



I Give You Authority

CHAPTER 7 – “MORE ON USING AUTHORITY”

CHAPTER 8 – “RULES FOR AUTHORITY IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM”

2 Corinthians

12:1 – 13:10

- ▶ Paul's discussion of authority to the Corinthians - (*Pages 114-115 in book*):
 1. Spiritual authority has a territorial dimension. Paul asserts his authority in II Corinthians 10:12-18 over an area he believes God has assigned him – an area that includes Corinth.
 2. Spiritual authority flows from a burden to see a love relationship between those served and Christ (11:1-6).

2 Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

3. Spiritual authority is grounded in a substantial knowledge of God and His activities in the human sphere (11:6).
4. Spiritual authority must operate without being tied to payment. Paul exercises his spiritual authority as a servant without charging the Corinthians (11:7-12) or anyone else.

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

5. Spiritual authority involves an uncompromising opposition to charlatans – those who masquerade as true Christian leaders but who teach lies (11:13-15).
6. Spiritual authority serves even to the extent of readily sacrificing and suffering (11:16-33). Paul, in exercising the authority God gave him, has endured incredible hardship on behalf of those he has ministered to, mostly at the hands of those who oppose him.

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

7. Spiritual authority involves direct revelation from God (12:1-6). Paul was taken up to “the highest heaven” and heard things there “which cannot be put into words, things that human lips may not speak.”
8. Spiritual authority is exercised in weakness and ordinariness, even with God-allowed satanic reminders to keep us humble. In 12:6-10, Paul speaks of his weaknesses and of the “painful physical ailment” (vs. 7), or “thorn in the flesh” (KJV), that God has allowed “as Satan’s messenger to beat me and keep me from being proud.”

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

9. Spiritual authority is authenticated through the operation of spiritual gifts (12:12). Paul points to signs and wonders as proving his apostolic authority.
10. Spiritual authority is ready and able to rebuke and discipline those who persist in disobedience (13:1-2).

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

11. Spiritual authority can be tested by checking the presence and activity of Christ in those who have responded to the message presented by the one who claims that authority (13:5-6).
12. Implied in the passage is the fact that spiritual authority is not contingent on a given personality type.

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

13. Neither is spiritual authority contingent on one's ability to preach or communicate in other ways. Spiritual authority precedes these abilities, acting as a life-giver to these means but not restricted by whether or not one is a gifted communicator.
14. True spiritual authority affirms rather than puts down others, encouraging them to operate in all the gifting and authority God has given them.

II Corinthians

12:1 - 13:10

15. Spiritual authority can be exercised in a multitude of unique ways. Rather than being something we merely “do”, it is to be grounded in and exercised out of a person’s very being.
 - ▶ How well do we measure up to these characteristics - which were also the characteristics of Jesus?
 - ▶ How well does the Christian church or ministry measure up?

What Are Our Guidelines?

We don't have hard and fast guidelines in the area of authority and spiritual warfare.

Kraft says he has experiments and uses what works when it comes to deliverance and healing.

Prerequisites to authority that we have studied:

- Intimacy with our Master.
- Obedience.
- Recognition that we are at war.
- Knowing who we are in Christ.



We need the Release of the Holy Spirit

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- ▶ Remember that Jesus did no miracles until He was baptized. Then He told his disciples to wait to be empowered by Holy Spirit (Luke 24:40; Acts 1: 4-5)
- ▶ What does the Holy Spirit bring?
 - Power and Giftings - what we need to go with our authority as Jesus' disciples.
- ▶ How do we get it?
 - Simply by asking Him to fill us! (Luke 11:13)
- ▶ The benefits:
 - Becoming more loving, humble, Christ-like.
 - An overflow of the fruit of the Spirit.

We Need to Tend to Our Spiritual Condition!

- ▶ The enemy is a legalist - He knows where we have open doors.
- ▶ While God is patient with us and a God of second and third chances, He desires our obedience, which brings blessings.
- ▶ There is a distinction between making mistakes, even at times willful ones, and confirmed rebellion.

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What Else Do We Need?

- **We need to accept the fact that Jesus gave us the authority to imitate Him, to do greater works.**
 - These are our rights as Jesus' followers and friends.
- **We need prayer coverage!**
 - A much-lacking element in the church today.
- **We need a Spiritual Mentor and Accountability Partner.**
 - This is not a “lone ranger” sport. Those who minister need to be ministered to!

How Much Teaching is There About Spiritual Warfare in the Body of Christ Today?

What are some things that are generally taught about the war we are in? Hey - are we in one?!

If we have been given power and authority to fight, should we accept that responsibility?

Why or why not?

What Should We do as Individual Believers to Win This Battle?

- ▶ Shed our ignorance. “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”
- ▶ Shed our fear. Paul to Timothy: “The Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid or fearful; instead his Spirit fills us with power, love and self control.” (2 Timothy 1:7).
- ▶ Be engaged in the battle for the purpose of seeing souls saved, expanding the Kingdom.
- ▶ Use the authority to protect ourselves, our loved ones.
- ▶ Communicate God's love through words, healings, deliverance and whatever He asks us to do.
- ▶ Work toward spiritual maturity.

Kraft: "A choice for spiritual ignorance is a sign of spiritual immaturity."

