

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

KNOW YOUR POSITION - PART 2

1. KNOWING YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST

EPHESIANS 2:1-7 (NKJV)

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- In the mind of God, when He raised Christ from the dead, He also raised His body - we were raised with him.

CHRIST IS THE HEAD, WE ARE THE BODY.

- When you think of someone -- you think of his Head and Body as one. If we're one and Christ was raised, then so were we.

When the church gets this revelation that **WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST...**

- That we are one with Christ...
- WE WILL RISE UP AND DO THE WORKS OF CHRIST.

John 14: 12

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

- Jesus said, "The works that I do, you will do".

Jesus didn't say that only a selected few would do these works; *only for pastors, or highly spiritual, mature Christians, or missionaries, or elders, or evangelists*

He said **ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE ON HIM** would do His works.

First **Corinthians 6:17** says, *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."*

- We are ONE with Christ.
- We are seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. All things have been put under our feet.

• Christianity has "preached the Cross" religion - and we need to preach a Throne religion. as if the cross is actually a place of defeat where Christ was killed; but He didn't remain there. He was resurrected. He won!
We should preach the resurrection.

- The cross is actually a place of defeat, whereas the Resurrection is a place of triumph.
- When you preach the cross, you're preaching death, lets not stop there.
- We died in old self, but we're raised with Christ. We're seated with Him.
- We need to know our Position, that's where we are right now:
- We're seated with Christ in the place of authority in heavenly places.

- Many Christians know nothing about the authority of the believer.
- They really don't believe we have any authority.
- They believe they're barely saved and they must go through life being dominated by the devil while living on Barely-Get-Along Street.
- They magnify the devil more than they do God.

- We need to be delivered from the bondage of death and walk in the newness of life.
- When we died with Christ, He has raised us up together with Him. Glory to God, learn how to take your place of authority.
- The right hand of the throne of God is the center of power of the whole universe! Exercising the power of the throne was committed to the resurrected Lord.

- We know that Christ with His resurrected physical body is there in full possession of His rights, awaiting the Father's time when His enemies shall be made His footstool. Hebrews 1:13 says, " But to which of the angels has He ever said:
- "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?
- The elevation of Christ's people with Him into the heavenlies clearly points to the fact that we are to sit with Him, sharing not only His throne but also His authority.
- That authority belongs to us!

• Jesus said, "THEY THAT BELIEVE."

If you're a believer -- you have this authority available to you.

The power of authority is all because of Jesus. It comes through Him, He is God, but He needs us to rise up and do His works on Earth.

Who's ready to rise up and carry on the works of Jesus and do greater things than He did?

2. WE ARE CALLED TO REIGN AS HIS BODY

No wonder Paul said, writing to the Romans

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **REIGN IN LIFE** through the One, Jesus Christ.

Several translations, including *The Amplified Bible*, say **"REIGN AS KINGS IN LIFE."**

- The Bible doesn't say WE ARE GOING TO REIGN WHEN WE GET TO HEAVEN.
- No! We're to REIGN AS **KINGS IN LIFE** BY JESUS CHRIST. That's authority, isn't it?
- Whatever the king said was LAW; he was the LAST AUTHORITY.
- You and me.... We have the authority that Christ's throne represents.

God's plan for us is that we rule and reign in life as kings: **TO RULE AND REIGN OVER CIRCUMSTANCES, POVERTY, DISEASE, AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD HINDER US.**

- We reign because we have authority. We reign by Jesus Christ.
- Not in the next life, but in THIS LIFE.
- If we're going to say something about our life, let's make sure it's in line with the Word of God.
- Let's declare the Promise and Word of God.
- We should NOT be living like Beggars, we should NOT be living like Slaves.
- **We're children of God, heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:17).**
- We're the Body of Christ.
- We're SEATED WITH CHRIST at the right hand of Majesty on High, far above all principalities and power and might and dominion, glory to God!

1 Corinthians 12:12

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

- All authority that was given to Christ belongs to us through Him and we must use it.
- How many have heard "God does not need me"? Well, that's a lie! He does need you because without you He can't accomplish His will on the earth.

- That's why GOD gives us the **GREAT COMMISSION**.
- And He has equipped us with the POWER and AUTHORITY - to accomplish and carry out His will on this earth.

What does Authority to REIGN in THIS LIFE look like??

- For example, many Christians portray humility with poverty.
- We've heard Christians think that Ministers of God are humble when they drive a very old car., "That's not being humble—that's being ignorant!"
- Driving an old car was some preacher's idea of humility.
- Some people said..., "You know, Jesus and the disciples never drove a Cadillac!"
- There weren't any Cadillacs then. But Jesus did ride a donkey. It was the "Cadillac" of that day—the best means of transportation they had.

Believers have allowed the devil to cheat them out of every blessing they could enjoy.

- God didn't intend us to be enslaved in poverty.
- He said we are to reign in life as kings. Who would ever imagine a king being trapped in poverty?
- The idea of poverty just doesn't go along with kings.

Exercising Authority in Your Family

- God didn't intend for the devil to dominate our families.
- We can TAKE AUTHORITY over our family - blessings, health, protection, favour.
- When our children were small and the devil would try to put sickness on them, we should get mad at the devil and tell him to take his hands off my children.
- We have the authority to cast him off;
 - *"I'm ruling over my family. Devil you cannot have my family!*
 - *Devil you have no place in my house.....I am taking Authority, I am claiming what belongs to me....through Jesus Christ."*

3. PROMISES TO OVERCOME IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- The devil is looking for people who he can intimidate.
- Many times we are waiting on God to deal with the devil, but we must deal with Him.

God says, *" I have already empowered you, I have already given you authority to triumph over the devil, but you got to stand the fight."*

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- He is looking for someone and that means he can't devour everyone.

Luke 10: 19 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.

In speaking about "serpents and scorpions,"

Jesus is talking about **the power of the devil—demons, evil spirits, and all his cohorts.**

We need to realize that we've got authority over them!

Isaiah 54: 17

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord.

Here's the Key to Overcome

1 John 5:18

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

- Keep yourself free from sin, and if you sin repent quickly so your enemy has no place.
- Speak this over you....
Declare this promise of God over you and your loved ones every day.

Psalm 91:1-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God

91 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the Lord, "*He is my refuge and my fortress;*
My God, in Him I will trust."

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

⁵You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,
⁶Nor of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.
⁷A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
⁸Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.
⁹Because you have made the Lord, *who is* my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
¹⁰No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
¹¹For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

- In our battle against the enemy and his forces,
- we need to keep in mind that we're above them and we have authority over them.
- The Word tells us that Jesus has conquered them.
- Our job is to enforce His victory.

- His victory belongs to us, but we are to carry it out.
- KNOW YOUR POSITION!
- That you FIGHT FROM VICTORY!! - not for Victory

- So Victory is already guaranteed, but we got to take our place to stand in the battle, put on the Armor of God and fight the battle.
- Our job is to show up and fight the battle that comes our way, but Victory is God's job.