The Spiritual Authority of the Believer Course Content

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The Spiritual Authority of the Believer

Introduction

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. "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. "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

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and *authority over <u>all</u> demons, and to cure diseases.

Luke 9:1

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:17

In Christ the believer has been given authority (*exousia, delegated influence: - authority, jurisdiction, power, strength.) to cast demon spirits out of those who are possessed and oppressed. In Luke's gospel (ch 9:1) Jesus gave his disciples authority over <u>all</u> demon spirits.

Although Christians are familiar with these verses many still are afraid to minister to those who need deliverance. The reason for this is that they do not have a revelation of their standing/position in Christ. In this course we will not only learn about our authority in Christ over the powers of darkness but also how Satan operates and how to minister to those oppressed and possessed.

Christ's Victory over Satan

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

Luke 4:5 -6

"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."

John 14:30

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 1 John 5:19	Notes :-
Whose mind the god of this age has blinded 2 Corinthians 4:4	
Satan is the god of this world. He was given this authority by Adam's sin and disobedience to God. Jesus never questioned Satan's authority as ruler of the world because it is a reality. However, he is the ruler of the unsaved and not those washed in the blood of Jesus. He has no authority or power over the believer. He can only try to deceive us in order to bring us under his rule or manipulation. That is why we are warned through scripture not to let our guard down (1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 5:18) and to give no place to the enemy. Remember, the only authority that Satan has over your life is the authority that you give him, either through unrepentant sin or incorrect doctrine.	
And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them,	
triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:13-15	
We know that Jesus defeated Satan through the work of the cross. The enemy no longer has authority over the souls of those who are born again.	
2. The Believers Position in Christ	
Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:5-6	
For the believer to walk in authority, he must first know his spiritual position before God. Although we are all living in the natural here on earth, there is a greater reality. In the spirit realm, in the sight of God we who believe are all "in Christ". This is why Paul writes that we are seated in Christ. This speaks of our authority and position before God through faith in Jesus. Because we are in Him and He in us, we have authority to use His name to heal the sick and cast out demons. (It is interesting to note that the disciples never prayed for anyone's healing or deliverance as recorded in Acts. They simply commanded the person to be healed or free in Jesus name (Acts 3:6;	

(Read Ephesians 1:15-23) Paul prays that the church at Ephesus would have a revelation of this truth, that God's exceeding power is at work in the believer in just the same way it was when He raised Jesus from the dead. God's power is in us whether we believe it or not but it will not flow through us unless we believe.

Acts 9:34; Acts 9:40; Acts 13:9-11; Acts 14:8-11; Acts 20:11)

We must acknowledge that we are seated in Jesus far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. You might be the last cell on the small toe of Jesus but you are still in Him and therefore far above all principality and power and might and dominion,...

It is because we are in Him that He empowers and instructs us to do the works that He did (John 14:12).

Our Weapons

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

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 in God for pulling down strongholds, 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,

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places....

Ephesians 6:10-18

The weapons that we have in Christ are devastating to the enemy. He is unable to stand against those who no what their weapons are and how to use them. What are these weapons,

1. Truth

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." – John 8:32

Knowledge of salvation and who we are in Christ is our greatest weapon from which all the others stem.

2. Righteousness

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Our righteousness gives us confidence that we are sons and daughters of God who carry His authority.

3. The Gospel

"...How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

- Romans 10:15

The gospel message speaks of Christ's victory over Satan which emboldens us to go minister in His name.

4. Faith

"Fight the good fight of faith..." - 1 Timothy 6:12 Faith assures us that God's power is at work in us and through us in order for us to minister in is name.

