

KNOW YOUR POSITION — THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

13/6/2023 11:22 pm

Today we're gonna learn something that's probably mistaken or understated by a lot of believers.

- A lot of believers know that God can do anything!!
- They believe God has the power to do it....He had done it before.
- But they still approached God like a beggar,
- "God would you please do this.....God, if this is Your will...."
- If God doesn't make it happen, they sometimes take it personally.
- And said God's disappointed in them, they're not worthy....always in the posture of waiting on God to do something where God had sent them to do.

No. 1 thing a lot of people prob mistaken / that stopped them from praying and claiming the Word of God.....

People come to ministers, pastors..... asking for prayer as if their prayer have no power whatsoever.

- I would say...."You pray for it too!"
- "You're the one who has the AUTHORITY."
- You resist the devil and he will flee from here — James 4:7

Today we're going to talk about **KNOW YOUR POSITION**

- Knowing your position before you go into battles determine whether you will WIN or LOSE the battle.
- Knowing the scheme & tactic of the enemy and how to expose, disarm them will help you claim VICTORY.
- Knowing your own weapon & mastering how to use your weapon prepares you to WIN your battle.
- And importantly..... Knowing who's fighting with you..... GOD is with you!!
- "If God is with us, who can be against us!"
- And knowing that you have got the upper hands!!
- Is setting you up for position of VICTORY!!

As every believers we got to know our position, our standing with God and with the devil, and knowing all these, we can exercise every POWER & AUTHORITY already given onto us to overcome.

— **CONTEXT** —

- God has created human in the first place in his image, to have **DOMINION** over everything on earth.
- But after human fell into the temptation of sin -- we lost that dominion.
- Until He sent his own son Jesus to come to earth to redeem us off from that sin and life of destruction, and take back that Authority that the devil has stolen from us.

The first step of **claiming the AUTHORITY that has been given to us by God....** The authority that is rightfully ours,

Is by **KNOWING OUR POSITION IN CHRIST.**

We're going to examine God's Word concerning that POSITION and the AUTHORITY we have in Him.

1. WHEN YOU MADE JESUS CHRIST THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE, YOU HAVE ENTERED THE POSITION OF AUTHORITY.

When you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life,

Colossians 1: 13 - You were delivered from the power of darkness.

The word "POWER" is translated as **AUTHORITY**

- They have already (*past tense*) been delivered from the power or authority of darkness and placed into God's kingdom.
- The devil and his forces are obliged to recognize our authority!

The believer who understands that the power of God is backing him can exercise his authority and face the enemy fearlessly.

POLICEMEN who direct traffic during the rush hour just raise their hands and the cars stop.

- These men don't have the physical power to stop the vehicles if the drivers choose not to stop.
- But they don't use their own strength to stop traffic;
- Because they use the strong **AUTHORITY** that is vested in them by the government they serve.
- People recognize that authority and stop their cars.
- He has got the Authority, NOT the physical strength.
- Where did he get all that Authority? It was **DELEGATE** to him.

- **The value of our authority rests on the power that is behind that authority.**
- **God Himself is the power behind our authority!**

AUTHORITY is DELEGATED POWER

The same thing with us church....

There's authority that's vested in us by the Lord Jesus Christ!

Paul told believers to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10).

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

The verse did NOT say: Be strong in yourself.

When having problems we often say: "I'm trying to be strong...." — NOT being strong in your strength.

"Be strong in the Lord"

- How can we be strong in the Lord?
- He who has delegated Authority to you. It's in HIM.
- That means **you can step out in front of the devil, hold up your hand, and tell him not to come any closer.**

USE YOUR AUTHORITY!

Jesus said in **Luke 10:19**

Behold, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

JESUS SECURED OUR POWER AND AUTHORITY

- Jesus succeeded in securing all power by going to the Cross, dying a horrible death, suffering the penalty for sin, and defeating Satan in the pit of hell.
- Jesus came to earth as a man for this reason: to destroy the power of darkness & reclaim the authority that Satan had stolen through Adam's disobedience in the garden.
- After securing the power and authority, Jesus freely transferred it over to those who believe in Him — you and me.

