

My ABCs of

RULING *and*
REIGNING

**A PERSONAL HANDBOOK FOR A LIFE OF
DOMINION, AUTHORITY, and VICTORY
IN CHRIST**



JOSEPH B. KACK

My ABCs of

RULING *and*
REIGNING

JOSEPH B. KACK

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ABOUT THIS MESSAGE

*The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*
Psalm 110:2

This message has been written to heighten your awareness of YOUR DOMINION MANDATE. **God has called you to rule!**

As with any other Kingdom truth, there are basic and foundational principles that we must be aware of and put into practice to make a life of dominion a living reality. With this in mind, I would like to share my own list of ruling and reigning basics. I will refer to these as “*My ABCs of Ruling and Reigning.*”

These are *a few* of the basic things I have discovered that must be in place in order for me to live a functional life of dominion and authority. This is exactly the kind of life that God has called every one of us to live!

God has called you to win! He has called you to overcome every test, trial, and challenge to His glory. No matter what you are facing, the Lord has ordained and made provision for you to come out on the winning side. He always causes us to triumph in Christ! (1 Jn 5:4; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 2:14)

But victory is not automatic. There are certain basics that we must diligently apply ourselves to. These are “ABCs.” Without having these in place, a life of dominion and victory will only be something preached about, but rarely experienced.

The enemy (Satan) is at work in the earth today, doing what he has always done — stealing, killing, and destroying. He works through “the world’s system” that surrounds each of us, attempting to gain access to our lives by presenting thoughts, ideas, suggestions, imaginations, and various feelings, with the hopes that we will buy-in to his lies. His hopes are that we will become distracted, “dumbed down,” and eventually worn out from all circumstantial pressure that we see and feel around us.

But, as we will discuss in this message, God is calling upon us TO RULE... right here...right now...in the midst of our enemies! God has not ordained us to a life of merely trying to survive and “get by.” No, He has called us to thrive! God has called us to remain offensive, aggressively using our authority, while we advance in our Kingdom purpose here on the earth.

Friend, your Kingdom purpose really matters! What God has called you to do in life is significant — eternally significant! The Lord has entrusted you with a portion of His Kingdom business. He’s counting on you to run your spiritual race and to fulfill your particular life purpose and calling.

But, because of its significance, your Kingdom purpose will not go uncontested. The enemy will do his best to hinder, distract, and bring destruction wherever possible. For this reason, it will be necessary for you to wake up to the warfare, and then RISE UP AND RULE!

I’ve written this message to stir your heart, to feed your faith, and to offer some practical insight on how you can begin to make this life of dominion your own personal reality. The understanding of these “ABCs” has been of great help to me, and so I wanted to pass it on to you!

I have separated this *practical handbook* into three sections:

Section 1: “Wake Up to the Warfare”

This section provides some spiritual background, context, and insight as to the warfare surrounding each one of us today. This section also gives a Scriptural basis for God’s will for you to rule based upon Christ’s victory, and includes insight into Satan’s basic strategies and operation. The background and context within Section 1 will be necessary to more fully grasp the ABCs in the second section.

Section 2: “My ABCs of Ruling and Reigning” (Exercising Your Authority)

This section includes some specific ruling ABCs necessary to live a life of dominion and victory. Section 2 deals with the fundamentals required to EXERCISE YOUR AUTHORITY so that you can make your authority in Christ a living reality.

Section 3: “Tools for Ruling”

This third section has been included to arm you with a variety of other practical items (tools) essential to your life of dominion. You will find it beneficial to be aware of and maintain each of these as part of your ruling and reigning “tool belt.” Each of these items are part of a victorious Kingdom lifestyle.

I have written and laid out this book in such a way that you might benefit no matter how you choose to use it. On the one hand, you may desire to read through the material in its entirety from front to back. On the other, you may prefer to scroll through the table of contents and pick certain portions that grab your attention, and speak to your heart.

In either case, I believe you will receive something from God which will bring greater understanding, feed your faith, or even remind you of something you may have forgotten. In times of conflict and adversity, it's often just that **one word from God** that's necessary to set us on a course toward victory!

— **Joseph Kack**



THE FIRST STEP

A Prayer of Salvation

The FIRST step for you to live a life of ruling and reigning is to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior.

Jesus is the Son of God, who died on the cross and shed His blood to pay the price for the sins of the whole world. The Bible tells us that *“whoever calls on the name of the Lord [Jesus] shall be saved.”* (Rom 10:13)

The Scripture also tells us *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Rom 10:9)

When you call on the name of Jesus and receive Him as your Lord, you receive eternal life and become God’s child. This is not joining a church or a religion. Accepting the gift of Jesus into your heart gives you relationship with the Living God!

If you have never taken this FIRST STEP, then pray this simple prayer in sincerity from your heart:

“Dear God, I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I believe that Jesus has been raised from the dead and that He is alive! Right now, I call on the name of Jesus.”

“Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. Forgive me of my sins and cleanse me by the power of Your blood. Thank You for saving me and giving me eternal life!”

“I ask You now to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want to experience Your fullness in my life! Help me now to live a life of ruling and reigning. Amen.”

Congratulations! You are now a child of God!



SECTION I

WAKE UP
TO
THE WARFARE

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO RULE

Looking Beyond Our Experiences

*The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
The plans of His heart to all generations.*

Psalms 33:11

Before discussing some basic principles of ruling and reigning, let's first take time to establish what God's Word says about this subject. **God's Word reveals His will!**

The Word of God should always be our starting point in ascertaining the will of God. If you ever want to know God's thoughts and His will regarding any subject matter, they are revealed in His words. God's Word and His will are ONE and cannot be separated. (Heb 6:17-18; Isa 55:8-11; Jn 1:1)



**The Word of God is always the starting point
in ascertaining the will of God.**

I know this sounds elementary, but you might be surprised at how many people are trying to determine God's will based upon their current circumstances and past experiences, rather than looking to God's unchanging and eternal Word. It's also quite common for people to look to the experience of others, even those they may admire, to determine God's will.

But we have something much higher and more reliable than our own circumstances or the experiences of others! We have the unchanging Word of God! *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever!"* (Isa 40:8)

God's Word Will Elevate Your Experience

Magnifying human experience as our reference point to determine the will of God will only cause us to be locked-in and limited to those same experiences.

We will be capped! But, if we look to and magnify God's Word as our standard instead, His Word will begin to elevate our life experiences to match that which God has planned and promised. Apart from God's Word, it is impossible for us to realize our full potential!



Only God's Word can elevate your life experiences to match that which He has planned and promised.

Such is also the case with this subject of *ruling and reigning*. We surely don't want to start with our own experiences as a reference point. Neither do we want to settle for the experience of another, no matter how good that experience may have been. Instead, let's go to God's Word for ourselves and let His Word be our personal standard and reference point for what we can have and do in Christ.

We know that faith in God comes by hearing His Words personally for ourselves, and not by hearing the experience of others. Although we can definitely be encouraged through the testimony of another, it's only as we receive God's Word for ourselves that faith will come alive. **God's Word is the source of all genuine faith!**

For this reason, the thoughts and concepts shared in this book will be from The Holy Scriptures. They are not based upon human experience, or what might be. They are based upon what God has said! **"In the beginning was the Word..."** (Jn 1:1) This is where our journey to full understanding must always begin — with God's Word.

We must humbly begin with God's Word even when it contradicts what we may have experienced so far in life. As we do, it's only normal to recognize areas for improvement, where we have come well short of what God has intended for us. But why should this surprise us? After all, Scripture reveals that God's thoughts and His ways are HIGHER than man's natural ways. (Isa 55:8-9) Yet, through God's Word, we can know His thoughts so that we too can walk in His ways! This is the very purpose for which He has given us His Word — so that we can adjust and go higher!



God has given us His Word so that we can adjust to it and go higher.

As you read, you will notice many scripture references contained within this material. These have been included very thoughtfully and intentionally. It would be both unreasonable and irresponsible to ask you to wholly accept everything you read here without thinking and studying for yourself.

You may even encounter a statement or two that you initially feel you don't agree with. That's only normal. But rather than quickly dismissing some of these ideas, why not do as the believers in Berea did during the Apostle Paul's time? The Bible says "*they searched the scriptures...to find out if these things were so.*" (Acts 17:11)

Why not look up the verses for yourself? Anyways, in the end it's your own personal revelation from God's Word which will truly empower you and bring the kind of impact you are really looking for.

Are you ready? It's time for you to begin to rule!

Ruling and Reigning from Cover to Cover

This revelation of God's will for mankind to rule and reign, living a life of dominion and authority, can be found from cover to cover in The Bible, from the Book of Genesis (Gen 1:26) to the Book of Revelation (Rev 22:5), and even in-between. God has always intended for His people to rule!

For starters, let me point out just a few examples, which clearly point to God's will for you to live a life of dominion. Think about these:

HOW ABOUT? God's Original and Unchanging Plan for Man

God's original intent and plan for mankind from the very beginning was dominion. This intention has never changed! It stands forever, to all generations – including your generation! (Ps 33:11) You have been created for dominion!

Genesis 1:26

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion...***

HOW ABOUT? The Reality of Light Ruling Over Darkness

Jesus referred to God's people as "*the light of the world.*" What do we know about "*light*" from The Bible? It tells us that when the light shines in the darkness, it cannot be overpowered! That's dominion!

Matthew 5:13-14

*"You are the salt of the earth....**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

John 1:5 (AMP)

*The Light shines on in the darkness, and **the darkness did not understand it or overpower it...***

HOW ABOUT? The Power of God's Blessing to Set You Above

You have been “*blessed*” and empowered in Christ. Among other things, that blessing from God will make you “*the head and not the tail.*” It will cause you to be “*above only and not beneath.*” What’s that? That’s dominion! God’s blessing brings rulership.

Galatians 3:9

*So then **those who are of faith are blessed** with believing Abraham.*

Deuteronomy 28:2,13

*And **all these blessings** shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: And **the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath....***

HOW ABOUT? The Reality of The Greater One Within You

You are born of God, and the One Who is in you is GREATER than he who is in the world! That’s dominion!

1 John 4:4

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

HOW ABOUT? The Great Commission of Dominion

As is true with every believer, you have been commissioned by Jesus to “*go into all the world*” with the good news of His resurrection. But He did not send you empty-handed. Signs and wonders are to follow you — demons will be subdued and sickness will be healed! If you eat or drink anything deadly, it won’t hurt you! What’s that? That, my friend, is dominion!

Mark 16:15,17–18

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature....”

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

This is just a small sampling among many verses and examples which point to God’s will and intention for us TO RULE and to live our lives as overcomers.

Throughout the remaining chapters we will be discussing much more about this subject, but for an immediate list of additional Scripture reference, please refer to *"Faith for Ruling"* on page 151.

Friend, are you ready to embark upon this quest for a real life of dominion and authority?

Are you ready to take back some territory that the enemy may have stolen in your life, your health, a relationship, or in regards to your life calling?

Are you hungry to walk in God's highest and best?

Are you ready to experience what this means for yourself — *"Now thanks be to God who always leads me in triumph in Christ!"*?

This is absolutely God's will for you! God loves you dearly and has sent His Son Jesus Christ so that you can live your life on top, not dominated or controlled by anyone or anything.

But...just as a reality check: This life of ruling and reigning is not for the faint-hearted. And it's not for those who would rather play the blame game, making excuses for what is or is not happening in their lives.

This message is really about taking responsibility. It's about taking back the control that is rightfully yours in Christ Jesus.

This message is about A REVELATION of Jesus' victory on the cross.

This message is about OUR RESPONSE to that victory.

This message is about THE RESPONSIBILITY which is now upon us as a result of God's exceedingly great grace.

Revelation...response...responsibility. That's what this message is about! If you will receive it, this message is for you! By the grace of God, and with the help and empowerment of the mighty Holy Spirit, you have everything it takes to be one of God's ruling ones!

So, why not rule? Why not now? Why not you? In fact, as we will discover in the next chapter, God has given us a definite charge to rule, and it's time for us to embrace a ruling mindset.

CHAPTER TWO

OUR CHARGE TO RULE

Embracing a Ruling Mindset

*The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

Psalm 110:1-2

In this verse, we find God’s charge to us to “*rule in the midst of our enemies.*” This is not a suggestion, as some may have thought. Nor are these words given to merely inform us of our right and privilege to rule. Beyond that, this is God’s charge to us — it’s really a command! Through these words, God is releasing and empowering us to rule! This is what He expects from us. Ruling is our responsibility!



God expects His people to rule.

Can you hear God’s charge today? Read it again several times out loud. This is God’s word to you!

“RULE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR ENEMIES!

RULE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR ENEMIES!

RULE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR ENEMIES!”

God expects us to rule because He knows this is what we have been designed for! And this is what we have been assigned unto — unto rulership!

You may be thinking, “*But this verse is talking about Jesus.*” Yes, it’s true that these are the very words that were spoken to Jesus when He was raised from the dead and installed into His eternal high priestly ministry at the Father’s right hand. (Heb 1:1-13) But as we will continue to discover, the implications of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension go far beyond just Jesus Himself.

The Church, Which is His Body

When Jesus was physically upon the earth, He was “THE” body of Christ at that time, demonstrating a life of dominion and authority over all the evil works of the enemy. This is clearly portrayed in the four Gospel accounts. Jesus did what He did, not only as our Savior and Champion, but also as our example. (Jn 14:12) Although tried, tempted, and tested, Jesus was victorious and unstoppable in fulfilling His Kingdom purpose on earth. (Heb 2:18; 4:15; Jn 14:30; Jn 17:4)

But since His resurrection and ascension to the Father’s right hand, Jesus has a new “job description” (for lack of a better term). Jesus now has the pre-eminent place as “THE HEAD” of The Body of Christ – a body with many working members and authorized parts!

Jesus isn’t working by Himself anymore. Through grace, He brought us with Him! This is revealed in the Apostle Paul’s New Testament letters to the church. If you are born again, you are one of these authorized members!

Consider the following verses:

*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head
over all things to **the church, which is His body,**
the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 1:22–23

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Did you see that? **WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!** Think about that for a moment.

As The Body of Christ, we are to rule as the Lord’s delegated representatives, with His authority, as we submit ourselves to His Word of authority.

Under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are now those who are authorized to act on the Lord’s behalf and at His direction on earth. In doing so, we take part in establishing the dominion of the Lord’s Kingdom upon the earth and within the hearts of men. We are His hands, His feet, and His voice upon the earth! In short, we are His ruling representatives! Jesus is The Head, and we are The Body!

Since the Lord Jesus is no longer dwelling physically upon the earth, He now rules on earth by His Holy Spirit, **through His Body** – that’s us! The Head and The Body are ONE and share in the same authority. (1 Cor 6:17; Jn 15:5)

For this reason, if we (the Lord's body) are not ruling in any given situation on earth, then neither is Jesus (the head) ruling. This is why the Lord has charged us to rule! We must begin to embrace a ruling mindset!

STOP and THINK on these:

- Jesus operated in authority and victory on earth as our EXAMPLE. He was unstoppable in His Kingdom purpose.
- Jesus is now The Head of the Body of Christ — a body with many working members and authorized parts.
- If you have been born again you are now a member of The Body of Christ.
- Jesus now rules on earth by His Holy Spirit, through His Body.
- The Head and The Body of Christ are ONE and share in the same authority.

Places of The Lord's Dominion

The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 103:19,22

It's important for us to understand that not all places on earth and in our lives are places of the Lord's dominion. This is something that will become more evident as this book unfolds. If the Lord was ruling everywhere and in every situation, then there wouldn't be any point in referring to "*all places of His dominion*" as we find in this verse. If there are places of His dominion, then it is clear that there must be places that are otherwise.

Dominion is present when those who have been authorized take their place, rise up, and actually rule! We each have our own spheres of rulership. As each rules in his or her own spheres of delegated responsibility, then the dominion of God's Kingdom can be established in those specific spheres. These places then become "places of the Lord's dominion." These are places where God's will is being done and Jesus is glorified. (See [Appendix A - "What's The Difference Between Dominion & Authority?"](#) on page 187.)

It may be in the place of a home, a church, a business, a family, a school, or even in the place of your own physical body and personal finances. The Lord wants His dominion to be established in these places.



We each have our own spheres of rulership.

And then on a larger scale, as the Body of Christ as a whole begins to rise up and rule, these places of dominion can begin to include cities, states, nations, and governments; as well as different sectors of society and culture.

But ruling and reigning on a larger scale always begins with ruling “close to home.” In other words, it always begins with authority being exercised within our own individual lives. This is why pressing on to live a life of personal mastery to God’s glory really matters. We each play a unique and significant part in a much bigger picture and eternal framework.

STOP and THINK on these:

- Dominion is present when those who have been authorized take their place, rise up, and actually rule!
- We each have our own spheres of rulership. God desires for each of these areas to become “places of The Lord’s dominion.”
- Ruling and reigning over larger spheres and domains always begins with ruling “close to home”, by exercising authority in our own personal lives.

You Are a World Overcomer

So what does it mean to rule?

The word *RULE* in the original language means:

- o to tread down
- o to subjugate
- o to have dominion over

This word *RULE* can also be translated:

- o to reign
- o to prevail

In other words, you are called to **rule** in the midst of your enemies, **reign** in the midst of your enemies, **prevail** in the midst of your enemies, and **have dominion** in the midst of your enemies! Let that soak in for a moment. This is who you really are — **you are a world overcomer!** Hallelujah!

*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory
 that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world,
 but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

1 John 5:1,4-5

Friend, do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? If so, you are “*born of God*” and a world overcomer! This verse is talking about you! You have been built to overcome!

God has charged us to rule! And please allow me to clarify something here. I’m not referring to ruling OVER other people. God’s authority is given to mankind with a two-fold purpose:

- **To oversee, establish, and safe-guard His plans and purposes** (someone has to be in charge for the sake of clarity, peace, and good order)
- **To serve other people**

It’s important to always remember that the authority we have been given is for the purpose of serving God’s purposes, and thereby ultimately serving other people, not ruling over them. True Kingdom greatness is found in our service toward others. (2 Cor 10:8; Mk 10:42-45)



**God has given us authority for the purpose of serving
 and building other people, not ruling over them.**

So no, I’m not referring to ruling over other people. I’m referring to ruling over any and every evil thing which would try to hinder and stop you from fulfilling your God-given purpose and advancing in His plans; whether it be sickness, disease, evil spirits, fear, worry, confusion, dread, depression, or some sort of financial trouble. I’m referring to ruling over any diabolical plan or weapon that the enemy would try to form against you. Your faith in God is the victory that overcomes every evil thing in the world! That’s what this verse in 1 John is talking about.

It is important for us to AGREE with God’s will and personally receive His charge to rule. We cannot allow this important message to fall upon deaf ears and pass us by.

We can no longer afford to remain neutral and disengaged. Before we go any further, stop for a moment and personalize this reality right now. Receive it for yourself!

 **STOP and SAY this:**

“God has called me to rule, reign, and prevail over every evil thing that comes against me in life.

I RECEIVE GOD’S CHARGE TO ME TO RULE! I am a world overcomer and a member of the Lord’s authorized body!

Lord, teach me what I need to know about rulership.”

CHAPTER THREE

BORN AGAIN TO RULE

Our Identity in Christ

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

Romans 5:17

Have you received the abundance of grace that is available through Christ? Have you received His free gift of righteousness? If so, according to this verse, you are among those called and qualified to “*reign in life through Jesus Christ.*”

Reigning in life and ruling in the midst of your enemies BELONGS TO YOU through Jesus' victory on the cross. It's yours! This is part of your spiritual inheritance and a result of God's abundant grace in your life!

But notice WHERE and WHEN we have been called to rule – “*IN LIFE.*” That means right here and right now! Too often God's people are waiting until they get to heaven to begin ruling and reigning. But this is a big mistake! If you will only receive it, your ruling season has already begun, right now! In fact, God needs you to rule!



This is your ruling season, right now *IN LIFE.*

This life of dominion not only belongs to you, but as we have mentioned already, this is what you are called unto! In fact, **rulership is consistent with your Kingdom identity in Christ.** As you will see from the following verses, you have been made to rule!

You are a King

The Amplified version of Romans 5:17 says that we will “*reign as kings in life,*” giving us insight into our new identity in Christ. As kings, we are now part of God's eternal ruling and reigning family!

Here's another reference:

*And they sang a new song, saying:
"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals; for You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."
Revelation 5:9-10*

There it is again! He has made us kings! If you have received Jesus Christ as your own Lord and Savior, you are among "the redeemed" mentioned in this verse. You are now born again and part of God's royal, new creation breed! (1 Pet 1:23; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 2:9)



This reality is worthy of meditation! A king is not what you are *trying to be*. A king is not what you will *one day become*. **A king is what you *already are* in Christ!**

- o You have been made a king!
- o Rulership is in your DNA!
- o Rulership is in your spiritual family bloodline in Christ Jesus!
- o You are born again to rule!

Let that sink in for a moment. You may want to stop and affirm that reality right now — *"In Christ Jesus, I AM A KING!"*

Jesus Christ — The First of Many Sons and Many Kings

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined
to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be
the firstborn among many brethren.*

Romans 8:29

When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, He was raised as *"the firstborn among many brethren."* Think about these words *"First among many."* What do they reveal? The word "FIRST" means that there will be others LIKE Him — a second,

third, fourth, and so on! The words “AMONG MANY” reveals that there will be others WITH Him. Remember, I mentioned previously that Jesus is no longer working and ruling by Himself. He is now working together with many brethren!

So, who exactly are those “*many brethren*”? Friend, if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, you are among the ruling brethren! Jesus came and died on the cross to give us spiritual new birth, so that we might become as He is — a king!

Let’s not forget that Jesus is “*The King of kings.*” He is the First King, over and among many other kings — those who have been made just like Him through spiritual new birth and regeneration of the Holy Spirit. This really is a revelation:

Jesus is The First among many!

That’s what Scripture reveals. (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14; 1 Jn 4:17; Tit 3:5)

When Jesus took the place of sinful humanity and was raised from the dead, He was raised as “the firstborn” from spiritual death to spiritual life, pioneering and providing the way for those who would receive Him to be able to receive WHAT HE HAS and to be made AS HE IS. (Heb 2:10 AMPC; Col 1:18; Ps 89:27; Rev 1:5; Heb 12:23)

It’s almost mind-boggling, yet it’s true! Jesus is The Firstborn of a new creation species and kind — a son of God, and a king! We are now joint-heirs with Him! This is ours by inheritance in Christ. (2 Cor 5:16–17; Rom 8:17)

The Gospel of John says, “*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the sons of God.*” (Jn 1:12 KJV)

So Jesus Christ is no longer the only Son. Yes, He is the only “saving Son” in Whom we can find eternal life. No man can save himself. Yet, Jesus came that there would be a multiplication of sons! This sonship is now available for “*as many as received Him.*” (Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26; Heb 2:10)

Can you see it? If you have received Jesus Christ, you are now “a son” and a king! You have been made to do what Jesus did and to rule with His authority! (Jn 14:12)

From Now On We Regard No One After the Flesh

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:16–17

I know what you might be thinking right now. *“Who? Me? Seriously? A son of God? A king?”*

It’s all too easy to discount such outstanding truths when we only consider our own humanity and the weakness of our flesh, with which we are all too familiar! But 2 Corinthians teaches us otherwise. It says, *“from now on we regard no man after the flesh.”* This includes ourselves!

You see, there is more to you than just “flesh and blood” and what you see with your natural eye! There is more to you than what you have previously been and done. There is more to you than your past mistakes and failures. You have been made a new creation in Christ Jesus!

We must begin to see ourselves as God sees us. We must begin to see ourselves as we really are! This is revealed to us “In Christ.”

As we embrace our eternal Kingdom identity, we will begin to discover the capacity that God has placed within us to rule. **A revelation of our true identity in Christ will empower our activity!** This requires the renewal of our minds and a change in the way we think and talk about ourselves. We are who and what God’s Word says we are!

This is why we are instructed to *“be renewed in the spirit of our mind”* and to *“put on the new man.”* (Eph 4:23–24) What we are talking about here is your eternal identity in Christ — you have forever been made a king! (For more “In Christ” realities, please see [Appendix C](#) on page 191.)

STOP and SAY this:

“According to God’s Word, I AM A KING! Through Jesus Christ, I have received abundance of grace and God’s gift of righteousness, and now is my time to rule!

*I no longer regard myself after the flesh. I am born again! I am a son of God!
I am a new creation in Christ Jesus!”*

This idea of ruling and reigning may be new to you, but it is something you will want to fully embrace and get used to, because it’s not going away! **Rulership is part of your eternal future!** The Bible tells us that we shall reign with Christ *“forever and ever.”* (Rev 20:6; 22:5)

STOP and THINK on these:

- A life of ruling and reigning belongs to you through Jesus' victory on the cross.
- Rulership is consistent with your Kingdom identity in Christ — you are a king!
- You are now part of God's eternal ruling and reigning family.
- Jesus has pioneered and provided the way for those who will receive Him to be able to receive WHAT HE HAS and to be made AS HE IS.
- Jesus is The Firstborn of a new creation species and kind — a Son of God, and a King. As Jesus' joint-heir, you are now the same!
- Our minds must be renewed to our eternal Kingdom Identity in Christ. Our identity empowers our activity!
- We must be willing to change the way we think and talk about ourselves. We are who and what God's Word says we are!



CHAPTER FOUR

IN THE MIDST OF OUR ENEMIES

The Fallen World Around Us

*“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.”*

John 16:33

Going back to our original text of Scripture in Psalm 110, it’s also important that we understand under what circumstances and in what context we are charged to rule and reign — *“in the midst of our enemies.”* Let’s take a moment to discuss this.

