

Use Your Authority

Week 6 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm

Message Mate

- You are in a battle called spiritual warfare and you need to know what side you are on and what authority you carry. On God’s side, your role is to be releasing the Kingdom of God, restoring things to the way God intended and prevailing over sin and evil, whereas Satan’s kingdom brings sin and evil into the world.
- Your identity and authority are different depending on whether you are a child of God, or a slave to sin. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you are “in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6-10), you receive forgiveness and are free from condemnation (Eph 1:7, Rom 8:1).
- Jesus has all authority (Mt 28:18) and he delegates authority to his followers to heal people, help free people from spiritual darkness and turn from the kingdom of darkness and Satan to the kingdom of light and God (Mt 10:1, Acts 26:15-18).
- Your primary authority is Christ because you are “in Christ” and under His authority, including His Word (Bible) and His Body (Church). As followers of Jesus, we are under the authority of Scripture and when we live by it, we are made increasingly holy (sanctified), trained for righteousness and equipped for good work (Jn 17:17, 2 Tim 3:16,17). By using Scripture we exercise authority to overcome Satan and his temptations (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus is the head of the Church and the Church is His body (Eph 1:22,23). When we are in unity and pray with spiritual authority, we can release the Kingdom of God and confront the spiritual forces of darkness in the lives of people and in our city (1 Cor 5:4; 1:10; Heb 13:17).
- Our authority is affected by sin, yet experiencing temptations and trials is not sin (Heb 4:15, Jam 1:12) The more you grow in authority, the larger the target on your back. As you stand firm and don’t sin, you don’t give the devil a foothold (Eph 4:27). If you have unconfessed sin, then confess it and receive forgiveness (1 Jn 1:9).
- To keep growing “in Christ” keep dying to yourself and choose to live in Christ by his Word (Scripture) and as part of His Body (Church) with the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit. Obey God (Mt 28:20) and submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he will flee (Jam 4:7) because you are “in Christ” and as God’s child, you are greater than the one who is in the world (Satan; 1 John 4:4).
- Jesus has given you authority, use it and you will play a key role in overcoming Satan, helping people grow in Christ and making our city more like God intended it to be.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Switzerland is a neutral country militarily, yet in spiritual warfare there are no spiritually neutral options. Read Acts 26:18 with reference to the only two options: darkness and Satan vs light and God. Discuss the statement, "You have been given authority to help free people from darkness and the power of Satan."
2. Read Ephesians 2:6-10, Ephesians 1:7 and Romans 8:1 and discuss what these passages show you about being "In Christ Jesus".
3. Read John 17:17 and 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and discuss how God's Word (Scripture) makes us holy (sanctifies us) while also giving us authority over Satan (Luke 4:1-13).
4. Christ is the head of His body, the Church. We are called to not let divisions form (1 Corinthians 1:10) and to have confidence in our leaders and submit to their authority (Hebrews 13:17). Discuss why is it important for an army to not be divided and to follow the chain of command in a battle against the enemy. Why is this also important for the church? Discuss the statement, "When we are in unity and pray with spiritual authority we can release the Kingdom of God and confront the spiritual forces of darkness in the lives of people and in our city."
5. Discuss the question, "Is this a trial due to the devil coming against me to try to cause me to sin, or is there sin present in my life that is allowing the devil to attack me?" What are your experiences in relation to this?
6. Read Matthew 28:20 and James 4:7. We are called to obey God, submit to Him and resist the devil. Why does that cause the devil to flee from you? Read 1 John 4:4 and discuss the reality that because you are "In Christ" you can use the name of Jesus Christ with authority as one who is greater than Satan.

Pray –

Pray with thanks for the authority that Jesus Christ has delegated to you to release the Kingdom of God and help free people from darkness and the power of Satan.

Ask God to help you to use your authority wisely in situations where you are needing help. Ask God to reveal to you the power of His Word and His Body so that you can stand firm against temptations and trials and can help people grow in Christ and make our city more like God intended it to be.