If that's the case, then **THE BATTLE WE ARE FIGHTING ISN'T TO GAIN VICTORY BUT FROM A PLACE OF VICTORY.**

Our fight is to remind ourselves and the power of the darkness that **JESUS HAD ALREADY WON AND SO HAVE WE!**

2. WE ARE SEATED WITH CHRIST IN HIGH AUTHORITY.

Ephesians 2:6 (God) raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ.

In the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul prayed a prayer for the body of believers in Ephesus.

- One part of the prayer was that they know the **EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE (Eph 1:19)**
- That exceeding great power is **THE SAME POWER THAT GOD USED TO RAISE JESUS FROM THE DEAD AND SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.**

Paul prayed so that God will open our eyes to the power & authority that's been given to us.

Ephesians 1: 18-23

18 I pray that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,

according to the working of His mighty power

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

21 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.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

JESUS IS SEATED FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITY, AND POWER, AND MIGHT, AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED.

AND HE PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, GAVE IT TO THE CHURCH.....

Throughout Ephesians and elsewhere in the epistles, Paul uses the human body as an illustration of the Body of Christ. - we are the BODY of Christ

And that's why **WE ARE SEATED WITH HIM IN HIGH AUTHORITY.**

- As believers we are part of His body,
- You cannot separate the head from the body—they are one—and we are seated together.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven,

Mark 16:19

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

- **CHRIST IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER: A PLACE OF AUTHORITY.**

and we're seated together with Him.

If you know anything about history, you know that **TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE KING OR POPE means AUTHORITY.**

- We died with Christ, and we were raised with Him.
- This is NOT something God is going to do in the future; He already has done it!

The source of our authority is found in this resurrection and exalting of Christ by God

- Paul prayed OUR SPIRITS WOULD BE OPEN TO THE TRUTH OF THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY.
- We can't understand this with our intellect, we must get SPIRITUAL REVELATION.
- You must believe it by FAITH.

- BECAUSE I AM SEATED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME POWER, THE SAME AUTHORITY THAT HE HAS
- I CAN ALSO OVERCOME THE POWER OF DARKNESS,
- I CAN TRIUMPH OVER ALL THE SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY!
- HE HAS WON THE VICTORY FOR ME AND I CAN ALSO EXERCISE THAT AUTHORITY!
- THAT'S MY INHERITANCE IN CHRIST!

3. WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

When Christ ascended, He **transferred** His authority to the Church.

- He is the Head of the Church, and believers make up the Body.
- Christ's authority has to be perpetuated through His Body, which is on the earth.

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All AUTHORITY has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

ALL AUTHORITY IS GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH

Power was given to us as your **INHERITANCE** in Christ Jesus — To disciple and take over the nations so the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God.

THERE IS A PURPOSE IN OUR POWER.

- Jesus did not give us Power for the sake of us exercising Power to increase the quality of our life, to be blessed.....
- But he said **"I'm giving you all this Power..... So therefore GO, and MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS!"**
- We have entered into this position of Authority because we are in Him.

The Great Commission in Mark 16

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Every born-again believer has the AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THIS EARTH.

The signs will follow the believers who act in faith and boldly speak in Jesus' name.

- I am sending you — you preach the gospel in faith, take authority over every single word!
- The authority is NOT in your words, but its in the POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD!

To those who believe....signs will follow you.

- If you will exercise your faith....
- **In JESUS NAME! You have authority to cast out devil, lay hands on the sick and they will be healed.**

Christ Ascends to God's Right Hand

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

God will confirm His Word, but first it has to be put forth.

- This is where you and I come in.
- God does NOT preach; He has given us AUTHORITY to do the Preaching.
- God will not lay hands on the sick. He will bring healing but you and I as believers must lay hands on the sick by faith, believing that God will perform His Word.

WILL YOU TAKE UP THAT CALL??

WILL YOU USE AUTHORITY AND POWER VESTED UPON YOU.....TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, TO EXTEND THE WORK OF GOD!! BELIEVING THAT GOD WILL PERFORM HIS WORD.

THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

AND IT IS TIME WE EXERCISE OUR FAITH!

4. WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL.

WE HAVE BEEN DELEGATED THE AUTHORITY.

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY NOW TO DEAL WITH SATAN.

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

WILES: CUNNING, CRAFTINESS, DECEPTION

THE DEVIL DOESN'T HAVE ANY POWER OVER YOU, EXCEPT WHAT WE ALLOW.