Are there enemies around? Oh yeah! It may not seem like a pleasant topic to talk about, but we don’t want to be ignorant of the reality that we have a spiritual adversary (Satan) who is arrayed against us. This word “adversary” can be more literally translated as OPPONENT.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because
your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,
seeking whom he may devour.*

1 Peter 5:8

When it comes to our adversary, we should never, under any circumstances, be afraid of him. As we will continue to discover throughout this book: Satan is a defeated foe! And we are exhorted numerous times throughout Scripture to “Fear not!”

That being said, we will be at a disadvantage if we are not at least aware of our enemy and his schemes. After all, he is our opponent! We have absolutely no reason to be AFRAID of Satan, but we should be AWARE of Him. We are not to be ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor 2:11; 1 Tim 5:14; Eph 6:11)



**We have absolutely no reason to be AFRAID of Satan,
but we should be AWARE of Him. He is our adversary.**

Satan never presents himself as “the devil.” The Bible tells us that he “*transforms himself into an angel of light,*” which reveals that his entry is never obvious. He is a deceiver and never comes to the front door! Jesus referred to him as THE THIEF, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy! (2 Cor 11:14; Jn 10:10)

If we will be honest with ourselves, there is plenty of this thieving activity going on around us today, even in the lives of God’s own people. Although he has been defeated, we would be foolish to quickly dismiss the reality of the one who seeks to devour us and destroy our lives. For this reason, we will discuss more about Satan’s mode of operation in Chapter 8 of this first section.

And what about trouble? Will we face trouble in the world around us? Yes, we will. This should not come as a great surprise. Jesus made it very clear that in this world we will encounter tribulation. (Jn 16:33)

Having faith and being God’s child does not make us exempt from the trials of life. The winds and rains of adversity will blow upon every man’s house (life) at some time or another. But, thank God! Jesus told us that if we will listen to His sayings and then do them, our lives will be in a strong and fortified position to withstand and outlast any storm or adversity. We will be able to experience what Isaiah describes — “*No weapon formed against you shall prosper!*” (Lk 6:47-49; Isa 54:17)

Despite the inevitable reality of tribulation in the world, Jesus went so far as to tell us that we should “*be of good cheer!*” And from where do we find such cheer? We can be genuinely cheerful and joyful, knowing that Jesus has already overcome whatever we may be facing. And He did so on our behalf! He is truly the Captain of our salvation, Who is able to save us to the uttermost! (Heb 2:10; Heb 7:25)



We can be genuinely cheerful, knowing that Jesus has already overcome whatever we may be facing, on our behalf.

So, yes. Facing trouble in the world around us is somewhat unavoidable. And this reality of a spiritual adversary (opponent) is not something that is going to go away throughout your lifetime. This is why we have been given this charge to rule IN THE MIDST of our enemies.

It All Began with Adam

But WHY? That is the question we want to address in this chapter. WHY must we deal with a spiritual enemy and all of the cursed things he would try and bring? WHY is there tribulation in the world around us?

The short answer to these age-old questions can be summed up in one word: ADAM. The reason we must deal with a spiritual adversary and tribulation in the world is because of what Adam did a very long time ago, when he sinned in the Garden of Eden.



**The answer as to WHY we have to deal with
a spiritual enemy and tribulation in our world can be
summed up in one word — ADAM.**

Yes, this account from the Book of Genesis is really true! (Gen 3:1-24) And it's the main reason we find ourselves where we are today. It's very important to have this understanding if you want to live a life of dominion and authority. Otherwise, you may mistakenly attribute life's troubles and challenges to God.

Look at what God said to Adam after he sinned:

*To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit
from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'
"Cursed is the ground because of you..."*
Genesis 3:17 (NIV)

Adam was originally authorized by God over planet earth. Adam was to rule on earth in submission to God. (Gen 1:26-28) But when he disobeyed God's original instruction and yielded to the lie of the serpent instead, Adam subsequently gave his authority to Satan. The Scripture teaches us that we become slaves to whom-ever we obey. (Rom 6:16)

This was certainly true in Adam's case. When Adam rebelled against God's instruction and obeyed Satan, he sold himself and the entire human race under-neath sin and Satan's authority. This is where all the trouble began on earth! (Rom 7:14; Lk 4:5-6)

Because of Adam's fall, we now live in the midst of what I will call "a broken planet." We now live in the midst of what The New Testament refers to as "*the evil days*" and "*this present evil age.*"

- “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because **the days are evil.**” (Eph 5:15-16)
- “who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from **this present evil age...**” (Gal 1:4)

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to recognize that many things are messed up and not as they should be in our world. There are many things happening around us that are not God's will.



**Because of Adam's fall, we now live
in the midst of a broken planet.**

Because of Adam's fall, sin and the curse, with all its effects (fear, sickness, poverty, death, famine, destruction, loss, etc.) are in the earth, and so are demons and evil spirits. (Rom 5:12; 8:20-22; Eph 6:12) Without God's mercy and protection, the world is really a dangerous place! (See [Appendix B – “Psalm 91 – A Psalm of Divine Protection and Supernatural Deliverance”](#) on page 189.)

The day is coming when Jesus will return to earth a second time to put an end to all rebellion and disorder once and for all. (1 Cor 15:24; Rev 20:2,10) But for the time being, Satan and his unseen spiritual cohorts have the right to be here in the earth's atmosphere, seeking to influence the lives of humanity – all because of Adam's original trespass. And unfortunately, there are plenty of people who yield to these evil influences. (Eph 2:2; 2 Tim 3:1-5)

This explains why so many things are amiss and out of line in the fallen world around us. God often gets the blame for these evil things (sickness, storms, calamity, death, accidents, destruction, and failure), but it all really began with Adam's sin in the garden.

When Adam disobeyed God's instructions, literally “all hell broke loose” on the planet! Did God allow it? Yes, He did. **But the only reason He allowed it was because Adam allowed it.** After all, Adam was the one with authority on earth. God put him in charge.

We must understand that just because God allows something does not mean that's what He wants. Today, the effects of Adam's original sin can still be seen and felt in many ways that affect us all. This is why we must learn to rise up and rule!

Under Satan's Sway and Control

*We know that we are children of God,
and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

1 John 5:19 (NIV)

The New Testament refers to Satan as “*the god of this world*” and teaches us that the whole unsaved world is under his sway and control. Jesus even referred to Satan as “*the ruler of this world.*” (2 Cor 4:4 KJV; 1 Jn 5:19; Jn 14:30) That’s eye-opening! Isn’t it? These Scriptural truths are clearly contrary to the commonly held religious belief that “God is in control” of everything that is happening on planet earth.

In truth, these verses give us an accurate picture of the place of influence Satan has in our world. Again, how did he obtain this place? This is the place that Adam gave to Satan when he chose to side with him and disobey God’s original instruction in the Garden of Eden. (Gen 3:1-24; Lk 4:5-6)

As previously mentioned, Jesus also spoke of Satan as “*the thief, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy.*” (Jn 10:10) Certainly if there is a thief running around on the planet, that’s going to create some problems, right? I’m always dumbfounded whenever I hear people so quickly attribute life’s problems and troubles to God and His “mysterious will,” without giving any consideration to what is so clearly revealed in The Bible.

Shouldn’t we consider these instead? They are much less mysterious!

- the effects of Adam’s original trespass
- the reality of Satan – the thief
- the effects of man’s own poor choices (including our own choices)

God often gets the blame for man’s problems, when in fact, He is the answer to man’s problems! What a travesty! God is not the troublemaker. He is RICH and GOOD to all who call upon Him in faith! (Rom 10:12; Ps 145:9)



**God often gets the blame for man’s problems,
when in fact, He is the answer to man’s problems.**

God is so good that He has provided A REMEDY for all the misfortune described above. That remedy is His Son, Jesus Christ!

The New Testament refers to Jesus as “the second and the last Adam.” (1 Cor 15:45-49) He came to ransom the human race and to give us victory over all the

trouble that resulted from the first Adam's trespass. Just as the reason for all the trouble and evil in the world today can be summed up in one word — ADAM; even so, the overwhelming remedy for all of it can be found in one Name — JESUS. He is Lord of all!

This redemption and victory is available for anyone who will call upon Jesus Christ by faith, and then learn to appropriate and walk in all that He has provided.

As we will discover throughout the rest of this book, this is something that we must learn to ENFORCE. It's true that there are enemies and much trouble to deal with in the world around us. But, it's also true that Jesus has overcome the world on our behalf! Because of this, we can now rule in the midst of our enemies!

STOP and THINK on these:

- Having faith and being God's child does not exempt us from the trials of life.
- If we will listen to the sayings of Jesus and then do them, our lives will be in a strong and fortified position to withstand and outlast any storm or adversity.
- Jesus is the Captain of our salvation, Who is able to save us to the uttermost!
- We can be genuinely cheerful in the midst of trouble in the world, knowing that Jesus has already overcome whatever we are facing, on our behalf.
- Why is there trouble in the world? The short answer: ADAM.
- Because of Adam's original trespass, Satan and his unseen spiritual cohorts have the right to be here in the earth's atmosphere, seeking to influence the lives of humanity.
- Because of Adam's original trespass, we now live in the midst of "the evil days." There are many things happening around us that are not God's will.
- Satan became "the god of this world" when Adam listened to him rather than following God's instruction. Now the whole unsaved world is under his evil influence.
- Satan is the thief who goes about stealing, killing, and destroying wherever he finds opportunity.
- God often gets the blame for man's problems, when in fact, He is the answer to man's problems!
- Jesus is THE REMEDY for the fall of Adam and for all the misfortune that followed.
- We must learn to rise up and rule IN THE MIDST of our enemies!

THE WORLD'S SQUEEZE

Going Upstream in a Negative World

*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould,
but let God re-mould your minds from within...*

Romans 12:2 (JB PHILLIPS)

As I'm sure you have noticed, there's a "squeeze" (or pressure) out there in the world that tries its best to get us to conform to its negative ways and just follow along with its ungodly flow. Have you ever experienced this sort of pressure? If you have ever purposefully set out to live for God, walk in His promises, and glorify Him, then I'm sure you have! The world and its stream are negative!



The world and its squeeze are negative.

This squeeze from the world will try to convince you to just throw up your hands and quit! You will be pressured to give in and just accept being sick, defeated, worried, and fearful, as if life's circumstances are beyond your control and you have no say in the matter. The world's squeeze will try to pressure you to give in, follow the "mainstream," and just do what everyone else is doing for the sake of "peace."

And why is there such a "squeeze" and pressure from the world around us to conform? What's the big deal anyway? In many cases, we are only trying to do what's good and right. So why the resistance? Why the pushback?

The pressure we feel around us is just more evidence of the place that Satan has as "*the god of this world.*" It's just part of the fallen world we live in. The Apostle Paul wrote to believers in Ephesus regarding what he called "*the course of this world.*" He then described the course of this world as being "*according to the prince of the power of the air,*" referring to Satan. As someone who desires to follow God and glorify Him, it's important for you to recognize this reality. (Eph 2:2)

I'm not trying to be negative or pessimistic. I'm pointing this out so that you will be aware of what you are up against, and so that you won't cower or shrink back whenever you sense negative thoughts, feelings, and pressure around you. Rather than backing down, feeling discouraged, and wondering "*What's wrong with me?*", instead you will press-in to God and rise up and rule! God is for you and not against you!

If you want to know the truth, the enemy is afraid. He is afraid of what you will become as you continue forward with God's Word and promises. He knows that your seeds of faith, perseverance, and obedience to God, no matter how small they may seem for the moment, will one day grow up and make your life and influence like a strong, unshakable tree – a tree with such large branches that others can find rest under its shade and even pick fruit from its branches. (Mk 4:30–32) Satan knows it's a whole lot easier to crush an acorn than it is to uproot an oak tree!



**The enemy is afraid of what you will become
as you continue forward with God's Word and promises.**

It is for this reason that Satan desires to push and pressure you into conformity. He wants to put your light out! Through his worldly squeeze, he hopes to ultimately wear you out, shut you up, shut you down, rob you of your confidence, and put you back in your little cage of containment where he feels you belong. He wants you to feel totally overwhelmed to the point that he can get you to back away from God's word to you.

It may be God's word to you regarding your health, your finances, your family, your ministry, or your career. But no matter what the area is, **containment is not what you have been created for!**

My friend, you are the light of the world and the salt of the earth! Your life is to be like a city set on a hill which cannot be hidden. You are a bright shining light and an agent for change in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. It's important to always remember this, to remain offensive, and not allow the enemies' squeeze to back you down! You must never forget that in Christ Jesus you are in charge! (Matt 5:13–14; Phil 2:15)

You Are The Righteousness of God in Christ

I'm writing this to encourage you! Although you do have the responsibility of presenting your body to God as a living sacrifice, and renewing your mind to think in line with His Word, as God's child nothing is inherently wrong with you! Jesus Christ took care of that for you. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus! This gift of righteousness has come to you through grace when you accepted Jesus Christ. (Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 5:15-17)

God took everything that was wrong with you and laid it upon Jesus on the cross. Through your faith in Jesus' work on the cross, you are now accepted in God's beloved Son! When you accepted Jesus as your own Lord and Savior, God accepted you! (Eph 1:6; Rom 4:23-Rom 5:1)



**When you accepted Jesus Christ
as your Lord and Savior, God accepted you.**

What's really happening is this: You are going "upstream" with God in the midst of a negative world. This is why you encounter the pressure. But...if you won't quit, you shall prevail! Your faith in God has been given to you to overcome! (1 Jn 5:4)

Born on Earth Into Hostile Territory

Far too few people realize that because of Adam's original trespass, we have all been born on earth into hostile territory and a "war zone" of sorts. Yes, it's true that there is still so much of God's goodness and glory to behold throughout His magnificent creation. It's everywhere and undeniable to anyone who will be honest about it!

The Psalms say, *"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship."* (Ps 19:1, NLT) Yet, there are many places and situations on earth where God's perfect will is not being done, or even far from it! Evil is a very real and present reality. **We live on a fallen and broken planet, in the midst of fallen and broken mankind.**

This is why it's necessary to wake up to the warfare! We can no longer afford to ignorantly accept the notion that God is in control of everything that's happening on earth. To do so renders us incapable of ruling. If we think that "God is in

control” of some sort of evil situation and circumstance, will we dare rise up and resist it with any sort of real boldness and confidence? No, we won’t! After all, who are we to try and resist what God may have possibly authored?



We can no longer afford to ignorantly accept the notion that God is in control of everything that’s happening on earth.

Of course, Satan delights in this kind of ignorance. By keeping people distracted and overwhelmed by his worldly squeeze, and ignorant to the warfare surrounding them, he is able to continue to dominate. He knows that people will never rise up, fight back, and persevere against an enemy that they don’t even realize exists! He often hides in the shadows of this convenient religious lie — “God is in control.”

It’s true that God is ultimately in control, in the sense that you can read the end of The Bible and see how things are going to turn out. God is also in control in that He set the boundaries and parameters of what’s allowed and not allowed through His eternal Word. But to say that He is controlling and orchestrating all events, in every person’s life is to deny one of God’s greatest gifts to humanity — the power of free will and individual choice.

As we will discuss in the second section of this book, we have the wonderful privilege and place of giving God control in our lives. There are certain things we must learn to submit to and other things which we must learn to absolutely resist! In so doing, we can then give God control in our lives and places of influence.

Through our faith in Jesus Christ and our obedience to Him, we can even create **strongholds of God’s will** — places that seem like “heaven on earth.” These places then become places of the Lord’s dominion. This is what God has in mind for you! (Deut 11:21; Ps 103:22)

The Greater One Is In You

I’m also writing this to remind you of exactly WHO is in you. As God’s child, THE GREATER ONE lives in you! (1 Jn 4:4) The One living in you is FAR GREATER than any pressure you may feel from the fallen world around you! It’s important to remember this when the pressure is on! In fact, you may want to stop and rejoice in this reality right now — *“The Greater One is living in me!”*



**When the pressure is on, it's important to remember
THE GREATER ONE IN YOU!**

It's true that Satan is "the god of this world," but let's be very clear about one thing: he is not our God! **Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have been delivered from his authority and control!**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

So now, The Greater One lives in us! As God's people, we need not allow ourselves to be controlled, bullied, and manipulated by the world's ungodly squeeze. Now we know where this squeeze is coming from and what it's designed to do — to make us conform...and to contain us!

Is this pressure real? Will you feel it from time to time? Yes...and yes! But...we are not those who draw back! It's simply not our nature to shrink back! We are those who believe God and receive what He says is ours! (Heb 10:39)

As real as the pressure and squeeze around you may be, it is absolutely NO MATCH for The One living inside of you! By His grace, you can resist these negative thoughts and feelings, and rise up and rule! God's will is for you to advance!

God Is On Your Side

Let's also remember Who is ON OUR SIDE!

- God is now our Heavenly Father, and He is FOR US and never against us! (Rom 8:31; Heb 13:5-6; Ps 124)
- God has blessed and empowered us with a blessing that cannot fail! (Gal 3:9,13; Num 23:19-20; Prov 10:22)
- God's supernatural peace will guard our hearts and minds, as we act upon His Word and keep our minds fixed upon Him. (Phil 4:6-8; Isa 26:3)
- God's mighty angels will remain encamped about us, bringing deliverance! (Ps 34:7; Ps 91:11)
- Nothing we are facing can separate us from God's love. Our Father is greater than all! (Rom 8:35-39; Jn 10:28-29)



When the pressure is on, it's important to remember that GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE. He is FOR YOU and not against you!

Friend, if you will stay with God and allow Him to lead you, guide you, teach you, and train you, He will always cause you to be triumphant! (2 Cor 2:14) That's His promise to you! But it is often a process. We must be equipped to rule! This is why I have written this book.

✠ STOP and DECLARE this right now!

“Jesus is my Lord! And God is my Father! I am not a quitter!

I'm not moved by what I see and feel around me! I am going forward in God's plan for my life!

GREATER is He who is in me than he who is in the world. My God is for me! Who can be against me? My Father God is greater than all!”



CHAPTER SIX

IDENTIFYING THE REAL ENEMY

People Are Not Really The Problem

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 6:12

With God's charge to us to "rule in the midst of your enemies," it's also important to clarify exactly WHO the real enemy is. And it's NOT PEOPLE!

Nope! Other people, as crazy and obstinate as they may act from time to time, are not the real enemy — the devil is! That's what this verse in Ephesians is pointing out — "*We wrestle NOT against flesh and blood!*"



**People are not really your problem.
We wrestle not against flesh and blood.**

Either directly or indirectly, Satan is the one manipulating and influencing people to participate in ungodly ways and ungodly agendas. He is the one working behind the scenes, taking advantage of the unsaved and rebellious, even using men like "puppets" at times, to carry out his schemes and agenda. (Eph 2:2; 2 Tim 2:26; 1 Jn 5:19; Rom 1:18)

Some yield to the enemy knowingly. Many yield to the enemy unknowingly. Unfortunately, Satan is even able to take advantage of God's own people, when they are ignorant, untaught, or just natural-minded. (1 Cor 3:3; Hos 4:6)

As we have already discovered from the previous chapter, there is a very real "squeeze" and pressure from the fallen, ungodly world around us. It not only tries to influence each one of us in our daily lives, but even more, it seeks to influence

leaders and those in authority. Whenever people yield to these pressures it creates chaos, making for a crazy, mixed-up world! But, by God's grace, we can still rule in the midst of it!

We can rule, so long — so long as we focus upon and deal with the real enemy! We can rule so long as we don't allow ourselves to become fearful and upset, such that we retaliate with fleshly means and enter into a war with people. We can rule so long as we don't allow the enemy to draw us into a natural battle. God is calling us to operate from a higher place with Him!

We wrestle NOT against flesh and blood! **You can never deal with a spiritual enemy with natural means alone.** The weapons of our warfare are not carnal! (2 Cor 3:4) Some are totally ignorant of who the real enemy is. Others have forgotten.

These People are Our Mission

"People are not really the problem." This statement can seem difficult to wrap our minds around, particularly when we find ourselves face to face with a person or personality who seems to be so obviously problematic and troublesome. Whenever we are tempted to focus our attention and wrath towards people, we should be reminded of these truths:

These people are not our problem. These people are our mission!

The ultimate battle in life is for the souls of men.

The real enemy is Satan and we have authority over him.

When The New Testament describes the ungodly and their ungodly ways, it says *"and such were some of you."* Furthermore, it says that we all, at one time or another, *"walked according to the spirit who works in the sons of disobedience."* (1 Cor 6:11; Eph 2:2)

We should all take a moment to thank God for His mercy and remember from where we have been delivered! And then, we should refocus our attention upon the real battle at hand.

We must never forget these truths:

- o God so LOVED the world that He gave His only Son. This is for ALL mankind everywhere! (Jn 3:16)
- o Christ died for the ungodly. He did not come for the righteous, but to call sinners to repentance. And such were all of us! (Rom 5:6; Matt 9:13)
- o God is not willing that ANY man should perish but that ALL should come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)

- o We are now “*ambassadors for Christ*,” charged with the honorable task of letting people know that God has not charged their sins to them, and that they only need to be reconciled to God by personally receiving Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 5:18–20)

The Scripture reminds us who the real enemy is: We are not wrestling against flesh and blood (people), but against these evil spiritual forces. And here’s some good news!

All these spiritual forces have been thoroughly defeated by our Substitute, our Lord, and our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The real enemy has already been defeated! It’s time to go to war and do battle, but we must learn to do battle the way the Lord directs us, rather than trying to take matters into our own hands. By the arm of the flesh, no man shall prevail! (1 Sam 2:9; Jer 17:5; Zech 4:6; Ps 20:7; Acts 3:12)

Raised and Seated Together with Christ

and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 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.

Ephesians 1:19–21

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 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 2:4–6

Because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross, we’ve been spiritually raised and made to sit together with Him in the heavenly places. Hallelujah! Where is that heavenly seat? That seat is “*FAR ABOVE*” these evil principalities and powers, whose schemes and tactics we now wrestle with.

Thank God! The devil has been stripped of his authority in our lives! So rather than allowing him to rule over us, we can rule over him! (Matt 28:18; Col 3:1; Lk 10:19)

As we will discover more later, even though we don't have authority over other human beings and their free will to make choices for themselves, we often do have authority over the evil spirits which influence and control people, particularly in those areas that affect our lives personally. (See [Appendix E – “Where Do I Have Authority?”](#) on page 201.)

In many such cases, we can take our heavenly seat in Christ, give place to the Holy Spirit within us, and then SHUT DOWN the enemy and His plans and strategies! (Matt 18:18) But this will NEVER HAPPEN if the enemy can keep us down on a lower level, fighting against flesh and blood.

It's critical that we don't allow ourselves to be tricked into focusing so much on people and human personalities that we fail to deal with the spiritual forces which are often operating behind those people against us, and against the Lord's agenda. As Jesus hung on the cross, He said, *“Father, forgive them. They do not know what they do.”* When Stephen was being stoned, he cried out, *“Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”* (Lk 22:34; Acts 7:60)

So long as we are personally enraged and aggravated, we won't be in a position to wage an effective warfare. The Lord wants to help us stay mindful of the real battle and the bigger picture so that we can steer clear of fleshly battles with people.



Let's not allow ourselves to be tricked into focusing so much on people and human personalities that we fail to deal with the spiritual forces operating behind these people.

The enemy would love to trap you in a world of strife, finger-pointing, and railing against other people, politicians, and public figures, blaming them for all the world's problems. All such activity is a diversion from the enemy and counterproductive to a responsible and productive life of dominion and authority. If you see people as the problem, then it's unlikely that you will pray and exercise your spiritual authority against the real enemy. Satan knows this all too well.

As far as God's people are concerned, the enemy would like to pit us against one another. We, the church, the Body of Christ — empowered by the Holy Spirit — are the most powerful thing on planet earth! We are God's ruling arm upon the earth! The devil knows this. He also knows that a house divided against itself cannot stand. (Mk 3:25)

We all have our own opinions about things, but sometimes it's much better to "check our opinions at the door" so that we can enter in with God and do Kingdom business His way!

*For where envying and strife is,
there is confusion and every evil work.*

James 3:16 (KJV)

The Scripture teaches us that whenever we yield to STRIFE, confusion and every evil work will also be present. An atmosphere of strife is Satan's playground and allows him to do some of his best work!

Scripture further warns us "*if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another.*" (Gal 5:15) So let's be careful that we don't become embroiled in strife, drama, and a war of words with other people. I realize that the behavior and actions of people can be maddening and infuriating at times! But let's be sure to maintain our peace and operate with the Lord in a way which is truly productive.

Pray for Leaders and Authorities

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks be made for all men, **for kings and all who are in authority,**
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2

One way we can be truly productive is to take heed to this verse in First Timothy. Here we are exhorted to pray for all men, including leaders and authorities. And we are instructed to do this "*first of all.*" This should be done as a matter of priority.

These prayers should be offered for those leaders we like, and for those whom we don't particularly care for. We do it as a matter of obedience to God's Word.

By praying for leaders and authorities, we can affect the course of nations and the precious souls in these nations. Through these prayers we can affect leaders in every area of life and society, including the precious people who are directly impacted by their decisions.



**As we pray for leaders we can affect the course of
nations, as well as every area of life and society.**

This is often where God has called us to do our **FIRST WORK** with Him — in the heavenly realm! From there, we can each take our places of active participation in support of those specific causes where the Lord directs.

