



Spiritual Authority



SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Culture hates / does not understand authority

Church is afraid of or has abused authority

Kingdom of Satan is a Kingdom of rebellion all are rebels before becoming Christians
 still rebellious in some areas of our lives

A. Faith, Authority & Power

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

Matthew 8:5-13

Centurion has confidence and faith in the word of power because he sees the authority in which Jesus speaks and acts

Independence means there is nothing to back up the ministry – unwilling to pay the price

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

Luke 10:17

Hypotasso military term – to order (bring in line) to submit / obey

To live the victorious life in the 2 realms you have to be under authority and so exercise authority

Would you want to be part of a military unit where the Captain is too frightened to take authority and in the middle of the battle is wanting consensus and everyone to be happy or a bunch of soldiers who can't take orders or who are going to pack up and go home because it is too late and it has all gone on too long, beyond that which they feel the leader is entitled to ask of them or they are feeling a bit poorly? You only want to go into this with people who will stay with you – life and death stuff!!!!

B. Jesus & Authority

- Perfect submission

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 5:30

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:8

- Complete Dependence

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

John 7:16

- Constant Restraint

"Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. 26"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

John 8:26-28

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

John 12:49-50





C. The Ultimate Authority – Sovereignty Authority = right to order / command/ direct

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

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. Acts 1:7

God loves us and is Truth so will never command something detrimental to us

- Delegated Authority - Watchman / Gatekeeper

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17



UMBRELLA – Covering and protection – find the right leaders – ungodly = holes of OT Kings
Need to stand under it!!!!

Too much 'do your own thing'

Pastor is gatekeeper – I'm responsible for what I allow to go on in my church

Kingdom of God is not a democracy – He uses delegated authority

"He's not told me" "I'm alright if the Lord tells me, but if you tell me... .."

Permission to miss? or telling not available or just not turning up

With whose authority does the leader speak?

D. Delegated Authority in Practice

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam—leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away." So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!" The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back. Numbers 12:1-15

Miriam and Aaron have false expectations

Person & Position confusion Brother or God's entrusted representative

God's attitude to rebellion & Criticism of His chosen delegated authority

Moses has compassion as any Godly leader will have

"As your Pastor I need to not be bothered whether you like me or not, like my preaching or not, think I'm doing a good job or not. I am entrusted with this church and I am answerable to God. Just because I am not doing it well does not give anyone the right to criticise me. They are answerable to God for this critical spirit. I have great responsibility before God. I need a submissive heart to walk in God's authority. If I am rebellious we all stumble"

"Rebellion is bold, arrogant, presumptuous, critical and undermining." e.g.'s

Rebellion is the act or state of armed, open resistance to authority, government and defiance of or opposition to any control





Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?"

When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!"

Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too. It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?"

Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come! Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert? And now you also want to lord it over us? Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? No, we will not come!"... .. So each man took his censer, put fire and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to the assembly, 'Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.' "

Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins." So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.

Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!"

And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.... .. The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the LORD's people," they said.

But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the Tent of Meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared. Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the LORD said to Moses, "Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once." And they fell facedown.

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with fire from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started."

Numbers 16:1-14, 18, 23-28, 31-35, 41-46

Accusation & Criticism – You’ve gone too far

Pride – Who do you think you are?

Leadership about function not value

Fear of being taken for a ride and advantage of... ..

Rebellion always wants more power, more jurisdiction, more me

If a leader asks you to do something or to talk about something and there is a flat refusal then this is a symptom of rebellion – Godly leader will never force anyone to do anything

Rebellion will take others down with it – always find someone to blame

The Lord will remove those who are unrepentant in their rebellion, rebellion is walking in agreement with the Prince of Darkness NB the rebellious were Levites (the worship leaders!!!)

When rebellion is in play wisdom goes out of the window and is replaced with anger

- i. Godly Leaders will be wounded, rejected and disappointed by those they lead.
- ii. Yet we must demonstrate God’s heart of love and compassion
- iii. A leader not submitted to God and the authority that the Lord has placed over them will miss God’s best.

(Read ‘Spiritual authority’ by Watchman Nee)





1. Submit to those over us

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves

Romans 3:1-2

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

2. Willing heart - no gritted teeth! even to unjust / harsh authority

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 Peter 2:18-20

**3. Principle of appeal Acts 15 Talk discuss etc but if you cannot come under then leave
*Stay and grumble & it is death to you and to the Pastor and his family & so to the fellowship***

4. Submission expresses faith in God's ultimate authority

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23

5. If you cannot submit out of conscience then you must refuse to obey with respect and honesty

6. Most disagreements are not Gospel Issues but matters of preference and independence – too long, wrong colour, wrong music – continual moaning is a rebellious spirit at work

7. Leaders do not make people submit. They lead and followers follow. BUT Leaders can stop things happening – You will not do so and so if they have sought the Lord.

8. Rebellion is Anti – Christ (Christ = Anointed) so an anti-anointing totally against the Lord

Opposite of Rebellion is Submission and Sacrifice

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship

Romans 12:1

