

SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP! **Authority! (of the Believer)**

In the beginning God, (of course) had all authority. All power and authority has to emanate from God because He is the only one who has power in Himself. Everything else is delegated from Him. When He created the heavens and the earth, He had all power and authority.

God creates man:

Genesis 1:26-28—“Let Us make man in Our image; let them have dominion over the earth; v.28-...and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue** it;

Subdue-*kabash*-conquer-subjugate-bring into force-bring into subjection—“if anything gets out of line Adam, you are to bring it back.

Genesis 2:7-Then the Lord God formed a *man*-(Hebrew for *man*-Adam. Also see **Genesis 2:19**)

Psalm 115:16-The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

Psalm 8:6-You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

*Adam was to keep (guard) the Garden (Genesis 2:15)

“Did God say?”

Genesis 3:1-KJV- Now the serpent was more *subtle* than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The word “subtle” means “sly, deceptive, or cunning.” *The serpent used deception to tempt Adam and Eve to sin against God.*

He came against the nature and character of God and began to criticize Him, saying, “God doesn’t really love you—He’s holding things back from you.”

*Satan wanted Adam and Eve’s authority-he really wanted God’s authority

Isaiah 14:13-14-For you have said in your heart: **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest side of the north; v.14-I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.**

*The devil questioned Eve's identity and he questioned the Word of God...
Remember this for the rest of your life: there are two things the enemy wants to steal away from you:

1. Your faith in the authority of God's Word
2. Your faith in God's identity for yourself. Marilyn Hickey

God had ownership of everything by right of being the Creator, but He gave dominion, or authority, over the earth to physical human beings. Satan has never had the right and power to rule over the earth. He took it through deceiving man to sin.

Where did Adam and Eve have their authority? In God, so when they got out of God, they lost their authority.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they lost 4 things:

- 1. Dominion-no longer rule and reign**
- 2. Tree of life-Genesis 3:22**-(knowing good and evil)-if he eats from the tree of life, he will live and eat it forever...as a sinner! NO! Lost -the tree of life-lost his spiritual life...
- 3. Lost their image**-God had made Adam to be strong. But when he disobeyed, he took on an evil nature-For example, you don't teach a baby how to lie-they just know how to do it!-That 'image' of God was lost...
- 4. Perfect environment**-Adam had it all-But he didn't keep what he was given. He had to leave the constant Presence of God! The only way back in was through a blood sacrifice.

But God!

Genesis 3:15-“And I will put enmity (animosity/hatred) between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed. (Jesus Christ) He shall bruise your *head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Romans 16:20-And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly (swiftly).

*head-authority-top of the line-the seed of the woman will CRUSH the devil's authority

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**

Jesus gave us back what we lost-

- 1. Dominion in His Name-Mark 16:17-18**-(Are you using it?)-“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name...”
- 2. Tree of life back-John 5:24**-“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” We get eternal life back! The world fears death-we don't-we know where we are going...
- 3. New Image-Ephesians 4:24**-...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Put on the new man! New image-new attitude-tell the old to “shut up”!-new nature-is not ugly-it is new!, on the inside!
- 4. Perfect environment**-now we have **His Presence**-“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” I have His Presence on the inside wherever I go. Garden on the inside! His Presence!

Christ has defeated Satan-

Luke 10:18-20- And He said to them, I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven. 19Behold! **I have given you authority and power** to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and **[physical and mental strength and ability]** over **all** the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you. 20Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are enrolled in heaven.^(A)

John 12:31-32-Now the judgment (crisis) of this world is coming on [sentence is now being passed on this world]. Now the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world **shall be cast out (expelled)**. 32And I, if and when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw and attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself.

I John 3:8b-“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to **destroy the works of the devil.**”
Matthew 10:1- AND JESUS summoned to Him His twelve disciples and **gave them power and authority** over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of weakness and infirmity. ...from them to us...

Mark 16:17-And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages;

Warfare on Three Fronts

Christ has already won the victory, but until He returns, the battle still rages on three fronts: the world, the flesh, and the devil. (Ephesians 2:2-3)

THE WORLD. “In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage. I have overcome the world. (John 16:33b) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

THE FLESH. “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Galatians 5:16-17)

THE DEVIL. “The ruler of this world has been judged.” (John 16:11b.) “The Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one...Greater is he Who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 2:14b; 4:4b.)

The Scriptures abound with military images of conflict, warfare, and adversaries in the believer's life. It is not a question of whether we are engaged in a spiritual warfare; ***the question is how effectively we are fighting.***

God has given us AUTHORITY as believers. Satan has zero power and authority over you. He is a defeated foe. His only power against you is to come at you with lies and deception just as he did in the Garden. You need to recognize that YOU are the one who now has authority and power (through Christ.) Satan is fighting you with thoughts, and your weapons are such that you can take these thoughts captive.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5-“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that

exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

Demons cannot defeat any part of a believer’s life that is yielded to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells the Christian on a deeper level than any wicked spirit can reach. Demons are temporary intruders whose domination can be overcome **when their ground for staying is removed.** (Emphasis-mine.)

You are stronger than the devil.

Paul states that Christians have all they need to wage warfare against Satan (Ephesians 6:10-18). Though we have no resources of our own, we have all we need **in Christ** by virtue of our union with Him (Colossians 2:9-15).”

“Because of the cross, Satan is a defeated foe (John 12:31). Christ has “disarmed the rulers and authorities” (Colossians 2:15) and is exalted “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” (Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Peter 3:22). Furthermore, as believers in Christ, we have been raised with him and seated with him in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). The Lord “rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13). In our **new position**, we have authority **in Christ** and **power in the Spirit.**

The problem is that many believers do not exercise their authority, and this is what the forces of darkness count on. We must not only know that we have been liberated from the authority of the devil through the blood of Jesus Christ; we must also act upon this fact.

“We must recognize that we have been given authority and victory in the spiritual warfare (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1; 10:19). Conformed to His Image-Kenneth Boa

Conditions:

Check yourself with these 7 conditions the next time you are in prayer...

- *Salvation
- *Willingness
- *Confession
- *Renunciation
- *Forgiveness
- *Submission to God
- *Resistance

When the conditions of salvation, confession, renunciation, forgiveness, and submission to God are met, **the devil and his demons have no legal right to harass you. Use the authority you have been given in Christ,** and **stand firm against the power of evil.** *Persistence in calling upon the Lord will break through spiritual strongholds.* “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith” (1 Peter 5:8-9a).

James 4:7-KJV-Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Rule and reign in this life-Romans 5:17

*We have the Name of Jesus, the Power of the Holy Spirit and a Bible with 7000 promises in it....

Authority-use it or lose it...Either you will or he will...

1 John 5:4-“Whatever is born of God, overcomes the world!”

John 8:32-“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

James 4:7-If you resist the devil, he will flee from you.

Stand strong-Keep standing.....