Praying these prayers will not only enable us to impact situations in a positive way spiritually, but it will also safeguard our hearts against being drawn into some sort of fleshly retaliation. The promise to us individually as we pray these prayers is *“that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.”* Who couldn’t go for some more inward quietness and peace!

Jesus told us to bless our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us. (Matt 5:44) That's radical! Why would He instruct us in this manner? He is pointing us to that which will truly prove effective and productive. As Kingdom people, our true conflict is never really against flesh and blood.

There is no question that the enemy works through people, but **so long as you think it’s about people or some personality, the enemy has got you right where he wants you!** He has effectively neutralized you.

Please don’t misunderstand. It’s sometimes entirely appropriate to be active and vocal participants in support of those causes and candidates that you feel strongly about. But to personally attack and insult other people, including leaders, is to be ignorant of the real battle and to play right into the enemies’ hands. Although it may not always seem like it, people are not really the problem!

STOP and THINK on these:

- Either directly or indirectly, the devil is the one manipulating and influencing people to participate in ungodly ways and ungodly agendas.
- We can rule so long as we focus upon and deal with the real enemy.
- Satan wants to drag you into a war with people.
- You can never deal with a spiritual enemy with natural means alone.
- People are not really our problem. People are our mission!
- Satan has been defeated, but we must learn to do battle the way the Lord directs.
- We have been raised and seated together with Christ, FAR ABOVE evil principalities and powers.

(continued from previous page...)

- We don't have authority over other people's free will, but we often do have authority over those spirits working through people against us and against the Lord's agenda.
- So long as we are personally enraged and aggravated, we won't be in a position to wage an effective warfare.
- Finger-pointing and blaming others is a diversion from the enemy and counterproductive to a life of dominion and authority.
- The Body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the most powerful thing on planet earth!
- The enemy would like to pit God's people against one another.
- Praying for leaders and authorities should be done as a matter of priority.

CHAPTER SEVEN

JESUS' ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH

The Gospel of Christ

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...
For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith;
as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

Romans 1:16–17

I mentioned this in the previous chapter, but please allow me to reiterate this life-changing reality yet once more: *We have been raised and seated together with Christ in the heavenlies!* It would be good to stop and confess that for yourself a few times. We are getting to the good part now!

"I have been raised and seated together with Christ in the heavenlies!" Say it again!

What we are talking about here is the good news of The Gospel! Jesus Christ has defeated and disarmed the enemy! He has triumphed on our behalf! The Gospel is the very heart and crux of the matter when it comes to our dominion and authority. This is where our boldness lies.



**The Gospel is the very heart and crux of the matter
when it comes to our dominion and authority.**

Let's elaborate on The Gospel more thoroughly:

*And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach **the gospel of peace**, who bring
glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel.*

*For Isaiah says, "Lord, **who has believed our report?**"*

Romans 10:15–16

What is The Gospel? The Gospel is *good news!* The Gospel is *glad tidings of good things!* The Gospel is *a good report* of what God, in His love and mercy, has done for all humanity everywhere!

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

◆ **The Gospel is a good news report of what God has done for all humanity through His great love, mercy, and kindness.**

As we have briefly covered in chapter four, when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, all hell broke loose on planet earth – literally! (See [*“It All Began with Adam”*](#) on page 21.)

- Adam sold the entire human race under sin, with all of its curse.
- Adam handed over his authority to the devil and gave way for him to set up his unseen devilish hierarchy here within the earth’s atmosphere.

Since that time, all natural humans have been born into the earth with the fallen nature of Adam, under the curse, and subject to the dominion of darkness. In Adam, we were all born as “*sons of disobedience*” and “*children of wrath*” by nature, unable to save ourselves. (Eph 2:2-3) According to The Scripture, “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” (Rom 3:23)

This is why all mankind are in need of a spiritual “new birth” through Christ. Forgiveness of sins was only part of man’s problem. Beyond that, he needed a new nature!

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

John 3:3, 5-7

When Jesus said, “*You must be born again,*” He was referring to the spiritual nature of man. When Jesus spoke to some of the most religious people of His time, He

told them, “*You are of your father, the devil.*” (Jn 8:44) Once again, He was referring to their fallen nature. No amount of good works, holy behavior, or religiosity on man’s part can fix his broken nature. We were really in desperate need of some good news!

◆ **In Adam, we were all born as sons of disobedience and children of wrath, in need of a new spiritual nature.**

Thank God for His great love and mercy! God had prepared a good news rescue plan for His fallen man! By establishing a covenant relationship with Abraham, God was able to establish a chosen people for Himself, through whom He could eventually bring forth Jesus the Messiah into the earth. Jesus would come to earth as the second and last Adam, to rescue and deliver all those who were born under the curse of the first Adam and trapped under Satan’s dominion. (1 Cor 15:45,47)

Jesus, Our Substitute and Our Sin-Sacrifice

*Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though **the LORD makes his life an offering for sin...**
After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge **my righteous servant will justify many, and he will
bear their iniquities.** Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because **he poured out his life unto
death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.***

Isaiah 53:10-12 (NIV)

Jesus was born of a virgin, became a man, and took the place of sinful humanity, paying the full price for our sins on the cross. He committed no sin, yet He laid down His life and bore the sin of humanity as our substitute. (Matt 1:23; Phil 2:5–8; Jn 10:18; 2 Cor 5:21)

Jesus (God’s only Son) died on the cross as our substitute, The Just suffering for the unjust. He did this “*that He might bring us to God.*” (1 Pet 3:18)

Not only did Jesus pay for our sins, but He paid for Adam’s original sin as well. All our debts have been paid and fully satisfied through Jesus’ blood sacrifice! (1 Pet 3:18; Phil 2:7–8; Isa 53:4–5; Heb 9:12; Heb 10:12)

Take a moment to look up some of these powerful references for yourself!

◆ **Jesus bore the sin of humanity as our substitute. All our debts have been fully paid through Jesus' blood sacrifice.**

Jesus suffered on the cross so that we don't have to! He bore upon Himself all the effects of Adam's trespass, which were handed down to every man, including the curse of sin, sickness, poverty, and defeat. Jesus took it all! He did this so that we can live victoriously, with purpose, peace, power, health, and prosperity – free from the enemy's fear, torment, and oppression! (Gal 3:13; Deut 28:15–68; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Jn 4:17–18; Lk 1:74; 3 Jn 2)

The Great Exchange

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Romans 6:4–5

A great exchange took place on the cross of Calvary! Jesus became as we were, that we might become as He is now! Through substitution, Jesus identified with us in our sinful, lost, and broken condition, so that we could be made new and identify with Him in His resurrection and victory. (Rom 6:5; 2 Cor 5:17)

Here are some powerful examples of this great exchange!

• **Our Sin – for – HIS 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

Stop and say this:

“Jesus knew no sin, but He was made to be sin FOR ME as my substitute. Now I have been made the righteousness of God. I have a new spiritual nature!”

• **Our Curse – for – HIS BLESSING**

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us** (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Galatians 3:13–14

Stop and say this:

*“Jesus became a curse for me! I’m now redeemed from the curse of the law.
Abraham’s blessing is mine!*

• **Our Sickness – for – HIS HEALING and HEALTH**

*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we,
having died to sins, might live for righteousness—
by whose stripes you were healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

Stop and say this:

*“Jesus bore my sicknesses and carried my pains on the cross. By His stripes I am
now healed and made whole.”*

• **Our Poverty – for – HIS RICHES and ABUNDANCE**

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes **He became poor,**
that you through His poverty might become rich.*

2 Corinthians 8:9

Stop and say this:

*“Jesus became poor for me when He came to earth and hung on the cross.
Now I am rich and abundantly supplied in Christ!”*

◆ **Through a great exchange, Jesus became as we were, so that we
might become as He is now.**

Jesus’ brutal death on the cross was more than just a physical death. He also suffered spiritually! Jesus went to hell and suffered in our place. We deserved to go, but Jesus went instead! He satisfied the wrath of God on behalf of each of us and all of humanity! Jesus tasted death for every man! As the sinless, spotless Lamb of God, He was the only one qualified to pay this price. And Jesus paid it all! (Matt 12:40; Acts 2:27; 1 Jn 2:2; Heb 2:9; Jn 1:29)

◆ **Jesus went to hell so that we don’t have to! He satisfied the wrath of
God on behalf of all humanity.**

Jesus Raised Victorious!

*I am He who lives, and was dead,
and **behold, I am alive forevermore.** Amen.
And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

Revelation 1:8

And then, after three days...Jesus was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father! He was raised FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION – to make us right with God The Father. (Rom 6:4; Rom 8:34; Matt 28:6–7)

*He was handed over to die because of our sins,
and **he was raised to life to make us right with God.***

Romans 4:25 (NLT)

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He offered up His sinless, spotless blood in the heavenly Holy of Holies as a payment and ransom for the sin of every man. He did this once, and He did it for all! As the perfect sacrifice, Jesus entered into heaven itself, with His own blood, to appear in the presence of God as our sinless representative! (Heb 9:12; Heb 9:24–28)

*Not with the blood of goats and calves,
but **with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place
once for all,** having obtained eternal redemption.*

*For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands,
which are copies of the true, but **into heaven itself,
now to appear in the presence of God for us;***

Hebrews 9:12,24

◆ **Jesus entered the presence of God with His own blood to make one sacrifice for all sins, forever.**

Now Jesus ever lives to make intercession for those who will come to God through Him. That means He won't turn anyone away! For those who will receive Him as Lord, His blood will forever speak on their behalf – “*Not guilty! Accepted as God's beloved!*” (Heb 7:25; Jn 6:37; Heb 12:24; Eph 1:6)

Not only was Jesus raised from the dead, but then He sat down in the place of victory and authority at the Father's right hand, far above all evil principalities and demonic powers! He has recovered the authority lost by Adam in the Garden of Eden. Jesus now has the keys of death and of hell. He is alive forevermore! (Heb 1:13; Heb 10:12; Eph 1:20–21; Rev 1:18)

*...when He had by Himself purged our sins,
sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Hebrews 1:3

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*

Matthew 28:18

- ◆ **Jesus is now raised and seated at the Father's right hand, having recovered all the authority lost by Adam in the Garden of Eden.**

Jesus, "*The Lord of glory*" and "*The captain of our salvation*," has brought many fallen sons back to glory! We are these sons—once fallen together with Adam, but now redeemed and ransomed by Jesus' absolute triumph! (1 Cor 2:8; Heb 2:10; Gal 3:26)



**Jesus, The Lord of glory, has brought many
fallen sons back to glory.**

As the redeemed of the Lord, we are now *His Victorious Ones*—more than conquerors through Christ's love and victory! We are forever His beloved! What Jesus accomplished was done as our substitute. That means His victory is our victory! His triumph was our triumph! He suffered in our place on the cross and then was raised from the dead in order that we might also be raised and made right with The Father. (Rom 4:25; 8:37)

- ◆ **As the redeemed of the Lord, Jesus victory is now our victory! We have been spiritually raised, seated, and made right with The Father.**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Through this great redemption we have received a new spiritual nature—righteousness—the very nature of God! That's what this "NEW CREATION" is all about. We are now "*born of God*" and members of God's eternal family. We have been reborn of incorruptible, divine seed—through the Word of God! We are now spiritually alive unto God! (2 Pet 1:4; 1 Jn 5:1; Eph 3:15; 1 Pet 1:23; Rom 6:11)

◆ **In Christ Jesus we have all received a new spiritual nature — righteousness! We are “born of God” and made alive unto Him.**

Before, in Adam, we were all by nature children of wrath. But now, in Christ, we have all been made to be partakers of the divine nature and have become Heirs of God!

Heirs of God. Joint Heirs with Christ.

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Romans 8:16–17

What Jesus has obtained through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, we now have, for we are His joint heirs! It's all ours! This includes His reclaimed authority, gained through conquest through the victory of the cross. (Rom 8:16–17; Matt 28:18; 1 Cor 3:21–23)



**Why did Jesus do all these things?
He did it all for you!**

Consider carefully the following verses which clearly reveal Jesus' absolute triumph over Satan and the works of darkness. And as you do, remember the reason WHY Jesus did all this. He did it all for you! This is God's love toward you!

• **God's love has been clearly demonstrated through the cross!**

*But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.* — **Romans 5:8–9**

• **Satan has been “brought to nought” and we have been completely set free!**

*Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood [in the physical nature of human beings], He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], **that by [going through] death He might bring to nought and make of no effect him who had the power of death—that is, the devil**—And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the [haunting] fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.* — **Hebrews 2:14–15 (AMP)**

- **All evil principalities and powers have been “disarmed” through the cross!**

*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

- **Jesus came to “undo” the devil’s evil works.**

The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done].

— 1 John 3:8 (AMPC)

- **Jesus has recovered and restored all lost authority.**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

— Matthew 28:18

- **Salvation is now available to whoever calls upon the Lord.**

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

— Romans 10:13

- **Our salvation includes deliverance from the power and authority of darkness.**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

— Colossians 1:13

- **We have been raised and seated with Christ, far above all principality and power.**

and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

— Ephesians 2:6

Can you see it? Satan has no more authority in our lives! He is eternally defeated! (Heb 9:12) Jesus came to recover the authority lost by Adam in the garden — all of it! This authority is now available for anyone who will believe the Gospel, receive Jesus as their personal Lord, and join alliance with Him. This is available for all mankind, everywhere by God’s grace! This is The Gospel! (1 Cor 15:1–4; Rom 10:9–10)

Not only has Jesus recovered all authority, but then he delegated that same authority to His body — the Church — His new creation family! That’s you! The Head and the body are ONE and share in the exact same authority.

But what’s all this authority for? He is now sending you forth in His Name, into all the world, to carry out His Kingdom business and to rule and reign as His delegated representative. (Jn 20:21; Mk 16:15; 2 Cor 5:20)



**Jesus is now sending you forth in His Name,
to carry out His Kingdom business and to rule and
reign as His delegated representative.**

What a high calling we have in Christ Jesus! What a precious entrustment and responsibility! God intends for you to be unstoppable in what He has called you to do!

...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Friend, have you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ? If not, now is the time to do it! The price for your salvation and deliverance has already been paid by Him. The life of real dominion and control that you are looking for begins with humbly bowing your knee to the victory and Lordship of Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all!

Ruling Through Revelation

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you
the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **the eyes of
your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know...*

Ephesians 1:17-18

The victory of Christ described in this chapter is an established fact! It is finished! Yet it will only become real and operational in your life through revelation! **You will rule through revelation.** In other words, your spiritual eyes must be enlightened to see these things for yourself. It does not come as a product of human intellect or even through hours of theological studies alone. The Holy Spirit must reveal it to you! (1 Cor 2:14; 1 Cor 12:3)



**The victory of Christ is a revelation.
The Holy Spirit must reveal it to you.**

For that reason, I believe you will benefit greatly from praying the revelation prayers found in Ephesians 1, Ephesians 3, and Colossians 1. These are Spirit-anointed prayers that the Apostle Paul prayed for the churches. You can substitute your name in these same prayers and pray them for yourself or for another person. (Eph 1:16-21; Eph 3:14-21; Col 1:9-14)

◆ **Praying these Spirit-anointed prayers in Ephesians and Colossians will benefit you greatly!**

The victory of Christ will be personally unveiled to you as you study the verses in this chapter and pray these prayers in simple faith and expectation. If you will only ask Him, The Lord will grant you to be “*strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...*,” so that you “*may be able to comprehend.*” In other words, God will help you grasp it! (Eph 3:16,18)

The Father God will give to you “*the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*” causing “*the eyes of your understanding to be enlightened.*” And what is the effect of this revelation and enlightenment? “*THAT YOU MAY KNOW!*” (Eph 1:17-18) This is referring to something that you comprehend and know by personal revelation. God will unveil it to you!

This revelation of Christ's finished work on the cross and its ramifications toward you as a believer will become increasingly clear, enabling you to enjoy and operate in that which is ALREADY YOURS in Christ! You have been given authority!



CHAPTER EIGHT

GIVE NO PLACE TO THE DEVIL

Uncovering Satan's Mode of Operation

*lest Satan should take advantage of us;
for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

2 Corinthians 2:11

As I have just written about in much detail, through Jesus' substitutionary work on the cross, Satan has been totally disarmed and stripped of his power and authority over our lives. But here's a good question: **If the devil is so obviously defeated, then how is he able to take advantage of so many people, even good Christian people?** Without question, there is still much "stealing, killing, and destroying" going on around us today.

The short and simple answer is this: Satan takes advantage of people (Christians included) through lies and deception. Jesus called him "*the father of lies,*" and said "*there is no truth in him.*"

*"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because **there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**"*

John 8:44

I realize that none of us would like to admit that we have ever fallen prey to one of the devil's subtle and crafty lies, but we all have at one time or another! He has been fooling and deceiving humanity for many centuries and is quite good at what he does. He is the ultimate deceiver and trickster!

Primarily, Satan seeks to do his work in the realm of our thoughts and feelings, by presenting us with ideas, suggestions, mental arguments, reasonings, and even feelings and physical symptoms which are contrary to God's words. More appropriately, we should call these what they are — "*LIES!*" All of these come to try and convince us of something that's not true. This is his basic mode of operation.



Satan works primarily in the realm of our thoughts and feelings, by presenting us with ideas, suggestions, mental arguments, reasonings, and physical symptoms which are contrary to God's words.

Oftentimes, these lies end up running in our minds and deep within our subconscious without us even knowing. It's not until we begin to grow up and develop spiritually that we become more aware of what's actually going on within our own hearts and thought processes. God's Word alone is the thing which can expose our innermost thoughts and enable us to change our way of thinking. (1 Pet 2:2; Heb 4:12-13; Rom 12:2)

Satan's lies might sound something like one of these:

"Nobody loves you! You might as well end your life."

"God's not really good. Look at all the bad things that are happening."

"There are many paths to God. What's most important is that you are a good person."

"Everyone who dies is in a better place."

"Your situation is hopeless! Things will never change."

"Nothing good ever happens to you."

"I know God's Word says you are healed, but look at how you feel."

"If you serve God, you will miss out on all the fun!"

"After all the bad things you've done, you don't deserve God's blessings."

"God is allowing this sickness to teach you and make you stronger."

"Sin won't really hurt you."

"That preacher only wants your money!"

"You are too old to serve the Lord!"

Have you heard anything like this before? This is just a small sampling of Satan at work in the lives of humanity, attempting to gain access, or even holding others captive through his lies.

Give Him No Place

*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **nor give place to the devil.**”*

Ephesians 4:26–27

Now that Satan (the eternally defeated one) has been stripped of his authority in the lives of God’s children, the only place of access he has now is whatever place we give and allow him. He can’t just move in and take a place! He must be GIVEN a place. Can you see that? That’s why this verse instructs us specifically not to give the devil any place — *“nor give place to the devil.”*

And how does Satan gain place and inroads into our lives? As I have just mentioned, he does so THROUGH LIES. More specifically, he has to trick us into giving him a place by listening to and yielding to one of his well-crafted lies. This gives him access.

Satan is always trying to sell us a lie! It could be a lying symptom, a lying feeling or perceived threat, an anxious care, a lying fear or insecurity, or just bad information. A lie is anything that contradicts the eternal truth of God’s Word and our complete redemption in Christ.

As for me, I find it somewhat comforting to know that Satan’s mode of operation against humanity is not really very sophisticated or complicated, although he would like to make you believe that it is. If you want to know the truth, Satan’s only resource against you is lies. It’s the only thing he has to work with! Recognizing this helps me to identify the real battleground in my own life so that I better know where to focus my attention and concentrate my efforts.



Satan’s only resource against you is lies.

Jesus told us that when Satan speaks a lie, *“he speaks from his own resources.”* This should immediately give us insight into how to walk in victory — we must be armed with the truth! This is really a full-time occupation! Scripture teaches us that *“His truth is our shield and buckler.”* (Ps 91:4)

No New Tricks

In Mark's Gospel, Chapter Four, we discover those specific areas where Satan attempts to play upon our human nature in order to steal God's Word and halt or hinder our progress. **He is always after the Word!**

These areas include:

- Tribulation (circumstantial pressure)
- Persecution
- The anxious cares and worries of life
- The love of money, and
- Our own unconsecrated desires and ambitions (Mk 4:14–19)

The things outlined here are common to all mankind. There is nothing new under the sun! The devil really doesn't have any new tricks. Yet, even with these devices, Satan still has to use lies in order for any of them to be effective against us. Lies are at the root of his entire operation!

As you read Mark 4, you will see that all of these come with one ultimate purpose in mind – to steal or choke out God's Word from your heart! The devil's aim is to either keep you blinded to the truth, or to get you to turn loose of the truth that God's Word has revealed to you. And why is that?

- The truth is where you will find your authority.
- The truth is what enables you to go forward.
- The truth is what you fight with.
- The truth is your only defense against his lies.

It's no wonder why Jesus told us that if we don't understand this parable in Mark 4, then we won't be able to grasp the other hidden truths of His Kingdom. (Mk 4:13) Either directly or indirectly, life's battles are always related to God's word to you. The battle in your life is for God's word of truth!



**Either directly or indirectly, life's battles are
always related to God's Word to you.**

How significant is the truth in our lives? Well, if we aren't armed with the truth in a certain area, then there is nothing left to believe but a lie. This is Satan's subtle entry point.

No Fear Here!

The same is also true of FEAR — one of Satan’s most common weapons to manipulate and control people. Fear is also dependent upon a lie in order to be effective. And what is fear? **Fear is really the opposite of faith.**

We will cover this more in Chapter 10, but let’s contrast these two spiritual forces — faith and fear. Faith, on the one hand, is a result of believing what God has said, whereas fear is a result believing the report of the enemy — a lie! I find it helpful to remember that there is always a greater truth from God’s Word which will supersede and cancel out any lie which comes to bring about fear in my life.



**There is always a greater truth from God’s Word
which will supersede and cancel out any lie
from the enemy.**

No matter what you may have been told, fear is not okay for God’s child. The Scripture makes this clear: *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.”* (2 Tim 1:7) And why should we be afraid? God’s unending love has been clearly revealed and demonstrated to each one of us through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Nothing we ever face can separate us from His love! That’s the truth! (Rom 5:8; Rom 8:38–39)

We must always remember that we have authority over fear, to speak against it and to command it to leave our lives! *“No fear here in Jesus’ Name! Fear, be gone from me!”*

Many reading this are familiar with the commonly used acronym for “FEAR” which is appropriately used to give greater insights into its roots and origins. Fear is spelled out this way: FALSE EVIDENCE APPEARING REAL.

F - False,
E - Evidence,
A - Appearing,
R - Real

So what do we learn here? Even to successfully bring fear into our lives, Satan must first present us with some sort of idea, symptom, or mental argument which APPEARS REAL, rational, or even logical; BUT upon closer examination and

scrutiny, is in direct opposition to God's Word. If something contradicts the Word of God, it may appear very real, but it's still a lie!

Limited Access

This is Satan's mode of operation. Apart from lies, he has no place or access. The following verse further confirms Satan's limited access to our lives:

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil
walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Resist him, steadfast in the faith...

1 Peter 5:8-9

After reading this verse, we can't deny that we have a real adversary to deal with. But I want you to notice something in particular. It says that the devil is "*SEEKING whom he may devour.*" And why is he seeking? This is a great revelation! Why doesn't he just devour whomever he feels like?

Are you ready for this? Because HE CAN'T! The devil has no more authority in the life of the one who belongs to Jesus Christ. That's why he is seeking! And what's he looking for? He's looking for a place of entry! He's looking for access. He's looking for an open door. He's looking for someone who has embraced one of his lies, thereby authorizing him and giving him access.

Truth be told, the only authority that Satan has now is the authority we give him. Jesus already stripped him of his authority. He has to borrow ours! And the only way he can do that is by somehow convincing us that a lie is true.



**The only authority Satan has now is
the authority we give him.**

Notice also, this verse does NOT say that Satan is a roaring lion. Once again, he would like you to believe this is true. It says that "*he goes about AS A ROARING LION.*" He is not as powerful as he masquerades himself to be. (Is 14:16) Jesus has stripped him of his teeth (his power to harm you)! He's all bark and no bite!

The real lion — The Lion of the tribe of Judah — lives in you! Let's not forget that Jesus has given us authority "*over ALL the power of the enemy, and NOTHING shall by any means hurt us.*" (Lk 10:19) "All" means all! And "nothing" means nothing!

Jesus has disarmed ruling principalities and powers, even making a public spectacle of their defeat. (Col 2:15)

All of this will prove true, unless....unless we listen to Satan's lies, and fail to keep him and his lies where they belong — cast down and under our feet! That's why we are exhorted to be “sober” and “vigilant.” Each word in these verses is very significant. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can and we must remain supernaturally watchful at all times!

Resist the Devil. Resist His Lies

Sometimes these lies come in a subtle, unsuspecting whisper. At other times they seem to scream in our minds as a loud roar! This is the realm in which Satan seeks to gain access into our lives. But The Bible tells us to “*resist him, steadfast in the faith!*”

We must learn to personally refute Satan's insidious lies in our minds with the eternal truths of God's words in our mouths, just as Jesus did when He walked on the earth. He combatted the devil's lies this way: “*It is written...It is written!*” (Matt 4:4-11) Friend, it's time to wake up to the warfare and to know what God's Word says for yourself!

