Knowing Your Spiritual Authority

Introduction

It is important that every believer working in the areas of healing ministry understand his spiritual authority. We can have many valuable tools, but if we do not understand the authority that was appropriated by Christ, the very results that are desired and needed can be lost due to lack of knowledge. Obstacles can keep us from obtaining healing, but with the knowledge of scripture and some experience, ministry can be much simpler. A sequence of events in the Bible shows that authority was originally given to man, lost, and then recovered.

What this lesson will cover are the areas of history of that loss and recovery. We will trace how

• Authority was given to Adam.
• Adam relinquished his authority.
• Jesus defeated Satan and took back the authority.
• Jesus presented his authority over to us.
• The Holy Spirit is the agent working within us, empowering us to walk in that authority.

Then the parameters of working in your authority as a believer will be covered along with demonstration of commands that are useful effective ministry.

• And that is why we are here today . . .
• To understand your authority as a believer,
• as a minister to the hurting wounded person,
• and to put the enemy aside, so that the work of healing can be done.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND . . .
that the primary focus of the healing ministry is not chasing demons. Rather, it is seeing the healing power of God released in lives, but knowing how to deal with demonic activity as it happens and then moving on.

AUTHORITY, LOST AND RESTORED

1. Authority is ours through Jesus Christ.

• God gave Adam authority, dominion over all the earth. Man was created in the image of God and given dominion over all the earth. Gen 1:26 - 27

2. Adam surrendered authority to Satan when he sinned.

• When Adam sinned, he surrendered the authority he had been given to “rule over the earth” to the devil. Satan became the “ruler of this world.” Genesis 1:28, Luke 4:6
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1. Satan was given authority over this world and everything in it.
2. Satan offered the authority to Jesus if Jesus would worship him.  Luke 4:5

3. When Christ, the “last Adam,” offered Himself up for our sins, He restored and redeemed man to his former position of authority over Satan in this world.  1 Cor 15:45, Heb 7:27

4. Jesus was give ALL power and authority and a Name that was above every name.  Col 2:15, Heb 2:14, Rev 1:18, Matt 28:18, Phil 2:9, 1 Cor 15:45-46
5. What Adam surrendered, Jesus regained and restored.
6. Jesus rendered the power of Satan null and void.
7. “The position of Satan changed from pre-resurrection, “ruler of this world” kosmos (John 12:31, 14:30) to “god of this age.” (2 Cor 4:4)

4. Believers are identified with Jesus in His resurrection and exaltation.  Rom 6, Eph 2, Gal 2:20, Col 2:12, 2 Tim 2:11


*IMPORTANT TO NOTE…We have been placed positionally in Christ by the Holy Spirit, seated with Jesus in “heavenly places.” (Eph 2:6) Yet only thorough understanding our authority and learning to stand in it, will we be able to assume our rightful place of authority and power as we victoriously wrestle against spiritual beings. Viewing Satan’s position from the pre-resurrection perspective of “ruler of this world” to the post-resurrection perspective, “god of this age,” does not invalidate Satan’s influence or any scriptural passages. We are able to harmonize pre-resurrection scriptures and post-resurrection scriptures by understanding that before Calvary, Satan was a powerful foe to be defeated and after Calvary, he has been rendered powerless. Viewing his present position and power outside of Calvary would erroneously reinstate him to the position lost through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

POWER THROUGH DECEPTION

1. Satan rules us primarily through deception.

  - For this reason, Paul exhorts us to be renewed in our minds.
  - We are only in bondage to the lies that Satan would have us believe about the scope of his power and influence over us.
  - With the power of the Holy Spirit, we do not have to be in bondage to or accept the lies of Satan. Our consequential choices are in respect to the lies we believe.

2. Deception has nothing to do with power.

  - Power means, “I can cause something to happen because I am more powerful than you.”
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- Deception means, “Something happens when I am able to influence or manipulate another through lies.”

Weapons of Warfare, Eph 6:11

UNDERSTANDING AND WALKING IN OUR AUTHORITY

1. We need to understand the victory that has been won for us by Christ and KNOW who we are in Christ.
   - The battle is won.
   - Satan is defeated.
   - The victory is ours through Jesus.

2. Possessing the Land
   - When Joshua and the Children of Israel were given the Promised Land by God, they had to drive out all the inhabitants that remained before possessing their inheritance.
   - God gave them the authority to take the land, but God did not remove them. They did so one battle at a time.

2. Jesus told His disciples to go out and preach and teach the Kingdom of Heaven, showing that had come by healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons.
   - This meant kicking out the inhabitants of the current kingdom of darkness.

For us to walk in the spiritual authority given us by Jesus, we need to KNOW who we are in Christ and the knowledge of our authority must be more than facts, it must be experiential.

BINDING AND LOOSING DURING MINISTRY

1. Remember who is in control.

2. You set the parameters for the engagement, not the demon.
   - the Bible is clear. What you permit, God will permit. What you won’t permit, God won’t permit. Matthew 16:18
   - We call this binding and loosing and we do this through commands. (See handout: Parameters and Commands in Using Your Authority.)

3. Having bound the demonic, determine the source of infestation.
   a. Lie(s) believed
   b. Sinful behaviors
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c. Trauma, physical or emotional
d. Participation in the occult
e. Curses
f. Generational curses coming through the family line

4. Remove the “ground” or “legal right” of the demon to stay through:
   a. Recognition of sin
   b. Confession of sin
   c. Repentance
d. Asking forgiveness of God
e. Reckoning it dead on the Cross
f. Using the your authority as a believer

5. Command the demons to go to the feet of the Lord Jesus.

**Important Note.** . . . Demons must obey lines of spiritual authority. If they are resisting your commands, first, make sure you have dealt with the legal grounds for infestation. If they still will not budge, refer to Jesus to rebuke or deal with the spirit. Simply say, “Lord Jesus, I submit this demon of darkness to You as an insubordinate and defiant spirit. I ask You to do whatever You choose. Demon, I command you to go to the feet of the true Lord Jesus Christ, NOW.”