- ▶ "Spiritual maturity involves a Scripture-based recognition of the forces that fight against us, plus the scriptural good news of our authority over those forces. It also includes nurturing love, the fruit of the Spirit, prayer, worship, witnessing."
- ▶ Would Jesus leave us without authority and weapons to fight the battle?



Rules for Authority in the Spirit Realm

- ▶ The spirit world and the human world are interconnected. What happens in the spirit realm affects the physical realm.
- ▶ Same rules seem to govern interactions between humans and God, and humans and satan. The authority of both God and satan are enhanced when devotees obey and worship them.
- ▶ Both God and satan gain ability to work through people when humans choose to obey them.
- ▶ **Major principle: The way authority is exercised in the human sphere affects what goes on in the spiritual realm and vice versa. (In Daniel - a spirit being, called the "Prince of Persia", prevented an answer to Daniel's prayer.) God can grant specific gifts to humans, as needed.**

Obedience/Disobedience to God's Rules

Obedience to God's rules -
commitment to Christ,
praying, worshiping, loving,
confessing sin, walking in
righteousness:

- Enables God to carry out His will in and through us.

Disobedience to God's rules -
by sinning, not forgiving,
hating, committing oneself to
satan, worshipping him and
doing unrighteousness:

- Gives satan authority to work in and through us.

Partnering With God/ Partnering With satan

What gave satan the right to intervene in Adam's life?

Was it Noah's obedience which gave God the authority to rescue a remnant?

Has this principle changed? A RESOUNDING NO!

How do we partner with God? What happened when the Israelites did not cooperate with Him?

- Whoa - they couldn't enter their Promised Land! (Is that a principle?)

Partnering with satan?
How would we do that?

Partnering With God/ Partnering With satan

- ▶ On God's side – His partners: An Israeli mother, an Egyptian princess who disobeyed the gods of Egypt, and then Moses, after a false start, to free God's people.
- ▶ Satan found a Pharaoh to partner with him who refused to honor the agreement with Joseph. Did he find someone to partner with him when Moses was on the mountain?
- ▶ On God's side: Mary and Joseph, obediently submitted to/partnering with God. Left the country in order to save Jesus!
- ▶ Satan's partner: Herod, who tried to kill Jesus by killing all baby boys, when he found out the Messiah had been born.

The Principle

- ▶ When a person is tempted but refuses to give in and partner with satan, what the enemy tried to accomplish does not happen!
Examples: addiction, suicide, abuse.

God doesn't enter a person's life unless the person gives Him the authority to enter

- ▶ His will: That none should perish. If believers don't witness and pray, people are lost.
- ▶ His will: Heal the land and have revival. If believers don't repent, change, and become obedient, we won't see it.
- ▶ His will: Unity of the Body. If we don't love one another, pre-believers won't see us as one.
- ▶ His will: Love our neighbors. If we don't, where is our witness to His love?

When Those Committed to Satan Begin Following Christ . . .

- ▶ . . . a new relationship is begun that replaces the old. The demons lose control. But - they can still hang around and hinder.
- ▶ The more we obey God, the closer the relationship with Jesus!
- ▶ "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." (John 14:15)
- ▶ "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love." (John 15:1)
- ▶ Does God always get His way?
- ▶ Do God and His people frustrate the plans of satan?



The Power of Rituals

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- ▶ Rituals that strengthen God: Prayer, worship, fasting, obedience, sacrifice. These are crucial to authority.
 - Sacrifice of Jesus - unleashed God's power and authority; earthquake; raising of the dead; rending of Temple curtain. Perhaps cleansing of Jerusalem in preparation for arrival of Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Rituals that strengthen satan: Blood sacrifices – animals; humans; heir to a king's throne; prayer; fasting; gatherings; demonic concerts; etc.

The Power of Rituals

What about objects that would give God or satan power?

What are other things which would empower God to act? Empower satan to act?

Do symbols have meaning? Can they effect the spiritual climate? The people in an area?

Angelic Authority Structure

- ▶ Archangels:
 - Michael - one of the chief angels (Daniel 10:13); the "chief angel" in Jude 9
 - Gabriel - one who stands in presence of God (Luke 1:19)
- ▶ Cherubim - Relate to presence of God - Ezekiel 10:5
- ▶ Seraphim - Relate to presence of God – Isaiah 6:2
- ▶ Angels with specific assignments: Children, ministering, healing, protection, harvest

Angelic Authority Structure

What position did satan have before his rebellion? (Isaiah 14:12 – 15) Did he have authority and power?

- He still has power, but none apart from God's permission.
- Ranks in satan's demonic angels - Ephesians 6:12:
 - Principalities
 - Authorities or powers
 - Cosmic powers of this dark age
 - Mighty powers of darkness
- His foot soldiers: demons, perhaps in families, such as occult or ordinary demons; different levels of power.
- Satan dispenses authority and power to those under him.

Important Restrictions on satan That We Need to Know

1. His power and authority and kingdom are infinitely weaker than God's.
2. There is no chance that the satanic kingdom will be victorious.
3. Satan's power and authority continue only at the level, and for the time, God allows.
4. Satan gained authority through Adam. Whatever authority he holds is that permitted by humans.
5. Satan and his minions are literalists, legalistic. They obey the letter of the law.