Is Satan defeated? Yes! Absolutely! But it's important to remember that although he is defeated, *SATAN IS STILL A LIAR. He has not been stripped of his lying ways!* Satan has been stripped of his power and authority, but he has not been stripped of his ability to lie and deceive. Through his trickery and schemes, he is still able to take advantage of the ignorant, the prideful, and the defiant. (Eph 6:11)



**Satan is able to take advantage of
the ignorant, the prideful, and the defiant.**

But we don't have to remain ignorant anymore! We can begin to take The Bible seriously for ourselves in order to be able to recognize the lies of the enemy. We can be trained and equipped in the Word of God and the ways of the truth-giving Holy Spirit. (Eph 4:11-12)

We don't need to be among the prideful either! We can learn to live a life of humility before God, protecting us from the enemy's deceptions.

And we need not be those who are defiant. Rather than be hard-hearted, stiff-necked, and disobedient; instead we can choose to pursue a life of obedience to God. God's grace is abundantly available to help us live this kind of life! (Phil 2:12-13)

STOP and THINK on these:

- Satan takes advantage of people, including Christians, through lies and deception. He is the father of lies.
- Primarily, the devil seeks to do his work in the realm of our thoughts and feelings.
- The devil presents us with ideas, suggestions, mental arguments, and reasonings which are contrary to God's words.
- God's Word alone is the thing which can expose our innermost thoughts and enable us to change our way of thinking.
- The only place Satan has in our lives is the place we give him. We give him place when we believe and act upon one of his lies.
- Satan's only resource against you is lies.
- In order to walk in victory, we must be armed with the truth. This is a full-time occupation!
- Either directly or indirectly, life's battles are always related to God's word to you. The battle in your life is for God's word of truth!
- If we aren't armed with the truth, there is nothing left to believe except a lie. This is Satan's subtle entry point.
- The only authority Satan has now is the authority we give him. He has to borrow ours!
- We can overcome Satan's lies with God's Word of truth in our mouths — *"It is written!"*
- Satan has been stripped of his power and authority, but he has not been stripped of his ability to lie and deceive.
- The devil is able to take advantage of the ignorant, the prideful, and the defiant.
- Training in God's Word and the Holy Spirit will equip us to recognize the lies of the enemy.



CHAPTER NINE

THE NEW TESTAMENT BATTLE

Truth Vs. Lies

*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

Given Jesus' absolute triumph and our deliverance from Satan's dominion and authority, we are all now engaged in a different sort of battle. Yes, there is still a battle and warfare going on, but it may not be as you previously thought. Let me spell it out this way. Let's call it "*The New Testament Battle*."

Please allow me to explain.

Since our enemy, Satan, has already been defeated, and we have already been reconciled to God, we are now called into a different arena of "warfare." We are no longer warring against the devil, trying to defeat him. Now, we must only contend with his lies! This is extremely important to understand and remember. Jesus has already won the war!



We are no longer warring against the devil, trying to defeat him. Jesus has already won the war!

We must never forget these basics!

- **Jesus has stripped and disarmed Satan and all evil powers through His victory on the cross.** The devil has no more legal power or authority other than that which people yield to him. (Col 2:14; Heb 2:15; Eph 4:27)

Stop and affirm that right now:

"Jesus has disarmed and stripped the devil of all his authority."

- **Through Christ, God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness.** (Col 1:13)

Stop and affirm that now:

“I have been delivered from the dominion and control of darkness. Satan has absolutely no authority over my life!”

- **We have been transferred into God’s everlasting Kingdom.** (Col 1:13; Phil 3:20)

Stop and affirm that now:

“I am a citizen in God’s eternal Kingdom. As a citizen of God’s Kingdom, I am an heir of God through Christ.”

These things must be affirmed continually! We are ALREADY victorious through Christ’s victory! **We are the victorious church!** This really cannot be overemphasized. Believing and holding fast to this report is already a big part of our New Testament battle!

As believers, this is a big reason why we sing, shout, rejoice, and praise our God! Why? Because it is finished in Christ! That’s why we are often a noisy group of people! Jesus has already won the war — and we believe it!



Believing that you are ALREADY delivered and victorious through Christ’s victory is a big part of The New Testament battle.

You see, everything changed after Jesus went to the cross and was raised from the dead! These realities are revealed in The New Testament. Adam sold the entire human race underneath sin, Satan’s authority, and the curse, BUT Jesus has paid the price for our sin, overcame the devil, and has delivered us! **Now it’s important that we engage with our adversary in the light of what’s revealed in The New Testament.** That’s why I refer to our battle as “The New Testament battle.”

According to The New Testament, we are no longer fighting AGAINST the devil. He has already been defeated and placed beneath our feet. Satan has no more authority over the Body of Christ. On the contrary, we have absolute authority over him! That’s what he doesn’t want you to know!

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able
to stand against **the wiles of the devil.***

Ephesians 6:10–11

This verse does not say that we are to stand against THE POWER of the devil. And why would it? He has been stripped of his power! We, the church, have been raised together with Christ and made to sit together with Him in heavenly places, FAR ABOVE principalities and powers!

This verse tells us what exactly we must stand against — the devil’s WILES. This word can also be translated as “schemes” or “trickery.” This is now our warfare! Now, we must only contend with Satan’s lies, his deceptions, and with those reasonings and arguments which he so tirelessly and desperately tries to present to our minds. This is now the arena of our warfare — our minds!

***whose minds the god of this age has blinded,
who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God, should shine on them.***

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan’s work and strategy in the earth is to blind men’s minds, keeping them from the light and revelation of the gospel of Christ. His only hope is that people would remain blinded to the truth!

Here’s the truth! Are you ready? In Christ, we are ALREADY:

- forgiven (Eph 1:7)
- delivered (Col 1:13)
- made righteous (2 Cor 5:21)
- healed (1 Pet 2:24)
- blessed (Gal 3:9)
- sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)
- raised (Col 3:1)
- seated (Eph 2:6)
- and AUTHORIZED! (Matt 28:18)

This is what it means to “be saved.” This is what God’s grace has done for each of us who have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior! (Rom 10:9–10) All of this has been set to our account, and becomes activated and manifested through faith — when we believe it. This is the good report of The Gospel! **Believing this report is what enables us to rule and reign.**

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him **who called you
out of darkness** into His marvelous light; who once were not a people
but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy
but now have obtained mercy.*

1 Peter 2:9–10

All of this salvation, deliverance, and authority becomes the legal inheritance of anyone who will receive Christ Jesus as Lord. (1 Pet 1:3-4; Eph 1:3) This is what the enemy does not want others to know. And this is what he wants God's people to forget about. It would do us all good to look up each of these verses for ourselves and personally affirm them. The Bible refers to the revelation of these realities as "*marvelous light!*"

And what are the implications of this great salvation? Because of this great salvation, we are no longer fighting and warring FOR VICTORY. We are now fighting and warring FROM THE PLACE OF VICTORY, raised and seated together with Christ. Our battle now is to "*hold fast*" to that which is already ours so as not to allow the enemy to rob us through unbelief. (1 Cor 15:1-2)



**We are no longer warring FOR victory.
We are now warring FROM the place of victory.**

God's good report will not go unchallenged. Satan is always trying to convince us otherwise. Herein lies the warfare! Through doubt, fear, pressure, persecution, or some sort of distraction, he is always trying to blind us or obscure our view from this precious position of victory and authority which God's grace has already freely given us to OCCUPY. Through unbelief, he is trying to get us to unknowingly step down and back away from our HIGH PLACE, where we have been raised, seated, delivered, and made victorious in Christ!

And it's all really a matter of what we believe! That's why Jesus message was to repent and "believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15) The Book of Hebrews exhorts us to "*give the more earnest heed*" to this great salvation which we have freely received. Why? Because there is a thief who is always trying to distract our attention and take it away! (Heb 2:1-2)

So what's our battle now? What's the warfare? Simply put, it's **the battle of truth versus lies**. And the question now is this: Which one will you BELIEVE? Which one will you EMBRACE?



The New Testament battle is a battle of truth versus lies.

Depending upon what we believe and embrace will determine exactly who and what we give place to in our lives. If we choose to believe the Word of God and The Gospel of Christ, holding fast to these, we give place to *God*, we give place to *His good things*, and we give place to *His victory*. Yes, we will need to persevere in these things. It won't all happen overnight. But nonetheless, our outcome will be sure! God is faithful! God watches over His word to perform it, and His Kingdom rules over all! (Jer 1:12; Ps 103:19)

On the other hand, if we choose to believe and embrace lies (thoughts and ideas contrary to The Bible) and persist with these, we will be giving place to the enemy. Once again, the effects may not all appear immediately, but Satan's access will eventually manifest.

Whether we realize it or not, this kind of spiritual warfare is going on daily in each of our lives. And it all begins in our thought life — in how and what we think. (See "*Ruling in Your Thought Life*" on pg. 155.)

STOP and THINK on these:

- We are no longer warring against the devil trying to defeat him. Jesus has already won the war!
- Believing that you are already delivered and victorious through Christ's victory is a big part of The New Testament battle.
- It's important to engage with your adversary in the light of what's revealed in The New Testament.
- Satan is already defeated, stripped of his authority, and placed beneath our feet.
- We are no longer warring FOR victory. We are now warring FROM the place of victory.
- We are NOT told to stand against Satan's power. We are told to stand against his wiles and his schemes.
- This is now the arena of our warfare — the mind. We must cast down devilish arguments, reasonings, and imaginations which try to convince us that God's word is not true.
- Satan hopes to keep us blinded and distracted from the position of victory and authority which God's grace has freely given us to occupy.
- The New Testament battle is a battle of truth versus lies. What matters now is which one you believe!

Warfare through Preaching and Teaching

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

Mark 16:15-16

So with Jesus' victory in mind, it becomes easy to see that one primary way we "do battle" now under the New Covenant is by teaching, preaching, and propagating the truth. We must go forth and tell people what Jesus has already accomplished on their behalf.

We must go forth and tell people what God has already prepared and made ready for them — salvation, deliverance, victory, freedom, and a good plan which will allow them to work with God and bear fruit for eternity! The price has already been paid! Jesus has already won the war! If they will only receive it, they too can become citizens of God's eternal Kingdom and be delivered from Satan's dominion. (Matt 22:1-4)

This is our warfare! This is why Jesus has commissioned us to go forth into all the world and proclaim The Gospel to every creature! He has commissioned us to go and teach the truth to all nations! (Mk 16:15; Matt 28:18-20)

◆ Our New Testament warfare involves telling others of Jesus' great victory and His salvation plan.

Do you want to do battle and warfare against the enemy? If so, then tell someone the truth! Be a part of spreading The Gospel message of Jesus Christ's victory on the cross! Or become a financial partner with those who are preaching The Gospel. (3 Jn 1:5-8 NLT; Phil 1:3-5 NLT)

When I refer to The Gospel, I am referring to that victorious, good-news message which has already been detailed in Chapter 7 of this book. I am referring to The Gospel of Jesus Christ which has made provision for every realm and need of humanity, both in this life and beyond — spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and even materially. As believers, we each have our own strategic part and contribution in this warfare.



**A primary way we "do battle" now
is by teaching, preaching, and propagating
the truth (The Gospel).**

Some of the most significant spiritual warfare takes place whenever the truth of God's Word is proclaimed and taught under the anointing of His Holy Spirit. This is why attending advanced Bible training and teaching seminars can prove to be so powerful. These types of venues provide an opportunity for the truth of God's Word and Jesus' victory to shine so brightly that the enemy's twisted lies and deceptions, once veiled by darkness, become quickly unraveled and dismantled in the light of God's life-giving words of truth.

God-given books, television broadcasts, written messages, and recorded messages are also powerful weapons which the Lord can use in this New Testament battle in which we find ourselves. In fact, you may not have realized it, but as you are reading this right now "warfare" is taking place! Truth is being proclaimed!

When the truth is proclaimed and taught, it enables people to "see the light" and then choose the truth for themselves. The only way "the rulers of darkness" can keep the upper hand on anyone is by keeping them in darkness, either ignorant or defiant to the truth. No wonder the devil works so hard to keep people distracted, out of church, and away from the preaching of The Gospel! He wants to keep people blinded and veiled to the truth. This is his only hope and means to gain or maintain any sort of control or advantage. (Eph 6:12; 2 Cor 4:4; Hos 4:6; 2 Cor 3:16; Deut 30:19)

◆ **Spiritual warfare takes place whenever God's Word of truth is proclaimed or taught. This allows people to see the truth and choose it for themselves.**

We should really thank God for our preachers and Bible teachers! What a critical role they play in our lives! As they preach and teach by the power of God's Holy Spirit, "the lights come on" and we can see! There is nothing more valuable to our lives of freedom than the light of the truth!

Walking in the Light of the Victory of Christ

*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship
with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ
His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:7

As we begin to "walk in the light" of the truth of The Gospel, and then continue in that light, the devil's day is done! It's only a matter of time before our victory and progress will manifest. And why? Because Satan, and the curse which came from Adam's fall, have already been dealt with and defeated! Through our

steadfast belief in the truth, we are merely OCCUPYING the place of victory and deliverance which is already ours through Christ!

This reveals another very significant aspect of our New Testament warfare: **we now “do battle” by personally walking in the light of the truth.** As we each walk in the light of Jesus’ absolute victory, and what that victory has done for us personally, we become part of establishing the Lord’s dominion upon the earth.



We each “do battle” as we walk in the light of Jesus’ victory and what God’s Word reveals to be true.

We are each now called by God to *“walk in the light as He is in the light.”* In fact, we are now called *“the sons of light.”* It is in this place of light, truth, and revelation where we will find *“no occasion for stumbling”* and where *“the wicked one does not touch us!”* Yes, this is really what The Bible says! We are to humbly live and walk as *“The Lord’s untouchable ones.”* (1 Jn 1:7; 1 Thes 5:5; 1 Jn 2:10; 1 Jn 5:18; Gal 1:4)

As we each OCCUPY our place of victory *“in Christ”* and live personal lives of truth, righteousness, and obedience to God, we become the light of the world and the salt of the earth that Jesus said we would be. (Matt 5:14,16)

◆ **It’s important that we each live personal lives of truth, righteousness, and obedience to God. This is part of our warfare.**

As we each individually walk in the light of the truth of The Gospel, TOGETHER we become an ever-increasing *“restraining force”* against the spirit of lawlessness which is trying to hold lost men captive and operate against God’s purposes in the earth. (2 Thes 2:6–8)

Individually, and then collectively as a ruling army, we are able to keep evil at bay, allowing for The Gospel of Christ to continue to sound forth, so that the dominion of God’s eternal Kingdom can advance in the hearts of men and throughout the earth.

◆ **As we each walk in the light, together we become an ever-increasing “restraining force” against the spirit of lawlessness in the earth.**

Our New Testament battle can be simply summarized this way:

Receive Jesus for Yourself!

As we each receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, we receive our own individual deliverance from the dominion of darkness. (Rom 10:9-10; Col 1:13)

Receive God's Word and Grow Up Into His Plan

As we each continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our minds become renewed and we learn how to more fully cooperate with God's purposes and live in personal victory. (2 Pet 3:18; Eph 4:15; 2 Pet 1:2-4)

Preach The Gospel and Teach Others

As we each assume our place to preach The Gospel and support those who are preaching and teaching God's Word, we make way for others to hear the good news and escape Satan's defeated kingdom. (Mk 16:15-16; Matt 28:19-20)

Take a Personal Stand for What's Right and True

As we each take a stand for what's right and true, we will be able to successfully resist and hold back the defeated forces of darkness. The enemy may do his best to form the weapon, but no weapon formed against us will be able to prevail! (Eph 6:13-14; Jas 4:7; Isa 54:17)

As we become more aware of the real battle and the true nature of our warfare, it becomes increasingly apparent as to why we must pay greater attention to WHAT WE HEAR. We will cover this in the following chapter.



CHAPTER TEN

TAKE HEED WHAT YOU HEAR

Manifesting Life Inside-Out

*Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear.
With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you;
and to you who hear, more will be given."*

Mark 4:24

Satan, although defeated, is subtle, crafty, and should not be underestimated. He is also quite persistent! (Gen 3:1 NIV; Lk 4:13 NIV) He is ever-working through the world's system around us (and even through men's "religion") to propagate his ideas and ways of thinking – "LIES." As I have already mentioned, since Satan doesn't have any more authority, his only hope is to get us to use our own authority against ourselves. Can you imagine that! How tricky!

We have been authorized to rule and reign in Christ, yet whenever we believe and act upon Satan's lies, big or small, we end up authorizing the very things which we should be ruling over! **What we BELIEVE largely determines what we RECEIVE in life, whether it be good or bad.**

Let me say that again, because this is such an empowering concept: *Our believing largely determines our receiving.* As eternal spirit beings living in physical bodies on earth, this is how God has designed us to function. **We have been designed to live from the inside-out.** Many of God's people have never realized this. (Matt 9:29; Matt 8:13; Matt 12:35; Job 3:25)



**Whenever we believe and act upon Satan's lies,
we end up authorizing the very things
we should be ruling over.**

Understanding the Significance of Our Beliefs

“Belief” is something that is going on inside of each one of us all the time. It’s not something that we turn on or off in a moment of crises. Our beliefs are a product of who and what we have ALREADY been listening to and been tuned into. In other words, my beliefs today are a result of what I have given attention to in days gone by.

We all have a mixed bag of beliefs within us. Some of our beliefs are rooted in truth. And unfortunately, some of our beliefs are rooted in lies (or things that aren’t totally true). Our beliefs are at the core of who we are and why we think and act the way we do. Our beliefs are very often the limiting and controlling factor in our lives.

Consider the following Scriptures which reinforce the significance of our beliefs:

Jesus said to him, “***If you can believe***, all things are possible to those who believe.” (Mk 9:23)

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “*Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.*” (Matt 8:13)

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. (Prov 23:7)

Then He (Jesus) touched their eyes saying, “***According to your faith***, let it be to you.” (Matt 9:29)

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “*Why could we not cast it out?*” So Jesus said to them, “***Because of your unbelief..***” (Matt 17:19–20)

So we see that they could not enter in **because of their unbelief**. (Heb 3:19)

Believing and acting upon God’s words of truth is called FAITH. Faith is a spiritual force which brings an activation of God’s Kingdom and His promises in our lives. Faith pleases God. In fact, it’s impossible to please Him without faith! (Heb 11:6) And it’s not hard to see why. Faith is the very thing that makes room for God and gives place to His involvement in our lives. And as a good Father, this brings Him great delight!

Believing and acting upon the lies of the enemy is called FEAR. Whenever we act upon the lies of the enemy through fear, we give place to him. Understanding this makes it easy to see why The Bible commands us over and over to “**FEAR NOT!**” (more than 300 times)

Both of these spiritual forces (faith and fear) flow from the heart of man, and both eventually bring manifestation in our lives. In other words, they create our reality! For this reason, **what's going on inside of you is often much more significant than what's happening around you and to you.**

Of course, God loves each of us, no matter where we find ourselves right now. We are each a work in progress in regards to our beliefs. But if we will allow Him, God is committed to this process of helping each of us get our beliefs sorted out and strengthened, to line up with Him. He knows how profound the impact of our beliefs will be, not only in this life but also affecting our eternity.

Interestingly, our beliefs, and both of these spiritual forces (faith and fear) are a result of who and what we have been listening to and where we have been giving our attention. (Prov 4:23; Rom 10:17)

Understanding the significance of your “beliefs” will enable you to begin to change certain outcomes in your life, on purpose, as you go to the root of the matter by addressing your beliefs! This understanding will also make you much more aware and discerning as to who and what you are regularly listening to, recognizing that your beliefs are being affected. You will begin to really wake up to the warfare!

Understanding the Power of Your Design

As you are reading this you may be thinking, “*Who? Me? I would never act upon one of Satan's lies!*” Of course, none of us would like to think that we ever have or that we could. But to think this way is to be woefully ignorant and even careless regarding our adversary and his ability to deceive.

To think that we are above being fooled or deceived is perhaps the greatest deception of all! Instead, we would be better served to humble ourselves and wake up to the warfare that The Bible so clearly presents to us.



**To think that we are above being fooled or deceived
is perhaps the greatest deception of all.**

Such presumptuous thinking also reveals some degree of ignorance as to how God has uniquely designed each one of us to function. It's important that we understand the power of our design. What do I mean by this? **We have been**

designed to manifest and “bring forth” those things which we focus on and give our attention to. This is always a product of who we associate with, and what we hear and listen to. There are really no exceptions to this. We have all been designed this way! This is the power of our belief system in action.

Jesus outlined it clearly in Mark’s Gospel Chapter Four. He referred to the heart of man (where your beliefs come from) as “the ground” which receives the seed of what you hear. What do we know about the natural ground and how God designed it? **The ground will try to grow whatever you put in it**, whether it be something healthy or something poisonous! It will grow weeds just the same as it will grow tomato plants! **The same is true of the heart of man.**

So, when talking about the power of our design, it doesn’t really matter how smart we think we are, or even how much Bible knowledge we may have, our lives will still eventually go in the direction of those with whom we associate with and listen to. That’s why The Bible teaches us:

“Make no friendship with an angry man...lest you learn his ways. (Prov 22:24–25)

“He who walks with wise men will be wise.” (Prov 13:20)

“The companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Prov 13:20)

“Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Cor 15:33)

“Take heed what you hear.” (Mk 4:24)

The more we mature spiritually, the more selective and discerning we will become as to who we regularly associate with and what we choose to listen to. Faith in God is contagious! Likewise, so is fear and unbelief!

STOP and THINK on these:

- Since Satan doesn’t have any more authority, his only hope is to get us to use our own authority against ourselves.
- Whenever we believe and act upon Satan’s lies, big or small, we end up authorizing the very things which we should be ruling over.
- As eternal spirit beings living in physical bodies, we have been designed to live from the inside-out.
- What we believe largely determines what we receive in life, whether it be good or bad.
- “Belief” is something that is going on inside of each one of us, all the time.

(continued from previous page...)

- Our beliefs are a product of who and what we have already been listening to and been tuned into.
- Our beliefs are very often the limiting and controlling factor in our lives.
- Both faith and fear are spiritual forces which flow from our hearts, and both eventually bring manifestation in our lives. This creates our reality!
- What's going on inside of you is often much more significant than what's happening around you and to you.
- God is committed to helping each of us get our beliefs sorted out and strengthened, to line up with Him.
- By going to “the root” and addressing your beliefs, you can begin to change certain outcomes in your life — on purpose!
- We must learn to respect THE POWER OF OUR DESIGN — we have been designed to manifest and “bring forth” those things which we focus on and give our attention to.
- Our lives will eventually go in the direction of those with whom we associate and listen to.
- The more we mature spiritually, the more selective and discerning we will become as to who we regularly associate with and what we choose to listen to.
- Faith in God is contagious. So is fear and unbelief.

Insidious Lies

Our adversary (literally “opponent”) understands the processes I have just described. He is very subtle, and his lies are insidious. “Insidious” means that they are “slowly and secretly causing harm.”* In other words, the devil’s lies are often gradual and won’t be obvious unless we are spiritually awake — armed with God’s Word and full of His Holy Spirit.

Satan is a strategist and is often content to play “the long game.” He seems content to plant his lies like seeds, which unless rooted out and cast down with the truth, will eventually grow up and produce a harvest of bondage and defeat in the lives of God’s beloved creation. Of course we know that the devil loses in the end, but do we really want to be among his casualties that go down with him?

*From Cambridge English Dictionary

Let's bring this message a little closer to home here. Satan will use whatever means he can find to propagate his lies and his ways of thinking. Here are a few:

- o television
- o media
- o music
- o movies
- o books
- o social media influencers
- o educational institutions
- o family and friends

In fact, the devil will use whoever you will listen to! Of course it's not pleasant to think about, but he may be using one of your favorite news networks, television programs, or online series.



Satan will use whatever means he can find to propagate his lies and ways of thinking.

Just to clarify, I don't believe that God is an angry God, in the sense that He is angry at everyone because of the things they are watching and listening to. Nor do I believe that we should be angry and judgmental people ourselves. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved! (Jn 3:16-17) But part of the "salvation" and well-being which Jesus came to bring mankind is directly connected with gaining an understanding of what I am describing here.

What understanding am I referring to? We must have a clear understanding and be sober-minded as to how God has designed us to live—from the inside-out. We must understand the significance of our beliefs and respect the power of our design. Experiencing Jesus' complete "salvation" will come as a by-product and harvest of those seeds which we allow to be planted in our hearts and minds. So also will come the destructive plans of the enemy!

Clearly God loves the world! He loves people! He loves you! This is why He sent Jesus. I don't believe that He is interested in spoiling your fun. Jesus came that you might enjoy your life! But at the same time, a lie is still a lie, and we do know with certainty that God hates lies! (Prov 6:17; Prov 12:22)

If you have been following along in this book, I trust that it's becoming increasingly more obvious as to why God hates lies. Aside from the fact that He

is pure and holy and that it's impossible for Him to lie, God hates lies because God loves people! And He knows that believing lies eventually brings bondage and captivity in the lives of those whom He so dearly loves.

◆ **God hates lies because God loves people.**

Of course, it's completely up to you as to what you choose to watch and listen to. But we should at least wake up and be aware of what's really going on behind the scenes with much of today's media and programming.

Do we really want to live our lives like newborn baby birds in the nest, with mouths wide open, ready to swallow whatever comes our way just because it's popular or trendy?

Do we really want to sit idly by and become captives to a lie?

Are we really so strong to be able to say that what we are watching and listening to doesn't affect us?

Or have we already become partially numb and calloused by some of these lies?

As a general rule, I have learned that if "everyone else is talking about it" and thinks it's cool, great, and impressive, it's probably not for me. Blindly following the majority and popular opinion is an almost sure recipe for failure when it comes to living a truly successful life with God as part of His eternal Kingdom.



