 Timothy 4:17
- ▶ You can directly download strength from God to do His work even when you are weak 2 Corinthians 2:9-12



Walking In Authority Through Faith!

- ▶ You receive authority from God , by grace through faith
- ▶ You believe you have that authority
- ▶ You begin to exercise and to understand your authority
- ▶ You join with others who also have authority
- ▶ You begin to bless others
- ▶ You build up the Church
- ▶ You bind the forces of darkness
- ▶ You endure with strength their counter-attacks
- ▶ You do mighty works of faith, greater works, as God appoints them to you (Ephesians 2:10; John 14:12)
- ▶ Finally you move in resurrection power and rule and reign with Christ on earth, in the Kingdom of God!