- WHERE DID SATAN GET HIS POWER FROM? HE DID NOT GET IT FROM GOD.
- HE GOT IT FROM YOU AND ME.

SATAN'S ONLY POWER AGAINST YOU IS **DECEPTION.**

- THE WORD OF GOD, THE TRUTH WILL TAKE AWAY DECEPTION.
- THE POWER OF DECEPTION IS COMPLETELY BROKEN ONCE YOU KNOW THE TRUTH — WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, ANY LIES LOSE ITS POWER.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [or wicked spirits] in high places.

- The Christian who puts on this armor and engages in spiritual warfare is **marked.**
- By spiritual warfare I simply mean **doing the works of Jesus and taking our authority over the devil as we go about our daily lives.**
- I am not talking about purposely trying to go head-to-head with Satan in some kind of prayer combat.

4 things mentioned here (principalities, powers, rules of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness) — all talking about DEMONIC STUFFS.

It's not really people we're dealing with.

But the demonic principalities and powers working through them.

- The devil will do everything in his power to keep you from coming into this knowledge of authority over him. He'll fight you more over this than any other subject.
- He sends fear, lies, scheme to intimidate, paralyse us so we never knew our true position and power in Christ.
- Then, after you have come to the knowledge of this authority, he'll oppose you and try to steal it from you.
- There will be tests, and sometimes people fail those tests (tribulation, temptations)
- The devil wants you to throw up your hands and say the authority of the believer won't work for you.

- It is your responsibility as a believer to **PUT ON THAT ARMOR and STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL.**
- Take your responsibility and speak directly to the devil yourself; stand your ground firmly and he will flee!

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

The Whole Armor of God

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [If you put on the whole armor of God, you'll stand.]

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 ABOVE ALL, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [Not one fiery dart should get through to your body, soul, or mind, because you've got the shield of faith.]

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The different parts of this **ARMOR** symbolize **SPIRITUAL TRUTHS** which belong to the believer.

Wearing this Armor, the believer is protected in his ministry of authority.

All he needs to be concerned about is keeping his armor bright and well secured about him. Now let's take a closer look at this armor:

First, there's the **girdle of truth**, which represents a **clear understanding of God's Word.** Like a soldier's belt, it holds the rest of the armor in place.

Second is the **breastplate of righteousness.** This has a twofold application: Jesus is our Righteousness, and we put Him on first. It also shows **our obedience to the Word of God.**

Third, **our feet** are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. This is a **faithful ministry proclaiming the Word of God.**

Fourth is the **shield of faith.** A shield is a covering for the entire body. This represents **our complete safety under the blood of Christ, where no power of the enemy can penetrate.**

Fifth is the **helmet of salvation**, referred to in First Thessalonians 5:8 as the hope of salvation. The hope of salvation is **the only helmet able to protect the head in these days of turning from the truth.**

Sixth is the **sword of the Spirit**, which is **the Word of God.**

This shows that **the Word of God is to be used offensively.**

The other parts of the armor are mainly defensive, **but the sword—the Word of God—is an active weapon.**

Dressed in the armor of God, you are prepared to withstand every attack of the enemy.

JOHN 8:32 YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE! BUT ITS ONLY THE TRUTH YOU KNOW THAT MAKES YOU FREE.

GOD'S POWER IS IN HIS WORD.

HE IS UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER (HEBREWS 1:3)

IT'S TIME FOR US AS BELIEVERS TO BEGIN TO ACT THAT WAY.

- **KNOW YOUR POSITION.**
- **BE STRONG IN THE LORD, STAND IN A POINT OF AUTHORITY AND OPERATE IN THE POWER GIVEN UPON YOU THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

You have the POWER AND AUTHORITY to take the Word of God, the name of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and run the devil out of your life!

James 4:7

Therefore obey / submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINE

NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE THE POWER, AUTHORITY AND ACCESS TO THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD TO FIGHT AND WITHSTAND THE ENEMY, HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THIS TO YOUR DAILY LIFE?

WHAT CHANGES WILL YOU DO TO STRENGTHEN YOURSELF (YOUR SPIRIT BEING) IN YOUR DAILY BATTLES?