Blindly following the majority and popular opinion is an almost sure recipe for failure when it comes to living a productive life in the Kingdom of God.

We should not forget that we are going "upstream" with God "*in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.*" As Jesus taught, there are many "*blind leaders of the blind*" in the world around us. In the end, both will end up in a ditch somewhere! (Matt 7:13-14; Phil 2:15; Matt 15:14)

Healthy Boundaries and Environments

I'm not saying that we should judge others for what they choose to watch and listen to. That's not what this message is about! I don't think God has assigned any of us to the position of self-righteous "media police." **This message is really about taking responsibility to stand guard over our own lives, our own hearts,**

and over those who have been entrusted to our care. No, it's not our job to police others, but shouldn't we at least police ourselves?

*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful;
all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*

1 Corinthians 10:23

We definitely should not judge others, but we should be vigilant to judge what WE are hearing and what's being presented TO US. We should slow down long enough to consider from where those things we are hearing have originated, and whether or not they are actually rooted in truth. It's not only our right to do this, but it's also our responsibility. (Prov 4:23)

We should be willing to stop and ask ourselves,

- *“Are the ideas, concepts, and lifestyles being presented here really true?”*
- *“Is watching or listening to this really going to help me get where I want to go?”*
- *“In what direction are these associations really bringing my life?”*

Remember: It may be “lawful” but is it really helpful? Wide-awake, spiritually-maturing believers have learned to ask these types of questions.

It's time for us to wake up to the warfare around us and to become much more offensive and proactive in our lives of faith! It's time to consider setting up some healthy boundaries in our lives. It's time to proactively seek out and pursue those environments and influences which will help us to live real lives of faith and victory. It's time to become spiritually offensive!



It's time to set up some boundaries and pursue those environments which will really help us to live real lives of faith and victory.

The devil really knows no boundaries when it comes to spreading his lies, which is exactly why we must be on guard and erect our own boundaries as necessary! As disheartening as it may seem, Satan even uses those who we assume to be trustworthy. Sometimes he even uses well-meaning teachers, professors, coaches, religious figures, and loved-ones to pass on ideas and beliefs which may sound reasonable, rational, or even “religious” but aren't really rooted in the eternal, unchanging truth of The Scriptures.

This is not written to make you suspicious or cynical towards those you may have previously trusted. This is written as a wake-up call, so that we might begin to exercise greater discernment and take responsibility for what we are being told. This is written that we would become more thoughtful and intentional as to which environments we are subjecting ourselves. It was for good reason that Jesus said, *“Take heed what you hear.”*

◆ **Humility is our protection against deception.**

Now is the time for us to walk and live in greater humility, examining everything that we think we believe in the light of God’s Word and Jesus’ finished work of victory on the cross. Humility is our protection against deception! We must also pay greater attention to the Holy Spirit within our hearts. He is The Spirit of Truth! Staying humble and teachable before God and His Word will serve us all well in these last days! (1 Pet 5:5; Prov 11:2; Prov 29:23)

Religious Lies

All lies are bad, but perhaps none is worse than a “religious lie.” This is a lie that masquerades itself as somehow being associated with God and what should be right; but, in actuality, is contrary to God’s will and His nature. Unfortunately, these lies are sometimes found in churches, and can even be associated with Bible verses — verses which have been wrongly applied or misunderstood. This is why Scripture tells us that we should be diligent to *“rightly divide”* the word of truth. (2 Pet 3:16; 2 Tim 2:15)

For example, religious lies sound something like the following:

- God wants you to be poor to keep you humble.
- God will bring sickness and trouble in your life so that He can reveal His power to you.
- God is in control of everything that is happening in your life.
- Everything in life happens “for a reason.” (as if to say that God was the reason)
- God is orchestrating trials and struggles to build your character and make you stronger.
- The day of God’s power and miracles ended with the Lord’s apostles.

◆ **A religious lie masquerades itself as somehow being associated with God and what should be right.**

Religious lies will be quick to tell you that God is all-powerful and can do anything, but for whatever reason He won't do it for you! There is always some reason that you don't qualify. But The Bible says that God has "*qualified us to partake of the inheritance*" in Christ. (Col 1:12) If you belong to Christ, then God will do it for you!

Religious lies will suggest that by submitting to your troubles you will become more godly, pious, and humble. But let me remind you again: God has called you to rule! Rather than submitting to your troubles in so-called "humility," God's plan for you is to submit to Christ's victory instead, subduing every evil thing which would come to stop or hinder you! The Book of Psalms says, "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all!*" (Ps 34:19)

- ◆ **Religious lies suggest that by submitting to your troubles you will become more godly, pious, and humble.**



**God's plan for you is to submit yourself to Christ's victory
and subdue every evil thing which would come
to stop or hinder you.**

Friend, your personal testimony matters! Your progress also matters! Our victories are never just about us and our lives only. That's why it's important for you to rise up and rule! Anytime we persevere and triumph, we are also taking ground for those around us and for those who are coming after us. No, it's not true that our spiritual development is found in submitting to trouble. Our development is found in submitting to God's Word and overcoming trouble!

- ◆ **Our spiritual development is not found in submitting to trouble. Our development is found in submitting to God's Word and overcoming trouble.**

Although often cloaked in soft tones of supposed "reverence," religious lies are really nasty and merciless. In most cases they will leave you feeling helpless in your situation, with nothing left to do aside from "bearing your trouble patiently." But The Bible says, "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save.*" (Isa 59:1) "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*" (Ps 46:1) In other words, God will bring you OUT of trouble!

These lies are designed to sing you a religious “lullaby,” rock you off into some sort of spiritual slumber, and rob you of your spiritual initiative to rise up and use your authority in any given situation.

◆ **Religious lies are designed to rob God’s people of their spiritual initiative to rise up and use their authority in any given situation.**

Perhaps worst of all, a religious lie will lead you to believe that God is somehow responsible for your struggles and problems, in order to work out “His mysterious will” in your life.

This type of religious lie is designed by Satan to hide the reality that the world is fallen, that the thief is real, and that Jesus has made a path of victory in every situation – including yours! Satan is the real thief and hopes to hide behind these religious lies so that he won’t be exposed and then appropriately dealt with, as he should be!

◆ **Religious lies attempt to attribute the works of Satan to God Himself.**

Trouble is Not Our Teacher

God has not designed trouble to be the teacher of His people. That’s a lie! He is our good Heavenly Father, much much better than any of the best earthly fathers you may know. The enemy has slandered and maligned God’s character with these types of religious lies since time began!

It’s vital that we believe in the goodness of God! The Bible reveals that every good and perfect gift known to mankind comes from God! There is no goodness among men outside of Him. He is good to all! God knows how to give good gifts to His children, and sickness and troubles are not among those good gifts! (Ps 27:13; Jn 11:40; Ex 33:18–19; Jas 1:17; Ps 16:2; Ps 145:9; Matt 7:11)

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**”*

Matthew 7:9–11

If God were a natural parent on earth and truly responsible for all the horrific things he is accused of, He would have been locked up and put away in prison

long ago for child abuse! But these accusations against God's nature and character are simply not true. If we as natural parents know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more does our Heavenly Father know how to give good things to His children!



God is neither the troublemaker, nor has He ordained trouble as the teacher and developer of His people.

No, God is neither the troublemaker, nor has He ordained trouble as the teacher and developer of His people. The Bible DOES NOT SAY, “*Thanks be to God, who always leads us into TROUBLE in Christ.*” Religious lies have implied as much! But what does The Bible say? It says that God always leads us into *TRIUMPH* in Christ! (2 Cor 2:14) Certainly we should have enough sense to learn from our mistakes and failures, but there is still a better way to be taught and trained.

As we humble ourselves and consider The Scriptures, we will find that God has ordained other much more effective means by which to teach us, train us, and empower us for victory. These include:

- **His Word** (2 Tim 3:16; Eph 5:26)
- **The Holy Spirit** (Jn 14:26; Jn 16:13; Acts 1:8)
- **His Ministers** (Eph 4:11–12; 1 Thes 3:10)
- **Wise Men and Mentors** (Prov 13:20; Heb 13:7; 2 Tim 3:10–11)

As it stands, there is already plenty of trouble and resistance in the world which we will encounter as we make a quality decision to move forward with God. The world is fallen, and the enemy is real! God and Satan are not working together as partners in some sort of game called “life.” Hopefully, this reality has already been well communicated so far throughout this book.

◆ **The world is fallen and the enemy is real! This is why we are facing trouble and adversity in this life.**

Rest assured, we will have plenty of opportunities for growth, training, and development as we apply ourselves to Jesus' victory and God's instructions in the midst of this fallen, cursed, and demon-influenced planet upon which we live. God doesn't need to add any trouble to it! You can safely remove this idea from your thinking. Yes, it's true that persevering with the truth in the midst of trouble builds character, but does that mean God is behind the trouble? (Rom 5:3–5)

Do we really think that God has to arrange extra trouble and adversity just for us? Are we really that special?

Do we really believe that God is somehow responsible for our difficulties and the adversity we are facing?

Do we really believe that God is the reason we are not making the progress we desire?

Or, could our lack of progress be a result of not fully embracing these ordained means by which God so eagerly desires to teach us, train us, and empower us to overcome and truly rule?

Rather than associating God with our adversity, troubles, and lack of progress, it would prove much more productive to ensure that we are making the most of these four items – God’s Word, His Holy Spirit, His ministers, and our mentors? God has given us these four to ensure our progress and victory! Let’s not forget that God is genuinely FOR US and not against us. He is not playing some sort of sick game with humanity. (Rom 8:31)

I have personally witnessed that many of life’s troubles will automatically begin to exit a person’s life, merely by kicking out some of these old religious lies from one’s own thinking and embracing the truth – that God is genuinely good! Believing religious lies opens a door to the enemy!

◆ **Believing religious lies opens a door to the enemy.**

The enemy has used these types of religious lies to back much of the church into a corner, and rob us of our boldness. Instead of being the ones acting confidently as God’s delegated deliverers, doing the works of Jesus upon the earth, the enemy has us wrestling and wrangling in our minds as to why God is allowing us to endure certain difficulties. Can you see how crippling and debilitating these lies can be? (2 Cor 5:20; Jn 14:12)

The enemy has used religious lies to back much of the church into a corner and to rob us of our boldness to act confidently as God’s delegated deliverers.



Looking through a New Testament Lens

For the child of God, it's important to remember that all of God's Word should be interpreted in the light of The New Testament and Jesus' finished work of redemption through the cross. Otherwise, you may also find yourself confused by some of these common religious lies and arguments.

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,** whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Hebrews 1:1-3

As this verse in Hebrews points out, God is speaking loud and clear to us “*by His Son.*” The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus clearly reveal God's character, good will, and intention toward those who put their trust in Him. God is not willing that any should perish or be destroyed in any way. (2 Pet 1:9) It's vitally important that we learn to agree with what God has communicated through His Son.

Remember: things are different now since Jesus went to the cross and has been raised from the dead! We now live under The New Covenant of God's grace and mercy, which according to The Scriptures, is “better” than what we read about in the Old Testament. (Heb 7:22; Heb 8:6; Heb 12:24)

In order to steer clear of these types of lies and deceptions, we should each judge all that we hear and read by these two primary means:

- 1.) **God's written Word** (in the light of our redemption in Christ)
- 2.) **The witness of the Holy Spirit within us.** He is the Spirit of Truth.

God's Word and His Holy Spirit always agree. (1 Jn 5:7) And we have been equipped with both!

Friend, God has something for you beyond just “going to church” as part of a Sunday morning ritual. He wants to arm you with knowledge and Bible-based training, so that you can take your part of His ruling body! It's time to wake up to the warfare and begin to exercise greater discernment.

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

Examining the Roots of Our Beliefs

and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

1 John 4:3

As you are probably beginning to see, ruling and reigning in Christ is a full-time occupation! It's not for the half-hearted. But again, this should not come as a surprise! Let's be reminded of WHERE we are charged to rule. It's in the midst of our enemies that we are called to rule. We are living and dwelling in the midst of an ungodly and worldly system, which by nature is hostile towards God and His people. (Jn 15:18; Jas 4:4)

Unfortunately the enemy never takes a day off, which means we must stay on our spiritual toes! As much as I wish it was some other way, it's not! We must WAKE UP TO THE WARFARE!



It's time to wake up to the warfare!

Examining What We Really Believe

Part of waking up to the warfare includes examining what we really believe and why we believe it. Have you ever thought about these?

- o What's really at the root of why I do what I do?
- o Where have my beliefs really come from?
- o Are my beliefs Scriptural, Bible-based beliefs, fully incorporating Jesus redemptive work on the cross?
- o Or are my beliefs rooted in some sort of tradition handed down to me?

Jesus Himself pointed out that it's often our own traditions that make God's words of no effect in our lives. (Mk 7:13; Col 2:8) "*NO EFFECT*"? These are pretty strong words! Many times, God wants to do so much more with us and for us, but our wrong beliefs are hindering our progress. It's possible for any of us to be sincere, good-hearted, and yet still be misguided and deceived. It is possible for any of us to be sincere, and yet sincerely wrong.

So, what we really believe needs to be examined. If what we believe denies Jesus, disregards Jesus and His words, or fails to take into account and honor His complete work and victory on the cross, it is of the spirit of "antichrist," no matter how harmless the messenger who delivered the information to us may have been in their intentions.



If what we believe denies Jesus, disregards Jesus, or fails to take into effect and honor His complete work and victory on the cross, it is of the spirit of "antichrist."

This is not written as an attack on anyone in particular. Our battle isn't against flesh and blood. I'm writing this to point out what we are really up against — lying spirits and rulers of darkness! These spirits have been at work, seeking to influence and creep into our homes, our schools, and even our churches. And in some cases, they have been successful.

In most cases, those we have been listening to and learning from are not liars. They aren't trying to deceive. They may even love us and have our best interests in mind. But that doesn't change the fact that the information being passed on to us might have its roots in a lie. **This is why our beliefs need a thorough examination.**

Let's not forget these humbling truths, regarding the absolute supremacy of Jesus, The Christ:

- BY CHRIST all things have been created, in heaven and on earth. (Col 1:16)
- BY HIM all things consist and are held together. (Col 1:17)
- All things were created THROUGH CHRIST and FOR CHRIST. (Col 1:16)
- Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. (Jn 14:6)
- Jesus is THE Alpha and THE Omega. (Rev 22:13)

Can you see it? Jesus Christ created it all and holds it all together! He is sustaining all human life. There is no life outside of Him! What I'm expressing here has nothing to do with "religion." Jesus Christ is truly LORD OF ALL! He deserves all glory, recognition, and honor!

The time is coming when all the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ! (Rev 11:15; Dan 2:44; Dan 7:27)

When these truths regarding the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ are magnified as they should be, it exposes just how ignorant, ridiculous, and diabolical anything is that fails to completely honor Jesus Christ or goes against the Christ (antichrist). This should make your spiritual defense system stand at attention!

All this talk about "the antichrist" may sound radical or extreme to you, but it's simply the truth! I would encourage you to look up these verses for yourself. The antichrist is not just a person who will eventually manifest himself at the end of the age. The Scripture says that the spirit of antichrist is "*NOW ALREADY IN THE WORLD.*" (1 Jn 4:3) **This spirit of antichrist is the spirit that is permeating the fallen world today.** It's all around us!

Remember, Satan is "the god of this world" and his defeated kingdom can only rule through lies. **The spirit of antichrist is a lying spirit**, even propagating the ultimate lie — denying that Jesus is Messiah and Savior of the world. It's important to know what you are up against. (1 Jn 2:18; 1 Jn 2:22; 1 Jn 4:3; 2 Jn 1:7)

You Have an Anointing from the Holy One

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

*These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as **the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie,** and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

1 John 2:20-21, 26-27

Friend, here's some good news for you! In the midst of this crazy, fallen, anti-christ world, you have been especially equipped by God with a spiritual defense system to be able to discern the difference between that which is true and that which is a lie. That's what these verses are talking about!

If you will be aware of it and pay attention to it, it's like an alarm system within you. *"You have an anointing from the Holy One!"* These verses were written specifically in the context of the antichrist and his lies, to which I have been referring. The Lord wants you to be aware of this anointing within you, specifically *"concerning those who try to deceive you."* None of us need to be deceived!

We can take great comfort and should exercise aggressive faith in this spiritual safeguard which we have each received. It's good to declare it for yourself, *"I have an anointing from the Holy One, and I know all things!"*

Although our adversary is real and his lies can be quite tricky, he need not get the upper hand on any of us. If we will only be honest and sincere before God, remaining awake and aware, we will discover that The Holy Spirit within us is always faithful to bear witness with our hearts as to that which is really true and also to alert us to that which has its roots in a lie. We will just KNOW on the inside! We are each equipped to live as overcomers in this fallen world. (1 Jn 4:4)



**Just as light is always greater than darkness,
the truth is always greater than a lie.**

We should also remember that Satan and his lies are NO MATCH for the child of God, who is filled and empowered with God's Holy Spirit, clothed with humility, and walking in the light of redemption! There is absolutely nothing to fear for God's child!

*For you were once darkness, but **now you are light**
in the Lord. Walk as children of light*
Ephesians 5:8

The Bible calls you *"light in the Lord."* Anyone who has ever turned on a light in a dark room knows firsthand that the darkness is never any match for the light! Well, just as light is always greater than darkness, the truth is always greater than a lie! Jesus said, *"If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. Then you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (Jn 8:31-32)

FOCUS ON THE VICTORY OF CHRIST!

The Table Has Already Been Set

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
Colossians 3:1-2

Given Christ's victory and the warfare surrounding each one of us, it's now so important what we give our attention to and what we choose to focus on. **Without question, the enemy is after our attention — he is after our focus.** We will often be pulled and tempted to look away from God's Word of victory in consideration of what we see and how we feel. But we must maintain our focus on Christ's victory at all costs! Scripture tells us to set our minds on things above. (Rom 8:6; Prov 4:20)

If something is "set" then it is fixed, not to be moved. This will require purpose of heart and a commitment on our part. This is also where being part of a strong spiritual family (church) and in fellowship with the right people and influences can prove so vital. **Putting ourselves in the right spiritual environments will go a long way in helping us think right and stay focused on the right things.** We need not fight these battles on our own!

Not Looking for a Fight

The enemy would love for you to be preoccupied with him! In writing this content "*Wake Up To The Warfare,*" I don't want you to get the idea that you need to go out and look for a spiritual fight against Satan. Nor have I written these things to make you devil-conscious, such that you will be looking for evil spirits every time you turn around.

Although Satan and the influence of evil spirits are a very present reality on earth, they are never to be our focus. We have authority over these in Jesus' Name, and we can deal with them as the occasion demands.

*“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this,
that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because
your names are written in heaven.”*

Luke 10:20

When Jesus was upon the earth, He told his disciples not to rejoice because the demons were subject to them in His name, but rather to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Truly, our delight and preoccupation should be with our Heavenly Father, with His plan, and with His presence!



**Our delight should be with our Heavenly Father,
with His plan, and with His presence.**

So no, you don't need to go out looking for demons or looking for a fight. That won't be necessary. And here's why: The fight has already begun! Like it or not, you are engaged in an arena of warfare already! This is what many are ignorant of. The Bible calls it *“the good fight of faith.”* (1 Tim 6:12)

As convenient as it may be, denying the fight does not cause it to cease to exist. **What's most important is to know the true essence of this fight and how to overcome.** That's why I have written this book. And focusing on the right things is an absolutely critical component to this overcoming life.

Focus On The Table of Victory

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want....
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...*

Psalms 23:1,5

I would like you to notice what the psalmist said in this verse: He said that the Lord, his Shepherd, has prepared a table before him right in the presence of his enemies! So, even though there are enemies all around, what are we to focus on?

- o We focus on **“the table”** and **the Lord's promised provision.**
- o We focus on **the Lord and His victory.**
- o We focus on the **healing** that's ours.
- o We focus on the **wisdom** that's ours.
- o We focus on **the Holy Spirit**—the Greater One who's on the inside of us!

Are there enemies all around? Yes, there are! This is a reality of life on fallen planet earth that we must each come to grips with. Yet, our focus should be on the Lord's bountiful provision and His victory, even in the presence of our enemies. As we learn from The Scriptures, *"those who are with us ARE MORE than those who are with the enemy."* As children of God, we have the help of *"an innumerable company of angels!"* (2 Kings 6:16; Heb 12:22)

Too many are spending their time talking about the problem, so much so, that they have completely forgotten and lost sight of the table and the deliverance that the Lord has already prepared! This is a tactic of the enemy for sure!

What we focus on can make all the difference. As we focus on the right things, we'll always find more than enough grace to overcome. What God has done for us in Christ Jesus and His victory on the cross is much more and far greater than what Satan was ever able to accomplish through Adam's fall. (Rom 5:15,17)



**What God has done for you in Christ Jesus
is far greater than what Satan was able to do
through Adam's fall.**

Praise the Lord! Jesus Christ and His victory on the cross is the remedy for whatever curse, calamity, evil, and destruction which may have resulted from Adam's fall! Jesus took care of it all! (Gal 3:13)

Focus On The Way of Escape

Friend, whatever challenge you may be going through today may seem like a big deal, but The Bible accurately categorizes our tests and trials for us. The Scripture calls these things *"common to man."* So no matter the size of the test or the trial we face, we should bring it down to size and call it exactly what The Bible calls it — *Common!*

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is **common to man**;
but **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you
are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape**,
that you may be able to bear it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13

Greater than any test and trial is God's faithfulness! And no matter how we may feel tempted, tried, and tested, **THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE!**

Life in general, and the fallen world around you may have dealt you a legitimately difficult and challenging situation. We are not denying that. We really shouldn't be shocked that there is trouble around us. Jesus told us plainly, "*in the world you will have tribulation.*" And now that we have insight in Adam's original sin and the consequences that followed, we know WHY this tribulation exists.

But Jesus didn't stop there! He went on to say, "*Cheer up! I have overcome the world. I have deprived it of the power to harm you, and conquered it for you.*" (Jn 16:33 AMPC) This should be our focus!

Rather than focusing on the tests and trials, how about we focus on the way of escape? How about we lift up our eyes to the victory of Jesus, release our faith in Him, and begin to say,

"THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS! I'm just walking through the valley of the shadow of death right now, but I'm not going to camp here. No! With God's help, I'm going right on through to the other side! God is for me! Who can be against me?"

Friend, cheer up today! No matter what you may be facing, Jesus is the way out! He is THE WAY OF ESCAPE! With God's help, you can begin to make progress out of and over that situation! He is very willing to help! (Ps 46:1) But you must stay focused.

As you stay focused on the victory of Christ, standing firm, holding fast to your confession of victory, and using your authority, you can keep on sailing victoriously through life no matter what the enemy may try to do! Will there be challenges? Yes! But God has called us to rule and reign over every test and trial.

I believe the ABCs outlined in the next portion of this book will serve you well in this life of victory that God has called you to.



SECTION 2

MY ABCS OF
RULING AND
REIGNING

(EXERCISING YOUR AUTHORITY)

Having already given some background as to the kind of warfare that we are all faced with, I would like to share with you “*My ABCs of Ruling and Reigning.*” This is not a complete list by any means — this is my own little checklist of sorts. These ABCs are just a few of the basics, yet I have discovered that if I really want to rule and reign, then I must diligently apply myself to these basic concepts.

As was already discussed in Section 1 of this book, we have each been authorized in Christ Jesus. We have been given authority to rule and reign. But this delegated authority which belongs to each one of us must now be EXERCISED. In other words, all of this authority won’t do us any good until we learn how to practically exercise it, or put it into practice. That’s what these ABCs are all about! We want to get it working in our lives!

Please keep in mind that although these ABCs may be “basic” and fundamental, it doesn’t make them optional. All the more, **those things which are fundamental and foundational are absolutely essential!**

I will enumerate them to you in the first person.

Holy Spirit Dependent

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away;
for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;
but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

John 16:7

As with all the victorious principles of truth that God’s Word reveals, we are never left alone in their application. God has so graciously sent The Holy Spirit — “*The Helper*” to teach us, remind us, and guide us into the practice of these life-style fundamentals. We are never alone!



These concepts are all Holy Spirit dependent.

Jesus modeled and demonstrated a life of complete dominion as He was empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. All that He did was *by The Holy Spirit*. We must never think for a moment that we can successfully do the same apart from the Spirit’s loving guidance, help, and empowerment. For this reason, all the concepts that will be discussed here are *Holy Spirit dependent*. (Jn 14:26; Lk 4:1; Acts 1:4-5)



CHAPTER ONE

LOVING THE TRUTH

A. I must love the truth more than anything else (even when it shows me where I'm wrong).

Many people talk about how much they love Jesus, but **if we really love Jesus, we will love the truth.** We cannot separate Jesus from truth.

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **THE TRUTH**, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

John 14:6

And what is the truth? That's a relevant question in our world today! We often hear people refer to "my truth" and "your truth," but is there such a thing as THE TRUTH?

Pontius Pilate asked the same question of Jesus before His crucifixion. He asked Him specifically, "*What is truth?*" (Jn 18:38) Many people may be wondering the same in today's world of multiple views and opinions.

- o "*What is truth?*"
- o "*Is there really such a thing as truth in the crazy world we live in?*"
- o "*Are there any absolutes which are sure, certain, and reliable upon which I can confidently build my life?*"

This answer can be found in Jesus' prayer to the Father God when He prayed for His disciples. Jesus said, "*Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your Word is truth.***" (Jn 17:17) The Psalms also records that "*the entirety of God's word is truth.*" (Ps 119:160)



What is truth? God's Word is truth.