5. Salvation

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- Colossians 1:13

Our salvation has delivered us from bondage to Satan and into the Kingdom of our God who empowers us to war against the adversary. 6. Prayer "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."- Matthew 17:21 Prayer and fasting is our greatest weapon against the enemy. Prayer and fasting establishes our authority in the spirit realm	Notes :-
The authority we have from Jesus can only be experienced when we have come to know how to use our spiritual weapons. As can be seen from the above, these weapons are all dependent on us resting in God and trusting in His power that is at work in us to defeat the enemy	
Ministering Deliverance	
Those who are willing to work for the Lord in ministering to others whether through evangelism or pastoral work, will eventually come across an individual who will require deliverance from either demonic oppression or possession. This section of the course is designed to equip the believer to be in a position to successfully minister to such individuals.	
What is the Difference between Oppression and Possession? 2 Corinthians 10:4 Demonic oppression occurs when an individual has allowed the enemy to oppress their minds or bodies with afflictions like; - Depression - Anxiety - Lust - Fear	
 Addictions (Mind – pornography; Body - smoking, drugs and alcohol abuse) Certain illnesses (Luke 13:10-16) The will of the individual comes under the strong influence of the spirit/s and the person is moved to express the desires of these oppressing spirits. It must be noted that the individual still has the ability to freely make a choice with regards to his behaviour however he will find it very difficult to make godly or correct choices because of the spirits influence. In instances of demonic oppression, the individual can still be a born 	
again believer however if they are not delivered they may well lose their salvation through their habitual sin (Galatians 5:19-21).	

In demonic possession the individuals will, emotions and mind are either all or almost all taken over by the demonic spirit/s. The spirit freely lives out his nature through these people and they are unable to resist the spirit or stop their behaviour. Mark's account (Mark 5:1-5) clearly illustrates this. Some ailments are a direct result of demon possession such as muteness (Matthew 9:32-33), blindness (Matthew 12:22) and deafness (Mark 9:25-26).

How do People become Oppression or Possession? Oppression and possession always come as a result of sin and disobedience to God. Those who are from unbelieving families can be afflicted by demons from a very young age because of their parents. For example, a parent who is involved with the occult will dedicate their child to demon spirits as can be found in Hinduism, witchcraft, Freemasonry, Satanism etc.

Unforgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35) is probably the most common cause of demonic possession and oppression amongst individuals who do not have occult roots. Never underestimate the power given to Satan by those who refuse to forgive. A demon has every legal right to remain in a person if that individual is unwilling to repent and forgive.

Ministering to the Oppression and Possession

The first and most important rule when ministering to those who are under demonic influence or control is to never let the spirit express itself or try to engage you in conversation. The demon will always try to speak to you and try to either intimidate you or plead with you to not cast it out. Jesus never let the demons speak (Mark 1:25;

Mark 1:34; Luke 4:35; Luke 4:41). You are always able to instruct the spirit to be quiet, in the name of Jesus, so that you can speak to the person to minister to them. You will need too from time to time remind the spirit to be silent for it will try to talk to you, until you have finished ministering to the individual.

Secondly, the name of Jesus is powerful and causes terror and fear to come upon the spirit. Use His name in faith, with confidence and authority. You do not need to shout or scream, just speak with confidence and authority.

Thirdly, it is not necessary to ask the demon its name as has been taught by some. Jesus is recorded to have only done that once in His ministry (Mark 5:9). Remember, you do not want to engage the spirit in conversation. If the Holy Spirit prompts you to ask the spirit its name then do so but do not allow it to say anything further.

- 1. If the spirit manifests itself command it to be silent in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Once the spirit is silent trust the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the root or legal foothold that the demon has. Remember if it is not an occult root it could very possibly be unforgiveness. Ask the individual questions if you are not sure what the root is. Examples could be.
 - Have you or your family ever been involved in the occult?
 - Are you holding unforgiveness toward anyone?
 - Is there something that you are doing that has given Satan authority over you?
- 3. If the person is sincerely willing to repent of their sin then tell them to repent and ask God to forgive them and that Jesus be their Lord and Saviour.
- 4. Once they have done this command the spirit to leave in Jesus
- 5. If the person is unwilling to repent or forgive then there is nothing that you can do except go home a pray that they will come to repentance. Until then they legally belong to Satan.