Over and over again, throughout the New Testament, God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ are referred to as "*the word of truth.*" (2 Cor 6:7; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 2:15; Jas 1:18)

Walking In The Truth Brings Freedom

In the following verses, we have an expression of the Father God's good will, desire, and pleasure toward each of His children:

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of **the truth** that is in you, just as you **walk in the truth**. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

3 John 1:2-4

What does God want for us? What is His desire? His desire is that we would “*prosper in all things*” and “*be in health*.” Prosperity and health is God's will for you! I never get tired of hearing this! Do you?

◆ **Prosperity and health is God's will for you.**

But how does this happen? Through what process can this also become our own reality? It happens “*just as your soul prospers*.” In other words, our success in life is directly connected to the inner well-being that can only be found as our minds become renewed to think in line with God. Our outer health and prosperity is a direct reflection of our inner “soul-prosperity.” And of course, this can only happen as we humbly receive God's words of truth into our lives. (Rom 12:2; Jas 1:21)

◆ **Our outer health and prosperity is a direct reflection of our inner soul-prosperity.**

But what I really want to point out here, in the context of this verse, is that this life of prosperity and health that God has planned for us cannot be separated from us “walking in the truth.” This is mentioned more than once within this context. You may want to go back and read it again!

What else is revealed here? We learn of the thing that brings The Father God as much joy as anything else. Wow! That's significant! And what is it? God's joy is greatest when His children “**walk in truth**.” The heart of our Father God is clearly expressed by the Holy Spirit through the aged Apostle John when he wrote these words — “*I have NO GREATER JOY than to hear that my children walk in truth*.”



God has no greater joy than when His children walk in truth.

Why does something as simple as you “*walking in the truth*” give Him such great joy? Well, for one, we know from Scripture that God “*desires truth in the inward parts.*” Although God accepts us just as we are, His grace will only be found by those who are honest and sincere. We cannot in any way be fake, phony, or pretentious and expect to receive from God. We must each come to Him “*with a true heart.*” God is seeking true worshipers — those who “*worship the Father in spirit and truth.*” (Ps 51:6; Heb 10:22; Jn 4:23–24)

◆ **In order to receive from God, we must be honest, sincere, and truthful.**

But in addition to this, God knows that if you continue in the truth — which is the Word of God — **THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE!** And it will make you free indeed! That means you won’t have to try to convince others of your freedom. You will be free in reality!

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,
If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed;
And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*
John 8:31–32,36 (KJV)

Walking in the truth brings your Father God great joy! In fact, He has no greater joy!

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and
do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*
Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

This is why Christ has set us free — “*It is for freedom!*” God is not only interested in you being His and spending eternity with Him, He is also interested in your total freedom! Don’t you love that about God!

It was FOR FREEDOM that Christ Jesus has set us free. He values you as a person, and He values your freedom. God places great value on the QUALITY of your life. And this is what truth will produce — quality living! (Jn 10:10 NLT)

◆ **God is interested in your total freedom. This can only be realized as you walk in the truth.**

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and
may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
1 Thessalonians 5:23

God wants you to experience freedom...in your spirit, in your mind, and in your body! He wants you to experience freedom financially and in your relationships. God wants you to experience freedom in your life purpose and calling! He doesn't want you to be bound, oppressed, or limited by anything!

The Lord Jesus not only died to purchase you with His own blood unto Himself, but also to give you total liberty of expression to be all that God has created you to be! God really wants you free! But the only way we can experience this kind of liberty is through "truth" – *loving the truth, embracing the truth, and walking in the truth.*



The truth and real freedom can never be separated.

The truth and real freedom can never be separated! This is the reason why you walking in the truth brings your Heavenly Father such great joy!

Receiving Loving Correction

As we humbly approach God's Word of truth and Jesus' victory, we will often see areas where we need to be corrected and adjust ourselves. This is true for all of us, no matter how long we have been saved and been walking with the Lord.

*For whom the Lord loves He corrects,
just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Proverbs 3:12

God's correction comes to us because we are His beloved children and because He delights in us! Who ever heard of a good father who doesn't take time to instruct and correct His children?

The life of dominion and victory that I'm writing about here is a life of instruction and correction. There is really no victory and authority outside of doing things the way the Lord instructs. In any situation we face, God's wisdom is always "*the principal thing.*" In other words, it's primary! That's why we are told to "*get wisdom.*" (Prov 4:7)

◆ **There is no victory and authority outside of doing things the way The Lord instructs.**

We learn from Scripture that it's by God's wisdom that "*princes rule.*" (Prov 8:16) Likewise, it's by God's wisdom that we shall rule! That's what this message is about – ruling!

But God’s wisdom is inseparable from some degree of practical instruction. Proverbs regularly refers to “*the instruction of wisdom.*” (Prov 1:3; 4:1; 15:33) If you will study this word “instruction,” you will discover that it’s really just a more subtle way to describe CORRECTION. The instruction of God’s wisdom contains within it an element of correction, particularly when His instruction to us is different from how we may have been thinking or planning to handle things.

◆ **The instruction of God’s wisdom often brings correction to us.**

As sons of God, our Heavenly Father always wants to show us the best and right ways to live life and handle situations so that we can come out on top, and so that His greater purposes can prevail! Receiving correction is a big part of Him “*always causing us to triumph.*” (2 Cor 2:14 KJV)

◆ **God’s correction comes to us through His Word (The Bible).**

Even though some have seen The Bible as being antiquated and out of touch with real life, nothing could be further from the truth. God quite literally “wrote the book” on success when He gave us His Word. (Josh 1:8; Isa 48:17-18; 2 Tim 3:16-17)

If we will humble ourselves and receive it, God always desires to correct us THROUGH HIS WORD.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

God’s Word will bring loving correction and show us where we have been wrong. For example:

- God’s Word will show us where we have been thinking and believing wrong.
- God’s Word will reveal where we have had a defeatist or victim mentality, blaming others.
- God’s Word will expose areas where we have given place to doubt and unbelief.
- God’s Word will reveal wrong attitudes and motives which need to be adjusted.
- God’s Word will show us where we have been thinking too small and limiting God.
- God’s Word will show us where we have been relying on our own strength, rather than trusting God.

But, no matter what kind of correction is necessary, we should always be glad to humbly adjust ourselves to the truth of God's Word, knowing that this is the only place where our freedom can be realized. The truth, and only the truth, can truly make us free!



The truth, and only the truth, can truly make us free!

God has designed us to live in the land of freedom! God has designed us to live and walk in what The Bible calls "*the glorious liberty of the children of God.*" (Rom 8:21) As God's children, our freedom gives Him glory!

And here's some more good news that will make you want to embrace the truth even more. Jesus said, the devil "*does not stand in the truth.*" (Jn 8:44) Did you catch that? This came as a great revelation to me!

Since Satan does not stand in the truth, this means that if I am firmly positioned in the truth — living a life of honesty before God, standing in the truth of His Word and in the reality of Jesus' victory — then Satan can't remain there! His party is over! He has got to go!

Satan no longer has any place! Why? Because he does not stand in the truth, and that's where I am standing! He simply can't continue to afflict and oppress! When I'm standing in the truth, Satan cannot remain with his curse or any of his evil works. He has no place!

Ruling Oneself

*Whoever has no **rule over his own spirit**
is like a city broken down, without walls.*

Proverbs 25:28

*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
and **he who rules his spirit** than he who takes a city.*

Proverbs 16:32

Once we receive revelation of any truth from God's Word, it's imperative that we RESPOND and ADJUST to that truth! A **life of rulership begins with first ruling oneself**. This includes being honest with yourself and with the truth that God reveals, humbly acknowledging where you may have been wrong and adjusting as necessary. And thank God, there is ALWAYS grace and mercy available for the honest of heart. (Heb 4:16; 10:22)



**Ruling oneself includes being honest with yourself
and with the truth that God reveals.**

Responding and adjusting to the truth is also known as “repentance,” which The Bible says, “*is not to be regretted.*” And why is that? Because repentance always leads to salvation, deliverance, and victory!

*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation,
not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

2 Corinthians 7:10

In other words, no one who truly repents is ever sorry that they did so. No one who ever repents says, “*I’m so sorry that I repented! That was one of the worst things I ever did. Look at how badly things have turned out!*”

◆ **Repentance always leads to salvation, deliverance, and victory!**

Unfortunately, people often see repentance only in a negative light, as if we are hopelessly terrible people because we find it necessary to repent from time to time. Although it’s normal to feel legitimately remorseful and sorrowful when you have been involved in something that was obviously wrong, please keep in mind that the need to repent doesn’t necessarily equate with you being “bad.” In fact, Jesus came to make you “good” with the Father. That’s what God’s grace is all about! Jesus came to make you God’s child, and as God’s child you are His very righteousness. (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Jn 3:1)

But even though we have been made *so very right* with God through redemption, we can often be *so very wrong* in the way we think and believe, and in our approach to various situations. This is where we should be thankful that we are not like the fatherless or orphans who are left to themselves. We have A FATHER GOD who loves us and will correct us if we are willing to receive it. Correction is part of our spiritual growth and progress. (Prov 29:15; Jn 14:18; Rom 8:15; Prov 6:23)

◆ **Even though we have been made so very right with God through redemption, we can often be so very wrong in the way we think and believe.**

Also, let’s not forget Who our Father is! He is The Great Ancient of Days! He has been around for a very long time! Compared to all that He knows, we really know so very little! None of us should be shocked or taken aback at the thought that we

might need to be instructed or corrected from time to time. It's our reverential respect for God and His words that is the starting place of true knowledge and understanding. (Dan 7:13; Prov 1:7; 9:10)

So we should not allow our being corrected by God to discourage us. Nor should we allow ourselves to feel condemned. Condemnation is a work of the enemy. **God's correction in our lives should be taken as PROOF of the Father's love and PROOF of our legitimacy as His beloved children.** He corrects those whom He loves!

*There is therefore now no condemnation
to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk
according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Romans 8:1

There is definitely NO CONDEMNATION for us in Christ. But, as God's beloved children, **there is CORRECTION for us in Christ!** It's important that we are able to understand and distinguish the difference. If you don't understand the difference between condemnation and correction, you may end up resisting the very help that God is sending in order to lift you up! There are many verses that clearly spell out the value of receiving correction. (Heb 12:9-11; Prov 13:18; Prov 15:31-32; Eccl 7:5; Prov 25:12; Prov 12:1)

◆ **There is no condemnation for us in Christ, but there is loving correction.**

Condemnation, on the one hand, will tell you that you are a hopeless, no-good failure, who can't do anything right! We should readily reject any of these kinds of thoughts and feelings from the enemy. Godly correction, on the other hand, comes to constructively point out the problem, along with whatever adjustments are necessary in order to remedy the situation.

◆ **God's correction constructively points out the real problem, along with whatever adjustments will remedy the situation.**

The voice of correction will encourage you — *“Hey, you are better than that! And I have provided something better for you. Here, let me show you the better way so that you can have my very best!”*

The Father Prunes The Fruitful

*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”*

John 15:1-3

Perhaps we have missed what Jesus actually said in these verses. It’s too easy to just read over it, interpreting it through our own lens.

Here Jesus is pointing out exactly who the Father prunes. At first glance you might assume that God would prune those who are unfruitful or problematic. That’s because we have only seen pruning and correction in a negative light. But it does not say that! According to this verse, who does God prune? He prunes THE FRUITFUL! God prunes His children — those who already have some degree of productivity in their lives.

And why does He prune us? He does this so that we can be EVEN MORE FRUITFUL! He wants to help us experience His very best! He wants to help us live and function on an even higher level of victory and authority! And thank God, if we will receive it, He skillfully prunes and corrects us through His Word. There is absolutely nothing to fear when it comes to God’s correction.

◆ **God corrects and prunes the fruitful so that they can be even more fruitful!**

God’s words of truth and correction should not be mistaken for “rules,” although they will definitely help us set healthy boundaries for our lives. Beyond rules, you have a love relationship with God! He is your Father and wants to instruct you in the best ways of doing everything! His desire is for you to have a prosperous, successful, and fulfilling life that blesses others and produces fruit that will be eternal. This kind of life often requires adjustments on our part.

Now no chastening (disciplinary correction) seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11

Even though God’s correction can seem painful at times, when we have a proper understanding of why it comes, we can even say “Thank You, Lord!” whenever we are corrected. This is an appropriate response as we grow in maturity.

Repentance is a Gift

*But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

James 4:6

Here’s some more good news about the power of repentance! When we humbly acknowledge our shortcomings and adjust to God’s instructions, His grace is available to help us operate on a higher level! Repentance always allows God to pour out His grace and mercy in order to lift us up! (Prov 28:13) He is so good, gracious, merciful, and kind!

Although the subject of repentance sometimes receives a bad reputation among those who don’t understand it, the ability and opportunity to repent and adjust ourselves to the truth is perhaps one of God’s greatest gifts to us. It positions us for victory!

*...if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil,
having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Please notice from this verse that repentance is something that is “granted” by God. It’s really a gift! Knowing the truth and then responding to that truth (repentance) is what allows us to escape the devil’s evil snare — whatever that snare may be! This verse reveals a definite connection between knowing the truth, repentance, and then escaping trouble.



**The ability and opportunity to repent and adjust ourselves
to the truth is one of God’s greatest gifts to us.
It positions us for victory!**

As you begin to see and understand repentance for what it really is — a gift — you may even find yourself praying this way:

“Father, grant me repentance, that I may have knowledge of the truth in any area that I may need it; that I may escape the devil’s snare.”

So, in summary, in order to rule and reign, I have discovered that my relationship with THE TRUTH is extremely important. I should diligently do the following:

- o SEEK OUT the truth
- o ADJUST MYSELF to the truth
- o PLANT MYSELF in the truth
- o CONTINUE in the truth

I have found that THE TRUTH IS MY FRIEND, even when it reveals where I have been wrong. I simply cannot rule without it!



CHAPTER TWO

A LIFESTYLE OF SUBMISSION

B. I must learn to practice a lifestyle of submission to God.

*Likewise you younger people, **submit yourselves** to your elders. Yes, all of you **be submissive to one another**, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

1 Peter 5:5

Although not so popular in society today, the concept of “submission” is not something to avoid or to shy away from, particularly if you want to rule and reign in the midst of your enemies. In fact, submission and real working authority always go hand in hand.



**Submission and real working authority
always go hand in hand.**

Submission is a good Bible word, that when properly understood, will ultimately produce victory in your life! The Scripture teaches us that *“godliness is profitable.”* (1 Tim 4:8) We need to be routinely reminded of this fact so that we don’t fall into the trap of seeing God’s Word as some sort of dreadful duty or obligation. Godliness is really profitable!

This means that doing things God’s way will ultimately produce a good result, and is ultimately for our own benefit, freedom, and victory. This is certainly true regarding the godly concept of submission. A lifestyle of submission will prove PROFITABLE towards the life of peace, power, and authority that God has designed for you. This is important! Without the understanding of the benefit of submission, you may be tempted to discount this chapter entirely.

It would be good to stop and affirm this reality right now:

“Godliness is profitable! It’s profitable for me to do things God’s way! Doing things God’s way will produce a good result in my life!”

Submission is Voluntary

The word *submit* in the original language means “to subordinate oneself.” As you can see from this description, there is nothing passive about submitting yourself to God! Submission is a *very strong* and *active* word.

Submission means:

- To subject yourself
- To obey
- To put yourself under

Wow! “*Subjecting myself?!*” Now that’s something we may not be used to. This can sound strange unless our minds have been renewed with God’s Word, but this is what submission really looks like.

Most of us have been raised in such a way and immersed in cultures which have conditioned us to be more comfortable with being given “rules” – rules which we are required to follow “OR ELSE!” We are often more accustomed to being told “what we have to do.” But real godly submission is not like this. Real submission is always voluntary, and real submission is always done freely and willingly from the heart.

It’s very possible to perform what someone asks or requires of us, and even to do it in a perfect way; but yet, because we did it reluctantly or half-heartedly, we still haven’t really submitted ourselves. Unless our submission is done willingly and voluntarily, it does not pass The Bible test of true submission and it will fail to bring the power that God intends.

So in practical terms, real submission is “me subordinating myself.” True submission is “me yielding myself.” Real submission is “me offering myself.” True submission is “me giving myself.” A willing heart and attitude is required.

*If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land;*

Isaiah 1:19

This willing and heartfelt submission to God, of which I am writing, may sound like a scary proposition at the first. But, it actually becomes a pleasure, a joy, and a privilege once we have some basic Bible knowledge of God and His character. Knowledge such as this:

- I know God loves me!
- I know God’s character and nature, that He is good!
- I know that God has a good plan for my life!

- I know that God is for me and not against me!
- I know God is smarter than me and that all of His ways are winning ways!

Armed with these truths, I now recognize that it's to my advantage to submit to God and to do things His way. This allows me to *“eat the good of the land!”* In fact, there is really no other way to truly win and get ahead in life. So, submitting myself to God is now a privilege for me! I no longer HAVE TO submit to God. I GET TO submit to Him! This should be our renewed mindset.

So, I submit myself to God by willfully subjecting myself to Jesus' Lordship and His victory, placing myself under God's Word, and obeying what His Word and The Holy Spirit directs me to do.

My submission to God also means that I am actively agreeing with what His Word says about me and about whatever situation I may be facing. My submission is never passive or neutral.

Friend, this is a powerful position to put yourself in. In this position of submission you will find God! You will find His grace, enabling you to overcome anything and everything! But it's up to us to humble ourselves and submit ourselves, despite how we may feel and despite what outward circumstances may say and dictate to us.



**Submission is always voluntary;
otherwise, it is no longer real submission.**

It's important to also point out that submission is not something anybody else can do FOR YOU – true submission is something you can only do for yourself. In other words, no one else can “make you submit.” For this reason, the words *“You must submit to me!”* go against the true nature of submission, because true submission is voluntary and can never be forced. Our submission is something we freely give to God – something which allows His grace and power to flow freely in our lives.

True Humility is To Submit Yourself

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5

It's clear from scripture that it's the humble who are able to partake of God's grace, favor, ability, and exaltation. (Jas 4:10) But who exactly are the humble ones? Humble people are not necessarily those who walk around with their heads down and who are always quick to deflect a compliment. Among other things, humble people are submitted people!

- The humble ones are those who submit themselves to God and what His Word says.
- The humble are those who submit their own ideas, thoughts, opinions, and feelings to the Lord Jesus and His victory report.
- The humble are those who set themselves in agreement with God, through their obedience.
- The humble are those who realize that apart from God and doing what He says, they are incapable of any real and lasting success.

It all sounds quite simple, right? Indeed it is very simple! But unfortunately we have an adversary to deal with who is a liar and deceiver. The more we listen to him and entertain his thoughts, the more complicated things become! Through his pressure tactics, he tirelessly tries to play upon our humanity and the weakness of our own flesh to present us with "another idea" or other options which make the clear path of submission and obedience seem less favorable and much less obvious.

God Is A Gentleman

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Revelation 3:20

I have learned this about our great God: **He doesn't force His will upon us or upon the human race.** If He wanted to, He could present Himself in such an awesome and frightening way that all would instantly fall to the ground and worship Him as the only true God. Let's not forget how big and powerful God is! He created the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the planets in billions of galaxies that we know about. He is truly GREAT! Yet...God is not forceful. God is love! (1 Jn 4:16) He is the ultimate Gentleman, honoring our individual free-will to choose Him and obey Him for ourselves, just because we want to. This is submission!

When God wants to enter some area of our lives, He doesn't knock the door down and come barreling in! Although He could easily enter if He wanted to, and although He certainly has every right to, this is not how our God deals with us.

Rather than forcing His way and His will, God stands at the door of our hearts and “knocks,” gently revealing Himself and drawing us by His Holy Spirit. He then leaves it up to us to respond to Him and open the door. He loves us enough to respect our right to choose Him (the Truth) for ourselves, thereby swinging the door open for His entry.

This is why we must learn about this powerful concept of submission. Our submission to God opens the door for Him!



**Our submission to God opens the door for Him
and His involvement.**

I have discovered that whenever God enters into something or becomes part of it, that something is always upgraded — it always gets better! When God knocks on the door of your heart, He never comes empty-handed. He is the ultimate giver and benefactor! Having this revelation will only cause you to want to submit to Him even more, giving Him more freedom and access to your life.

I'm often reminded of the powerful lyrics in the song “*Come, Now is the Time To Worship*,” which are as follows:

*Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those,
Who gladly choose You now*

“*One day*” — the day is coming when all will see The Lord Jesus for themselves, even with their natural eyes!

“*One day*” — the day is coming when it will be clear and undeniable that God is real and that Jesus is LORD OF ALL.

“*One day*” — the day is coming when all people — whether they like it or not — will have no choice but to bow a knee and acknowledge His Lordship. (Phil 2:9–11)

God is the righteous judge of all the earth, and He will be sure to set the record straight! (Gen 18:25; 1 Tim 5:24–25) But for now, while we each still have life and

breath, the unsearchable treasure of God’s salvation, power, presence, and victory can only be found by those who gladly choose to acknowledge and submit to Him, even though they don’t physically see Him. This is where our reward from God is found, both in this life and then also eternally.

Jesus described Himself as “*meek and lowly of heart.*” (Matt 11:29 KJV) I once heard someone liken this quality of meekness to that of “velvet-covered steel.” This is a beautiful picture of The Lord! The Lord is strong and powerful like steel, yet He chooses to deal with mankind in a way that is gracious, approachable, and kind.

It is the thief, Satan, who pushes, forces, and coerces, making us feel as if we have no choice other than to give in to his pressures and temptations. But Jesus always gives us a choice! He gently leads, guides, and prods – even knocking and patiently waiting for our willing participation.

If we are wise, we will make the most of every precious opportunity to swing the door WIDE OPEN, inviting God to come in and help us in each and every area of our lives. If we are wise, we will allow Him to teach us how to more fully submit ourselves to Him! And let’s not forget: We are not alone in this! The Holy Spirit is at work within each one of us, leading us into all truth (submission) and helping us to submit ourselves! (Jn 16:13; Phil 2:13)

Presenting Yourself

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28

Not only have I discovered that submission is something I can only do for myself. I have also found that it must be done *purposefully and deliberately*. In other words, I should live a lifestyle of “presenting myself” before the Lord.

What do I mean by this? Well, rather than expecting the Lord to be the One Who has to come looking for me in order to get my attention or communicate something with me; instead, in a life of submission I take the initiative to regularly “come to Him,” present myself to Him, and inquire of Him. I believe this understanding will serve you greatly!



**In a life of submission, I take the initiative
to regularly “come to Him” and inquire of Him.**

This is in harmony with Jesus' outstanding invitation to "*COME TO ME all you who labor and are heavy laden.*" He won't force His children to come to Him and do things His way.

So, in my life of submission to God, I find it helpful to regularly practice the following:

- I *PRESENT MYSELF* as a living sacrifice. (2 Tim 2:15; Rom 12:1; Rom 6:19)
- I *LIFT UP HOLY HANDS* as a sign of my surrender. (1 Tim 2:8)
- I *OFFER MYSELF* to do His will. (Isa 6:8; Heb 10:7)
- I *HUMBLE MYSELF* under His mighty hand. (Jas 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6)
- I come to *LISTEN AND LEARN*, and not just to speak. (Prov 8:32–35; Jas 1:21; Prov 4:1; Jas 1:19)
- I *JUDGE MYSELF* and adjust where necessary. (1 Cor 11:31; 1 Cor 1:9)

The tendency of the carnal, fleshly nature is to do its own thing, its own way. All of our human flesh is the same! It always seeks self-sufficiency and independence. Have you also found that to be true?

This is why submission to God can seem painful and difficult at times. It's because we all have "flesh" to deal with — flesh that would rather not answer to anyone. (Gal 5:17; Gal 5:24; Matt 26:41) But mankind was never created to live independently, apart from God. This is where many of our problems originate.

For this reason, I must deliberately and proactively keep my flesh under control by submitting myself to God. It's actually in this simple act and heartfelt posture of presenting myself that I find an abundance of grace to overcome! It is really a wonderful privilege!

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

Through faith in Jesus' blood sacrifice on my behalf, I can always come boldly to God's throne of grace, knowing that mercy and grace await me there! God will never berate me, beat me down, or reject me when I come to Him. He will always lift me up! (Heb 4:16, 10:19; Jas 4:10)



**God will never beat you down when you come to Him.
He will always lift you up!**

God does not expect or require that any of us be strong in and of ourselves. Our calling is to *“be strong IN THE LORD and in the power of HIS MIGHT.”* (Eph 6:10) I have discovered that this power and might is available by His grace, as I deliberately present myself to Him. I never have to do it alone, nor can I do it alone!

Because of my understanding of its powerful effect in my life, submission is no longer a bother or burdensome to me. *“His commandments are not burdensome.”* (1 Jn 5:3) And why are His commandments not a burden to me? Because they work! They are effective! They produce results!

I submit myself willingly and gladly, because I know this is where my authority is found. This is where my victory lies! And have you ever heard of someone who was “burdened with victory”? Of course not! Victory is not a burden. Victory is sweet! In short, I have found that submission, just like truth, is my friend!

Submission to God Comes First

*Therefore submit to God.
Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
James 4:7*

I like this verse! It doesn't say that the devil might flee from you, or that he will consider fleeing from you when you resist him. No, it says HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU! When you submit to God and resist the devil, he has to go every time!

This should be a BEDROCK in our thinking and in our heart:

“When I submit to God and I resist the devil, he flees from me! Period! Every time!”

When I refer to the devil here, I'm not just referring to Satan himself, but also to any of the darkness or cursed things he might bring. But if we are going to successfully resist the devil, we must FIRST submit to God. Notice here that our submission comes first. This is often where people miss it!

Our submission to God's authority is what positions us to resist the devil. For this reason, any time we find ourselves standing against any form of evil or cursed thing, we should ask ourselves, *“Have I submitted myself to God in this situation?”*



**If we are going to successfully resist the devil,
we must FIRST submit to God.**

How Do I Submit to God?

In my relatively brief ministry experience of teaching and leading others, I have observed that many don't really know how to submit themselves to God. This is quite understandable. A lifestyle of submission is not something that we automatically know how to do. It's not regularly taught in our educational systems, and it's certainly not something that you will find yourself accidentally doing!

Instead, this Kingdom principle of submission is something we must be routinely taught, reminded of, and trained in. Godly submission requires training and practice. It is completely different from the way the world around us operates.

So, where does submission begin? For me, **submission begins with seeking.**

In order to submit to God:

- I must discover His will.
- I must discover what He has said.
- I need to discover what the Lord has already accomplished for me on the cross.
- I must discover how God operates and does things, so that I can cooperate more fully with Him.

This requires seeking, searching, studying, and learning. This also requires waiting upon the Lord for His specific wisdom and direction. The act and process of seeking God's will is one way that we humble ourselves.

As God's children, we are called to be the Lord's *disciples*. This word "disciple" can also be accurately translated as "a learner." We are always in the position of pupil, learner, and student when it comes to our great God and His infinite wisdom.



In order to submit to God, I must discover His will.

I realize that I cannot submit to somebody whose will and wishes I don't know. How could I? So if I'm going to submit to God, I must come to Him and seek His will in every area of my life — spiritually, physically, financially, and relationally. As I discover God's will, it allows me to align myself with Him. **This is another way to describe submission — ALIGNMENT.** This puts me in a position to rule!

The following are some practical things I do to submit to God:

- **I submit to God by submitting to Jesus' victory on the cross.**

I submit to Jesus' victory on the cross and what it means to me right now. The New Testament is loaded with many "in Christ" realities which reveal my inheritance as a joint heir with Christ. These things should be studied carefully and rehearsed regularly! (2 Tim 2:15 KJV; Phm 1:6) (See [Appendix C: In Christ Realities](#) on page 191.)

It may seem ridiculous to think that you must submit to victory. After all, who doesn't want victory? But when the pressure is on, and you are feeling symptoms of lack and defeat, it can seem much easier to just lay down under the pressure, make excuses, or blame others.

- **I submit myself to the written Word of God.**

I submit to God by finding out what is written in His Word. God's Word is absolute authority!

The Bible is God talking to me! As I read God's Word, I also allow His Word to READ ME. God's Word clearly exposes the thoughts and intentions of my heart. (Heb 4:12)

God's Word also tells me more specifically who and what I should submit myself to in various practical contexts. Practically speaking, **submitting to God will involve submitting to people.** (See [Appendix D: Who Should I Submit To?](#) on page 195.)

- **I submit to the Holy Spirit's leading and direction for my life.**

Sons of God are to be led by the Spirit of God. (Rom 8:14) If we will be aware of the Holy Spirit within us and pay attention to His subtle leadings and direction, He will always guide us into truth and victory in every situation. But we must grow in our awareness of Him inside us, and then practice a life of submitting ourselves to His leadings.

For those who believe in Him, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will flow from within us as "*rivers of living water.*" (Jn 7:37-39) As we learn to yield and cooperate with Him, we will regularly experience times of God's Spirit rising up within us, giving us an urge or unction to pray, to declare, or to act upon God's revealed will. We must pay attention to and submit to these **ruling rivers** which God desires to release from within us.

- **I submit myself to God's placement for me.**

As a member of God's authorized ruling body, I recognize that I have been strategically placed within the body of Christ and vitally connected in relationship with certain other people. (1 Cor 12:18; Rom 12:5; Eph 4:16)

Apart from my submission to this God-joined place, I recognize that I will be somewhat handicapped in a life of rulership. If I am going to function well as a part of God's ruling body, then it only stands to reason that I must seek to be faithful to His assigned placement for me within that Body.

This requires ongoing submission to the Lord Jesus, as The Head of His Body, and regularly walking in love and forgiveness, particularly with those I work most closely with.

Satan hopes to use disappointment, misunderstanding, hurt, and offense to separate us from that place and those people where we have been so vitally joined and from whom we receive a spiritual supply.

- **I submit my mind, my heart, my mouth, and my actions to God's will for me.**

I submit my mind...I **think** God's Word.

I submit my heart...I choose to **believe** God's Word.

I submit my mouth...I **speak** God's Word.

I submit my actions...I **act** on God's Word.

Functional Rulership

Friend, this idea of submission may be new to you and may seem like a lot of work, but it is never to be regretted! And here's the reason why:

**Putting yourself UNDER GOD will always put you OVER THE ENEMY
and in a legitimate position of functional rulership.**

That's good news, isn't it! We all desire to be "over" and on top of the situations we are facing. What allows for that? Submission to God!

Why do I mention "functional rulership" here? **Functional rulership is authority that really works!** Plenty of people talk about ruling...they talk about reigning... but apart from living a lifestyle of submission to God, it's not functional. In other words, it doesn't really work! And isn't that what we all really want? We want authority that actually works and gets results!

Do we want to spend all night long trying to rebuke the devil and some part of his curse? Or would it be better to first submit ourselves to God and then watch him flee with a single word of authority?

Our authority in Christ is very real and it does work, but it won't work apart from submission. In fact, **our authority in Christ is only functional to the degree of our submission to The One Who gave us that authority.** This was true of Jesus when He walked on the earth, and it's also true for us. (Jn 5:19,30; Jn 15:5)



**Our authority in Christ is very real,
but it won't work apart from submission.**

So what do we have to do? We have to **FIRST** submit ourselves to God, so that we can resist the devil. And then what will he do? He will flee every time!

The sickness will roll back every time!

The need and the debt will be met and will give way every time!

We will continue to advance and move forward!

Remember: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot extinguish it or overcome it! You are that light in The Lord! Greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world!

Whenever we are submitted to God and acting upon His Word, we are operating in The Kingdom of God – a Kingdom that rules over all! (Jn 1:5; Ps 103:19)

STOP and THINK on these:

- Real working authority is inseparable from a lifestyle of submission to God.
- The godly concept of submission is "profitable" towards the good life that God has designed for you.
- Submission is a strong and active word. You cannot passively submit yourself to God.
- Real submission is always voluntary and done freely and willingly from the heart.
- Submission to God becomes a joy and privilege once you have knowledge of God's character and understand the end result that He has intended for you.
- Those who willingly submit themselves to God and obey Him will eat and enjoy the good of the land!

(continued from previous page...)

- We don't have to submit to God. We GET TO!
- Our submission to God positions us to overcome anything that could come against us in life.
- The truly humble are those who are submitted to God.
- God is a gentleman. He won't force His will and desires upon you.
- Our submission to God opens the door for His abundant entry. He never comes empty-handed!
- Satan attempts to do his work by pushing, forcing, pressuring, and coercing. Jesus gently leads, guides, prods, and knocks upon the door of our hearts.
- A submitted life will take the initiative to come to God and offer ourselves to Him. We are no longer waiting for God to initiate.
- As you proactively present yourself to God by coming to Him, you will find an abundance of grace to overcome.
- We submit ourselves willingly and gladly because we know this is where our authority is found.
- Our submission to God's authority is what positions us to resist the devil.
- Whenever we are tried or tested, we should ask ourselves, "Have I submitted to God in this situation?" Submission comes FIRST.
- Submission to God is a Kingdom principle which we must be taught, trained in, and regularly reminded of.
- Submission to God begins with SEEKING God in order to determine His will.
- It's impossible to submit to someone whose will and wishes you don't know.
- Another way to describe submission to God is with the word ALIGNMENT. Our alignment with God puts us in a position to rule!
- Functional rulership is authority that really works! This is what God has for you.
- Our submission UNDER GOD will always position us OVER THE ENEMY and in a legitimate position of functional rulership.
- Our authority in Christ is only as functional as the degree of our submission to The One who gave us that authority.
- Whenever we are submitted to God and acting upon His Word, we are operating in the Kingdom that rules over all!

RECEIVING AND RESISTING

C. I must know what to say “Yes” to and what to say “No” to.

If I intend to live a life of ruling and reigning, it becomes imperative for me to recognize who’s who, what’s what, and who’s doing what. In other words, when faced with various thoughts, feels, circumstances, and pressures in life, I need to be able to answer with certainty “*Where’s this coming from?*” This will allow me to recognize and intentionally deploy the appropriate response to whatever I might be facing.

Is this something I should say “yes” to?

Or is this something I should say “no” to?

Or let me say it another way:

Is this something I should be purposefully yielding to?

Or is this something I should be actively resisting?

Can you hear how intentional these two very opposite responses are? There is nothing neutral or passive about either one. It’s important for us to know for ourselves what exactly to yield ourselves to and what exactly to resist, because the responsibility for both of these has been placed within our control, and our life of authority depends on it.

◆ **Our life of authority depends upon us knowing for ourselves, exactly what to yield to and exactly what to resist.**

You see, we are not supposed to just accept and put up with whatever comes our way in life. Unfortunately, some people have never realized that they have a say in the matter. But, thanks to Jesus Christ and His victory, we now have a say!

The often-quoted Italian saying “*Che sara’ sara’. Whatever will be will be.*” might make for a fun and catchy song to sing, but this sort of mentality will keep you from the life of rulership that God has intended for you. *Whatever will be* is more up to us than we have realized! That’s what this message of authority is all about. There are good things from God that we are called to receive and possess, and there are evil things from the enemy which we must resist.

I realize this goes contrary to what many people have thought and believed about the will of God. Many have thought that God's will is automatically being done everywhere, in spite of our individual choices and responses. But nothing could be further from the truth! If God's will were automatically being done everywhere, then Jesus would have never taught us to pray "Father, Your kingdom come. Your will be done." (Matt 6:10)



There are good things from God that we are called to receive and possess, and there are evil things from the enemy which we must resist.

As believers, we are each responsible for these two very important areas:

- 1.) RECEIVING from God
- 2.) RESISTING the enemy

Both of these (receiving and resisting) are part of how we **exercise our authority**. Although others can pray for you and pray with you to help lighten the load in both of these areas, no one can receive from God FOR YOU, and no one else can resist the enemy FOR YOU. As we have already discussed, you will receive from God according to YOUR FAITH. And in the same manner, the mountains and obstacles in your life need to hear YOUR VOICE. (Mk 5:34; Mk 11:23)

◆ **No one else can receive from God FOR YOU, and no one else can resist the enemy FOR YOU.**

As was mentioned in the previous chapter, as much as God loves us and wants to do good for us, He will never force His will and blessings upon us. Neither will they "just happen" automatically without any cooperation on our part. They must be RECEIVED and yielded to.

Likewise, God will not resist Satan, the curse, and evil for us. Many have not realized this. We must be the ones to assume our rightful place in Christ, take our position under God's Word, and then RESIST by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Without question, it is God's power which is working against the enemy and against the problem; YET, it is the exercising of our individual authority which allows for this. It is God and man working together. This is authority!

◆ **It's up to us to assume our rightful place in Christ, take our position under God's Word, and then RESIST by the power of the Holy Spirit within us.**

James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee FROM YOU.” The enemy will flee from YOU, as YOU are the one to resist him. How quickly we can forget that we have the right and the responsibility to say “NO” to certain things!



How quickly we can forget that we have the right and responsibility to say “NO” to certain things!

We have often been taught to “pray to God” when faced with difficulties or challenges. And although I’m certainly not minimizing or negating the power of prayer, “praying prayers” can sometimes be far different from the actual exercising of our authority. I believe this will become progressively clearer as you read throughout the rest of this chapter.

A Clear Dividing Line

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
I have come that they may have life, and that they may
have it more abundantly.”*

John 10:10

So how can we tell for sure what we should be receiving and what we should be resisting? Where exactly do we draw the line? And from where can we find real boldness and confidence to take our stand?

Thank God, Jesus gave us a clear dividing line when He gave us this verse. This should put an end to all confusion once and for all! Jesus identifies the thief (that’s Satan) as the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus, Himself, came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. **The works of Jesus and the works of the thief should never be confused with one another!**

So if the effect of something steals, kills, or brings destruction in my life or that of another person, I know it has its roots in Satan and darkness. I must resist it! I shouldn’t consider even for a moment that God may somehow be the cause or a part of it.

This kind of wrong thinking has “neutralized” far too many believers in their life of ruling and reigning! Associating God with your problems will always strip you of the boldness and initiative required to use your authority and stand against evil.



**If something steals, kills, or brings destruction,
I should never consider that God may
somehow be part of it.**

As for me, no matter how common or prevalent something may be in the world around me, if it steals, kills, or destroys, it's not okay for me! I don't put up with it in the least! It's time for me to put my spiritual foot down and resist it in Jesus' Name — even the very thought of it!

My personal “NO” is required. “*No, no, no!*” is what I say! “*Not allowed here in Jesus' Name!*” In such cases, I cannot afford to remain neutral if I want to rule. I have found that the sooner I can do this, the better!

Let's not forget that Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law! He was made a curse for us when He hung on the cross in our place! (Gal 3:13) Through this great redemption, Jesus Christ has made “a new normal” available for those who believe in Him — health, wealth, peace, protection, and victory! This is supposed to be normal for us! God has given us the truth of His Word in order to sanctify us (set us apart) from the evil in the world. (Jn 17:15–17)



**Through redemption, Jesus Christ has made
“a new normal” available for those who believe in Him.**

Of course, this radical life of faith can make you look and feel like a bit of an odd-ball at times! That's why it's so critical that you know for yourself *what you believe*, and that you know for yourself *why you believe the way you do*. **The kind of boldness I'm referring to here can only be found as you embrace God's eternal words as the ultimate and final authority in your life!**

Believing God's Word will make you victorious in the end, but it won't always make you popular! The life of authority I'm writing about here is not for the cowardly or for those who only want to fit in all the time. Courage is required! (Josh 1:7–9) But for me, I always find courage and strength to stick with God's Word when I am reminded of this important reality:

**So long as I am in agreement with God, I will have in life
what I believe — not what others believe about me.**

God's Word does not work for us because we are able to convince everyone around us that it's true. God's Word works for us BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED! And unfortunately, that will very often put you in the minority.

So we really need not concern ourselves with what others think. The real question is "Did God say it?" And if so, "What do I believe about THAT?" Other people's unbelief can never stop the faithfulness of God in our lives, unless of course we allow their opinions to discourage us. (Rom 3:3; Num 32:7,9)

◆ **Other people's unbelief can never stop the faithfulness of God in your life. You are not obligated to convince others, but to see to it that you yourself are convinced.**

Let's get back to our lesson...

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

Mark 11:22-23

Too often we spend much of our time and spiritual energies talking to God about our problems and rehearsing our problems to Him, not realizing that He has authorized us to put our foot down and speak directly to the mountains and obstacles that are standing in our way, commanding that they "*be removed and be cast into the sea.*" (Mk 11:23) In other words, even though we have been genuinely authorized, we are not acting like it! We are not really exercising and using our authority. Sometimes we end up acting more like beggars than like the victorious sons of God that He has made us to be.

◆ **God has authorized us to put our foot down and speak directly to the mountains and obstacles that are standing in our way.**

When tested and challenged, I may not know entirely what to do about the situation I am facing, but I do know enough from God's Word to understand that what is happening is NOT God's will and that it is NOT okay. How do I know this? I know this from His Word. The importance of this cannot really be overstated.

That's when I must put my foot down as an authorized one and say a big "NO!" God needs me to take a stand and establish my position in these situations so that He can work with me to bring me on to victory. **If I don't take a stand, then I have given God very little or nothing to work with.**

On the other hand, if I discover something good from God’s Word — something that belongs to me as part of my inheritance in Christ — something that blesses, adds to, or enhances my life or the life of someone else around me — then I must learn to say “yes” to that. In other words, **it’s my responsibility to receive it.**

Jesus came to give us an abundant life! Every good and perfect gift comes from our good Father God. (Jn 10:10; Jas 1:17) Yet, surprisingly enough, our personal “Yes” is still required! **God needs our faith and our agreement.** Saying a hearty “yes” to Jesus and to the good things He has done and has promised to do is a big part of how we submit ourselves to Him and receive from Him. Once again, we can’t remain neutral.



Saying a hearty “yes” to Jesus and to the good things He has done and has promised to do is a big part of how we submit ourselves to Him and receive from Him.

Even though the blessings of God are a rightful part of our inheritance in Christ, it’s both inaccurate and impractical to expect them to just randomly or indiscriminately fall upon us without any cooperation on our part. That would certainly be wonderful and convenient, but it doesn’t really work that way!

God has set things up in such a way that **our personal response is required.** This response is the very authority that I have been writing about! God has given us the honored and privileged part of receiving from Him! Our personal response to the good report of God’s Word should mimic that of Mary, when she RECEIVED God’s word of promise through the Angel Gabriel. How did Mary respond? She said, *“Be it unto me according to thy word.”* (Lk 1:38 KJV)

- ◆ **God has given us the honored and privileged part of receiving from Him. Our personal response is required.**

An Aggressive Receiving Attitude

***Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,
to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession
in the presence of many witnesses.***

1 Timothy 6:12

This verse points out that we are to “lay hold” on eternal life, including our salvation in Christ and every other good thing which is already ours by virtue

of Christ's victory and our redemption in Him. What does it mean to lay hold? It means we must be aggressive to believe, and then not let go of what we know belongs to us, in spite of what we may see and feel.

◆ **We must be aggressive to believe and then not let go of what we know belongs to us, in spite of what we may see and feel.**

Let's not forget, that because of Adam's original trespass, we live in a fallen, sin-stained, curse-filled earth, with an enemy who will contest us living an abundant life to God's glory! For this reason, we will need to maintain an aggressive posture and attitude in our receiving.

It's not that receiving from God is so difficult, or that we are trying to wrestle something from the hands of God that He might not want us to have. No! These things are already ours in Christ! It's just that the enemy is crafty, and he is always trying to obstruct, obscure, and interfere with our receiving. He is always trying to talk us out of that which is rightfully ours.

Truth be told, **as God's children we have been built for receiving!** This is how we have been created by God. He is The Great Giver, and we are forever His receivers! Everything we do with the Lord and for the Lord should be a result of what we have already received from Him.

◆ **God is The Great Giver, and we are forever His receivers!**

As God's receivers, we receive His Word, His Spirit, His wisdom, His direction, His strength, His help, His ability, His provision! This is the work of His grace in our lives! As God's creation, it's only but natural for us to receive from God! Freely we have received, therefore freely we can give! (Matt 10:8) Our outward lives of fruitfulness and victory will never surpass our ability to freely receive from the Lord. But, because of our adversary, we will need to be aggressive about it! Even though receiving from God is not difficult, it still must be done deliberately.



**Even though receiving from God is not difficult,
it still must be done deliberately.**

The enemy is persistent in his efforts to distract us, or to try and sow doubts in our hearts and minds. He hopes to either steal or cloud the vision of victory which God desires for each of us to see so clearly! The enemy knows that once

you see and lay hold of God's vision, and if you cannot be moved away from it, that your manifested victory is certain! You will continue to make progress!

Satan is already defeated and can never stop what God has planned for you unless he can distract you or get you to cast away your confidence, such that you let go of that which you have believed and been assured of from God's Word. (Gal 6:9; Heb 10:35) So, why not have a good laugh, rejoice in the Lord, and then make up your mind that you will not let go!

◆ **Don't cast away your confidence. Instead, have a good laugh, rejoice in the Lord, and then make up your mind that you will not let go of God's Word!**

It honors God when we believe Him and His Word despite what we see and feel. Our faith pleases God! And our faith always brings the reward of manifestation! If we won't quit, we will be able to touch, taste, feel, and experience that which God has promised. Our faith will turn to sight! (Jn 5:44; Heb 11:6; Heb 6:12; 1 Jn 1:1-2)

Understanding this spiritual conflict, it now makes sense as to why we find such aggressive verbiage in the New Testament in regards to our receiving from God:

- **“Lay hold** on eternal life...” (1 Tim 6:12)
- **“Believe that you receive** when you pray...” (Mk 11:24)
- **“Hold fast** what you have till I come...” (Rev 2:25)
- **“I press on** that I may lay hold...” (Phil 3:12)
- **“Contend earnestly** for the faith...” (Jude 1:3)
- **“Come boldly** to the throne of grace...” (Heb 4:16)
- **“Let us labour** therefore to enter into that rest...” (Heb 4:11, KJV)
- **“If you have faith and do not doubt...”** (Matt 21:21)
- **“They could not enter in because of unbelief...”** (Heb 3:19)

If you study the example of the children of Israel in the Old Testament, you will find that although God had already given them the promised land, they still had their part to believe it, receive it, and possess it, in spite of everything around them that told them the land was not theirs. This very example was given to us in the New Testament as a picture of how we also are to aggressively receive from God by faith and lay hold of that which belongs to us in Christ. (Heb 3:7-4:6; 1 Cor 10:1-11)

In the case of the children of Israel, they faced literal, physical giants and walled cities which attempted to intimidate them and get them to back away

from what God had promised. (Num 13:26–33) As for us, we may not be facing actual giants, but there will always be some mental argument, physical obstacle, or natural limitation which will try to tell us that it won't work or that it could never happen. That's just a reality of life on fallen, planet earth. That's why we must aggressively "*lay hold*" of that which is ours!

Discerning “The Bible Difference” Between Good and Evil

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

Isaiah 5:20

This verse obviously has more than one application, but for the sake of our discussion here, why would God's Word tell us "*woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.*"? Because those who don't know "The Bible Difference" between good and evil are in both a pitiable and vulnerable position, incapable of exercising their authority.

If you aren't totally clear regarding what things are good and what things are evil (as revealed in The Bible), then you won't know which things you should be actively submitting to and which things you should be actively resisting. And let's not forget this important point:

**Your authority is based upon submitting yourself to the right things
(those things that The Bible calls good) and also absolutely
standing against and resisting what The Bible calls evil.**

As we discussed in the previous chapter, SUBMITTING AND RESISTING are the two basic components of your authority. (Jas 4:7) And please allow me to say it again:

No one else can submit *FOR YOU!*

No one else can resist *FOR YOU.*

So, knowing The Bible difference between good and evil and being settled about it is essential. As for me, I have discovered the following from God's Word:

- Healing is always good. Sickness is always evil. (Acts 10:38; Ps 41:8)
- Abundance to carry out God's will is always good. Lack is always evil. (2 Cor 9:8; Ps 34:10)
- Peace is always good. Confusion is always evil. (Jn 14:27; 1 Cor 14:33)
- Joy is always good. Depression is always evil. (Rom 14:17; Prov 2:25)

- Divine protection is always good. Calamity is always evil. (Psalm 91)
- Love and forgiveness is always good. Hatred, strife, and retaliation is always evil. (1 Cor 16:14; Prov 10:12)

And the list goes on and on...

The enemy is always trying to muddy the waters in these areas which should be so abundantly clear from Scripture. God is good! The devil is bad! It's really that simple. But Satan is in the business of sowing doubts and questions in our minds. This is how he has attempted to operate with mankind from the beginning — “*Did God really say?*” (Gen 3:1) He might even use this old argument, “*Yeah, but what about so-and-so? They found the Lord in their time of depression and sickness. See! Sickness isn't always bad! Maybe the Lord is using this sickness to teach you something.*”

It's true that God is so good that He can make something beautiful out of even the most terrible situations, when we come to Him and give Him our broken pieces and messy lives. Thank God! He will always find a way to turn evil into good when we look to Him. We certainly wouldn't want to deny that! **But we should be careful so as not to make God THE CAUSE of something just because He was so willing and available to be THE CURE.** That would be like blaming the fire department for starting all the fires around town just because firetrucks are always found at the scene of the fire trying to extinguish the flames! This is an obvious and ridiculous example of mistakenly attributing evil to that which is good, but yet God often gets tagged with evil in much the same way.

No, my friend! **God is not using sickness to teach you.** God wants you well! He wants you to be healed, healthy, and strong to carry out His will. He wants you to be full of peace and sound-minded to be able to love and serve those around you. He wants you to be divinely protected at all times, so that you can live out a long and satisfied life to His glory! God wants you to be abundantly provided for so that you can pay your bills, complete your Kingdom projects, and be a blessing to others. This is God's will for you!

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father who is in heaven
 give good things to those who ask Him!*

Matthew 7:11

“*How much more!*” Those are important words! What is your will for your children? Stop and think about it for a moment. Jesus taught us that our Father in heaven is much more willing and able than we are to do good for His children.



God wants you well! He wants you to be healed, healthy, and strong to carry out His will.

If you want to get a clear picture of what is good, take another look at the ministry of Jesus when He walked on the earth. You can read about it in the four Gospel accounts. The Bible says that *“He went about doing good and healing.”* (Acts 10:38)

Jesus healed, blessed, brought deliverance, and abundantly met the needs of people. The Bible calls this good! Jesus came as a perfect picture and exact representation of The Father God through His earthly life and ministry. Jesus said, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”* So if you want to know God’s character and what He would do in any given situation, look no further than the life and ministry of Jesus. (Jn 14:9; Heb 1:3 NIV, NLT)

◆ **If you want to know God’s character and what He would do in any given situation, look no further than the life and ministry of Jesus. He came to reveal The Father.**

Thank God for His holy written Word! God’s Word clearly shows me what is truly good and what is evil! This knowledge empowers me to boldly say “yes” to the right things and to boldly say “no” to those things that do not belong. This is functional rulership and authority!



God’s Word clearly reveals what is truly good and what is evil.

When it comes to staying activated in a life of receiving from God, I have found that living a lifestyle of thanksgiving and praise to God helps significantly. The Bible teaches us *“in everything give thanks.”* (1 Thes 5:18) Give thanks for what? For the problem? No! Give thanks for the answer! In every situation we can say a hearty “YES” to the answer that God’s Word provides and then thank Him for that answer. (See *“Ruling through Rejoicing and Praise”* on page 167.)

◆ **Cultivating a lifestyle of thanksgiving and praise to God will help you stay activated in a life of receiving from God.**

We should also take time to recognize and be thankful for those God-given shepherds (pastors) and spiritual leaders who are especially anointed and graced by God to teach us and to help us accurately discern these truths. Without question, they are worthy of double honor! (Eph 4:11–15; Jer 3:15; 1 Tim 5:17)

Your Confession Allows For Possession

*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes,
and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

2 Corinthians 1:20

So once again, saying “yes” to Jesus and His victory on our behalf is part of the exercising of our authority. This is a vital part of our submission to Him. The Scripture teaches us that all the promises of God in Christ Jesus are yes and amen. God has already done His part in securing our victory through Christ’s redemption, but now our “yes and amen” is required! We must speak up and speak out, boldly claiming and receiving what’s ours! — *“Thank You, Lord! It’s mine! According to Your Word, I believe I have it now! Hallelujah!”*

◆ **We must *speak up* and *speak out*, boldly claiming and receiving what’s ours!**

Think about this example:

In order to be born again and become God’s child, you needed to say “yes” to Jesus. Isn’t that true? It wasn’t okay to remain neutral. (Matt 10:32) Even though Jesus had already paid the full price for your sins and salvation, it was still necessary for you to believe the good news of the Gospel and then SPEAK UP, calling upon Jesus as your own Lord and Savior. (Rom 10:13) In doing this, whether you recognized it or not, you were exercising your authority.

Well, the same is true for every good thing that God offers us in His Kingdom. The New Testament teaches us that *“with the heart we believe”* and with our mouths *“confession is made unto salvation.”* (Rom 10:10) The way we entered God’s Kingdom (believing and speaking) is the same way we continue to live successfully and advance in His Kingdom. (Col 2:6) Our confession allows for possession!

◆ **The way we entered God’s Kingdom (believing and speaking) is the same way we continue to live successfully and advance in His Kingdom.**

Why Am I Allowing This?

Too many are carelessly just leaving everything up to God, not realizing that He has left the responsibility of both receiving (saying yes) and resisting (saying no) within our hands! We really do have authority! This is *OUR PART* in our partnership with God as His ruling representative on earth.

Consider what Jesus teaches us in **Matthew 16:19** (NLT):

*"And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.
Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and
whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

Wait a minute! Read that again! "*Whatever YOU forbid? Whatever YOU permit?*" Does that mean I have something to say about this situation and circumstance I'm facing? Yes, it does! It seems clear here that Jesus has left much more in our own hands than we may have realized!

Notice here who has the keys. Jesus said "*I will give YOU the keys.*" Keys give access to things, whether it be a key to your house, a car, or in this case, the kingdom of heaven. Keys represent control and authority. In the example of a car, the one with the key is the one responsible for where that car goes and what happens with the car.



Let's not forget that we have already received the Kingdom of God. It's ours now! Jesus came to translate us into His eternal Kingdom and to place that Kingdom within each one of us. This same Kingdom comes with "keys," allowing us to purposefully operate in spiritual realities which change situations upon the earth. These keys give us CONTROL. That's another way to describe our authority (Lk 12:32; Col 1:13; Lk 17:21)

- ◆ **The Kingdom of God comes with "keys" which allow us to purposefully operate in spiritual realities which change situations upon the earth.**

The New Century Version makes this verse even more clear:

*“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; **the things you don’t allow** on earth will be the things that God does not allow, and **the things you allow** on earth will be the things that God allows.”*

Matthew 16:19 (NCV)

Have you ever found yourself in an undesirable situation and heard yourself think or ask, “*God, why are You allowing this?*” This is all too common in the lives of many of God’s people! Although you may feel legitimately perplexed by your situation, this sort of thinking and questioning will only leave you neutralized, unable to exercise any dominion or authority. As an authorized heir of God’s Kingdom, this is really the wrong question to be asking.

Rather than asking, “*God, why are You allowing this?*” a more appropriate question might be, “*Why am I allowing this?*” Wow! Now that’s empowering!

We should always seek to find out exactly where we have authority, and then make sure we are doing our part. In this verse, Jesus is telling us that God will allow whatever we allow. You may want to read that verse again!

Prayer vs Authority

I think it’s important to clarify that Jesus really isn’t talking about prayer in this passage. He is referring to the exercising of our authority. Although these two (prayer and authority) often overlap, there is a difference.

In the Christian life, we have somehow made “prayer” the answer to everything, when in reality praying prayers is only PART of the equation when it comes to a life of dominion. There is a time to pray to God, but there is also a time to exercise your authority. That’s when you rise up and speak, taking action based upon God’s revealed will to you! This is the time when you skillfully and purposefully use one of the keys of God’s Kingdom! That’s what this verse is referring to. (See [Appendix F – “Keys Of The Kingdom”](#) on page 209.)

Let’s consider a practical, natural example:

Suppose you have just spent the entire day thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting your house, from top to bottom. Finally, exhausted and satisfied with what you have accomplished, you sit down to relax and enjoy a cool drink. What you don’t realize is that one of your children forgot to close the back door to your home. Suddenly the neighbor’s dog runs into your clean house! It’s a rainy day, and that dog has been outside playing in a muddy creek bed nearby. He is wet and covered in filth! Let me ask you, “*What would you do?*”

Would you stop and call for a prayer meeting? Would you gather the intercessors from the church? Would you fall to your knees and ask The Lord to get the dog out of your house? No, I dare say you wouldn't! Now is not the time for prayer. I will tell you what you would do. You would find a broom or whatever you could get your hands on and run that dirty dog out of your house! That's authority!

Here's another example:

What would you think about a traffic enforcer who is officially stationed out in the midst of a busy intersection to control the flow of traffic, and yet he's constantly on his radio calling headquarters and asking the police station to come stop the traffic? Those at headquarters would probably be scratching their heads, thinking, "Hey! That's why we put you there! That's your job! Don't worry, we will be here to back you up as you do your job and exercise your authority!"

Believers, Receivers, and Executors

*The Lord gives voice before His army, for His camp
is very great; for **strong is the One who executes His word.**
For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?
Joel 2:11*

As you study the life of Jesus, you will find that He regularly withdrew from others to pray. This was His lifestyle. Jesus spent much time in prayer and fellowship with His Father. (Mk 1:35; Matt 14:23; Lk 5:16) This lifestyle of prayer allowed Him to know the will of His Father and what The Father wanted Him to do. But then, interestingly enough, as Jesus walked and ministered among the people, we rarely see him praying prayers. But what do we observe? We see Jesus regularly exercising His authority! We find him EXECUTING the will of His Father. (Joel 2:11; Isa 46:11)

Jesus spoke directly to sickness, disease, demons, and storms. Generally speaking, He didn't pray about these things. So why should we? He is our example! We are often trying to pray about things that we should be speaking to directly. Jesus is a perfect picture of authority in action! We are also to exercise our authority in the same manner.

◆ Jesus is a perfect picture of authority in action!

Jesus lived a humble life as one "in charge" as He submitted Himself to the Father's will. Oftentimes we don't associate humility with "being in charge," but if God has so graciously given you a place of authority and responsibility, then

the most humble thing you can do is to take that place and rule! After all, you did not authorize yourself. He has authorized you! By you taking the place of rulership that is freely yours through grace, you are honoring Jesus Christ — the One who gave you that place!



If God has so graciously given us a place of authority and responsibility, then the most humble thing we can do is to take that place and rule!

The more my mind becomes renewed to God's Word, I can see clearly how I am designed to function on earth in terms of my identity and my partnership with God:

I am a **BELIEVER**; I believe God's Word.

I am a **RECEIVER**; I receive from my Heavenly Father; including His will, His wisdom, His provision, and His direction.

I am an **EXECUTOR**; I execute God's counsel and His will as His representative.

This is the life of authority! The same is true concerning you!

Friend, the things written here are not "religion," nor are they the ideas of any man. They are the words of Jesus! Whatever you allow, heaven will allow. Whatever you forbid, heaven will forbid. Religion has made spiritual beggars out of far too many people, but God has called you to rule!

Authority = Responsibility

I have found that a life of dominion and authority will always put the responsibility for the outcome squarely back on my own shoulders. Another way of saying it is this, "*It's up to you!*" Isn't that what Jesus is saying in this verse in Matthew 16?



**Here's another way to describe your authority:
"It's up to you!"**

Please don't misunderstand. This is not to say that we can in any way take God's place as the One who performs and backs up His Word. That is His job exclusively!

(Lk 1:45; Jer 1:12) We are not confused about that! But we are responsible to decide what will be allowed and what will not be allowed in those areas where we have been given authority. God cannot and will not do this for us! We should be crystal clear as to our part (that which only we can do) and God's part (that which only He can do) so as not to confuse the two.

Each one of us must know and then decide for ourselves:

- What's okay and what's not okay?
- What's allowed and what's not allowed?
- What's acceptable and what's not acceptable?

IT'S UP TO YOU! If we don't make these kinds of determinations, the enemy will be able to take advantage of us in ways that he shouldn't be able to.

For some, the responsibility which accompanies a life of true authority seems too much to bear, making it much easier to just say "*God is in control!*" no matter what the outcome is. But if you want to begin to rule then you must also accept the responsibility which accompanies your authority. Once you accept the responsibility, you will be in a much better position for the Lord to teach you what you need to know. It's difficult to teach someone who is always making excuses and passing blame.

◆ **If you want to begin to rule then you must also accept the responsibility which accompanies your authority.**

Yes, authority and responsibility always go hand in hand. But here's the good news regarding this truth:

In any area that you truly have authority,
you always have something to say about the final outcome in your life!

Wow! I like that! In fact, if you don't have a say in the matter, then you don't really have authority, now do you? But if you do have authority, then you do have a say, so you'd better speak up!



**If you have authority then you have a say in the matter,
so you'd better speak up!**

And here's some good news! The Holy Spirit within you will even enable you to *speak supernaturally!* He will give you words to speak! This is why it's so impor-

tant for every believer to humbly receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jesus told us that we would “receive power” when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. (Acts 1:8) Included within that power is the ability to *speaK supernaturally!*

What are you saying about your body and your health?

What are you saying about your marriage and relationships?

What are you saying about your financial status?

What are you saying about the lives of your children?

What are you saying about the ministry entrusted to you?

What are you saying about God’s plan being accomplished in your life?

What are you saying about the kind of life you desire to live?

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit within you will enable you to speak supernaturally! He will give you a flow of words to declare over those areas where you have been given responsibility.**

If I have authority in a certain area, then I am also responsible to seek the will of the one who gave me the authority in that area, and then ensure that things are being handled according to His will and desire. That’s my part! As Jesus is pointing out, this will also require that I put my foot down from time to time. As a ruling one, “*Not allowed!*” will become a regular, working part of your vocabulary!

With this understanding, that with authority comes responsibility, it will prove advantageous to discover for yourself exactly where you have authority and where you don’t. These will be the areas where you are responsible. (See [Appendix E – “Where Do I Have Authority?”](#) on pg. 201.)

Spiritual Gatekeepers and Traffic Enforcers

*Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee:
and the light shall shine upon thy ways.*

Job 22:28 (KJV)

As those in authority, another appropriate question would be, “*What has God’s Word said about this situation?*” Too often, we are waiting around for God to do something about our problems and situations, when He is the One waiting upon us to speak up and authorize heaven’s supernatural involvement in our lives.

As has already been mentioned, this is often done by *SPEAKING FORTH* God’s Word. **We rule through decree!** But in order to do this, I must be clear about

God's will and what He has said. This will give me boldness and confidence. (See *"Ruling with Your Words"* on pg. 159.)

As one in authority, begin to see yourself as a "spiritual gatekeeper" of sorts, deciding what will be allowed in your sphere of authority and what will not be allowed. It's up to you to swing the door open to that which God and you want, and then to slam the door closed on those things which God and you do not want!

You see, it's not just what God wants that matters. In the life of authority it also matters what you want! We should line up our will and desires with God's will. This is where we will find power and authority released! (Amos 3:3)

The New International Version of this same verse in Job 22 says it this way: *"What you DECIDE ON will be done."* So which is it? Is it what you decree, or what you decide? It's both! Our declarations and decrees of authority should be based upon our discovery of God's will and then our firm decision to line up with His will.

◆ **In the life of authority it doesn't just matter what God wants. It also matters what you want! We should line up our will and desires with God's will.**

As one in authority, begin to see yourself much like the traffic enforcer, which was previously mentioned. See yourself as an authorized "enforcer" with a badge on your chest, a bold yellow-colored glove on your hand, and a whistle in your mouth. It's now up to you to blow the whistle on those things which are not allowed and to wave a welcoming hand for those things which you deem to be good and acceptable according to God's Word. Some things are to be received, whereas other things are to be resisted.

Think of it this way: If you don't "blow your whistle," you are likely to have chaos on the streets and highways of your own life. It's up to us to declare God's words and to usher-in "divine order" into our places of authority; and to do so at the direction of the Holy Spirit and under His inspiration.

◆ **It's up to us to declare God's words and to usher-in divine order into our places of authority.**

When the pressure is on, you may find yourself wanting to ask God to do something about the situation, whereas He will remind you that you are the one authorized with the badge, the colored glove, and the whistle. And you are the one who has been given The Name of Jesus to rule with. (See *"Ruling with The Name of Jesus"* on page 163.)

- So blow your whistle!
- Rise up and issue your decree!
- State what shall be allowed in your life and what shall not be allowed according to what God has already spoken!

It's only as we exercise our authority that heaven is then able to back us up and stand by that which we have personally authorized. God's Word is forever established and settled in heaven — it's done! But if we want to see it established and settled in our own lives on earth, then we must be willing to step up, speak up, and use our authority! It won't happen automatically. (Ps 119:89; Job 22:28)

Speak Light in the Midst of Darkness

(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations")
in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead
and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
Romans 4:17

Do you see it? As authorized ones, we must learn to say yes to victory...yes to healing...yes to abundance...yes to the Holy Spirit...and yes to the plan of God! And we must do so in the face of opposition and apparent defeat. Just like God, we are to speak of those things that do not yet exist as though they did!



As authorized ones, we must learn to say yes to victory, even in the face of opposition and apparent defeat.

Did you catch that? This is the place where some people fall off! This is something that must be done *in the face* of lying symptoms, contradictory evidence, and a bad report. This is part of the good fight of faith!

As God's ruling ones, we are called to "*walk by faith and not by sight.*" (2 Cor 5:7) This means we rule according to what God has said, no matter what may be happening around us. We are to hold fast to God's Word and Jesus' victory report! We now recognize that what we currently see and feel is *subject to change* as we stand firm and exercise our authority, boldly speaking God's Word. (2 Cor 4:18)

- ◆ **What we currently see and feel is subject to change as we stand firm and exercise our authority, boldly speaking God's Word.**

We are to imitate our Father God and speak “light” (God’s Word) in the midst of whatever darkness may be around us or in our midst. (Eph 5:1; Gen 1:1–3) **Since we are living in the midst of a fallen, broken planet, this is something we will need to do routinely, again and again throughout the course of our lifetime.** Perseverance will be required. This is a normal part of the life of an overcomer! (Heb 6:12; Heb 10:36)

Friend, you are a world overcomer in Christ! Are you speaking up and speaking out in those areas where you have been given authority? Remember this: No one can do your speaking for you in an area where you have been personally authorized!

Ruling through Our Choices

Let me relate this life of authority in yet another way — we must CHOOSE LIFE. This may be the simplest and easiest to grasp of all!

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live;*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Your God-given right “to choose” is simply another way to describe your authority. Your choice is your authority in action! One way we rule is through our choices.



Your choice is your authority in action!

Stop for a moment and think about how powerful our choices are! Our choices are up to us. Isn’t that true? No one can really choose for you! Even in an instance where you allow someone to make a decision on your behalf, or should you decide not to choose at all, that was still your choice. Your own choice is something that belongs exclusively to you!

Our own free-will and freedom to choose for ourselves in life is one of God’s greatest love gifts to us! God Himself will not override our choices. That’s why it’s so important that we acknowledge the Lord and submit our choices to Him and His Word so that we can rule and reign in life.

As this verse in Deuteronomy points out, if you want to rule and reign, it will be necessary to “choose life,” even though “death” may also be an option right

before your eyes. You must choose the path which allows for God's blessing, even though the alternative path may seem to be the shorter, easier, and more obvious road. Doing so will allow you to continue to rule and reign in life!

◆ **We must choose life and blessing, even though death and the curse are right before our eyes.**

Because of the fallen world we live in, these voices of death, the curse, sickness, poverty, defeat, and compromise will often seem to be the most dominant and scream the loudest. **Yet...your choice is still more powerful!** What a life-changing revelation! I will say it again: Your choice is still more powerful!

So, choose life! Choose God's will! Choose His blessing! Choose His best! Make these choices **ON PURPOSE** and do so **WITH YOUR WORDS**. And do so even though death, fear, and the curse may be calling the loudest.



**Choose life! Choose it on purpose.
And do so with your words.**

Choose to speak words of life! These are words which are in agreement with your redemption, deliverance, and victory in Christ. After all, the power of both life and death have been placed under the jurisdiction of your own tongue. (Prov 18:21; Mk 11:23)

Our choices are powerful! Not only do they affect our current situations and circumstances, but our choices are also affecting our descendants after us. Because of the reality that *"none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself,"* the ripple effect of our personal choices always goes well beyond our own lives. (Rom 14:7)

Just how powerful are your choices? Think about this:

You chose Jesus, and that choice delivered you from the dominion of darkness. As much as Satan and all the hosts of darkness would have liked to have stopped this from happening, there was really nothing they could do to stop it! **Your choice was more powerful!** And why was that? Because your choice was based upon something that Jesus had already accomplished on the cross for you many years ago! Your choice was in alignment with God's revealed Word and will.

I have learned some powerful things about my choices:

I can choose life.

I can choose blessing.

I can choose my words.
 I can choose what I believe.
 I can choose my attitude.
 I can choose what I think about.
 I can choose what I listen to.
 I can choose to rejoice.
 I can choose to forgive.
 I can choose to forget the past.
 I can choose to give my life to God.
 I can choose to go forward.
 I can choose how I allocate my money.
 I can choose my friends.
 I can choose my responses.
 I can choose not to fear.
 I can choose not to doubt.
 I can choose victory.

That's a pretty powerful life! The subject of authority can be somewhat simplified when we think of it in terms of our choices. And what makes our choices most powerful? **Our choices become most powerful when they are in line with Jesus' victory and God's eternal words!**

Friend, no matter how dire your situation may seem to be, all hope is not lost. The battle is not over unless you say it is. You can still choose life! It's time to open up your mouth and declare with resolve:

"I choose life in this situation! I choose health! I choose Jesus! I choose to believe God and not doubt! I choose victory!"

Put Your Foot Down! A Strong Yes and An Equally Strong No

*He [Abraham] did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, **and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.***

Romans 4:20–21

While we are on this final fundamental of rulership, let's take this one step further. In addition to knowing what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to, **my yes and no should be very strong**, both directions! In other words, I must be fully convinced and persuaded. (Rom 4:20–21; Rom 14:5)



**In order to rule, I must have a strong “yes”
and an equally strong “no.”**

Why does this matter? My very strong “yes” is my submission to God, while my very strong “no” is my stance against the enemy and the evil he desires to bring.

Jesus spoke about the quality of both our “yes” and “no” in the Gospel of Matthew.

*But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’
For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*

Matthew 5:37

Can you see what the Lord is saying in the context of this message? It’s as if He is saying this:

“If you are going to say “yes,” then know for sure what you are saying yes to, and make it a STRONG YES. If you are going to have a “no” then be certain about what you are saying no to and make it a STRONG NO. Anything other than a strong yes and a strong no will not produce the results you are looking for! Being double-minded is the enemies’ territory!”

What does a strong yes and an equally strong no reveal?

It reveals CONFIDENCE.

It reveals CERTAINTY.

It reveals A SINGLE MIND.

Here’s something about faith in God that is rarely emphasized as it should be: **Real faith in God is always confident, certain, and sure!** Always! You cannot rule with a double mind! (Jas 1:6–8) This is extremely significant.

*Now **faith is being sure** of what we hope for
and **certain** of what we do not see.*

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Real faith in God is also bold. Where does this boldness come from? Our boldness comes from:

- 1.) Knowing what God has said
- 2.) Knowing the absolute integrity of the One Who said it

God cannot lie, and He will not fail! All of God’s promises are blood-backed, covenant promises. Jesus is the surety of this New Covenant, with all its promises. (Num 23:19; Heb 6:18; Heb 7:22; Heb 13:20)

So, if I discover that I don't have a strong yes and an equally strong no in any particular area of my life, it simply means I still have uncertainty in that area. Or perhaps I still haven't made up my mind. I'm not really in a position to rule. Can you see that? This often goes overlooked.

In any place that I am uncertain or still undecided about God's will, there is at least some degree of "darkness" present and you can be sure that Satan is hiding out there somewhere in the shadows, taking advantage of my ignorance and indecision. He still has some degree of access, and I won't be ruling in that area of my life as I should.

With lingering doubts and questions as to God's will in any area, I won't be able to boldly take my receiving position under God's Word, standing against the enemy. **My hesitancy will rob me of my authority.** (Matt 14:31)

So what to do in such cases? There is certainly no profit in my feeling bad or condemning myself about my uncertainty. Working through doubts and uncertainty is a normal part of spiritual growth. But rather than pretending everything is okay and presumptuously trying to exercise my authority, instead I should be honest about my hesitation and ask the Lord for help, so that the Holy Spirit can reveal God's will to me with absolute certainty. He wants me to be able to live with confidence!

This is something that the Holy Spirit is always willing and eager to do! In fact, this is one of the main reasons that He came — *"that we might KNOW the things that have been freely given to us by God"* and *"to guide us into all truth."* (1 Cor 2:12; Jn 16:13)

God wants us TO KNOW. He wants us to be certain of His will. (Eph 5:17) God will enable us to live with confidence, but honesty and humility are required on our part. I cannot pretend to be sure of something that I am genuinely not sure about.



**God wants you TO KNOW.
He wants you to be certain of His will.**

If we ask for help, God will also faithfully send PREACHERS into our lives to give us Bible knowledge and to reinforce any area that we may have uncertainty. This is why it's so vitally important to be associated with strong teaching and preaching ministries. This is why it's also necessary to be part of a church family with a skillful shepherd (pastor) who will feed us with knowledge and

understanding. These ministries are God's gift to us and an important part of a life of dominion! (Jer 3:15; Eph 4:8,11)

◆ **It's vitally important to be part of a church family and associated with strong teaching and preaching ministries.**

As you seek God, He will be faithful to reveal His will to you. As you seek, you will find! And what you will discover is that God has already made up his mind about you and the situation you are facing. **But now it's time to make up your own mind!**

Now it's time to establish your position!

Now it's time to take your stand and not be moved!

Now it's time to put your foot down where necessary!

You might be surprised to know that God is not interested in you having a weak and broken will. Of course, He desires that we be open and willing to do whatever His will requires. But once we have discovered His will, He needs us to make up our minds about it. He has not called us to be indecisive, waffling and wavering. **God wants us to be strong-willed to do His will!** (Acts 20:24; Isa 50:7)



**God wants us to be strong-willed to do His will.
Once we discover God's will, He needs us
to make up our minds about it!**

When it comes to God's Word and will, we should be like a stubborn old mule that won't get up and move from the middle of the road for anything! We refuse to budge!

When it comes to God's Word and His revealed will, we should be like a bulldog that has locked its jaw upon a bone and refuses to let go! We can't be moved!

This posture is required for us to rule and reign!

This is why we must take the necessary time and steps to know the will of God and be fully persuaded about it! If we are to rule in the midst of our enemies, we should have a confident "yes" and an unwavering "no."

Friend, I want you to know that you are not standing alone. Once you discover God's will and take your stand, you are standing with God! You shall not be moved! But the enemy shall be moved! And you shall prevail! There is no stronger, more victorious place to be than standing firmly in agreement with God!



CHAPTER FOUR

A FINAL NOTE: OFFERING YOURSELF FREELY

*The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand
until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
The Lord will stretch out Your strong scepter from Zion,
saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." **Your people will
volunteer freely in the day of Your power...***
Psalm 110:1-3 (NASB)

God's charge to you today is to rule in the midst of your enemies! Is it possible? Very possible! But it is worth noting that this charge from God to rule is written in the context of volunteering yourself freely unto Him. A life that's consecrated unto God and His will is necessary and will serve you well in your life of dominion and authority.



**We cannot separate a life of ruling and reigning
from a life of volunteering ourselves freely.**

Have you offered yourself freely unto the Lord, consecrating your life to Him? Here's the language of someone who has offered himself freely to God, to do His will. If this is your heart, you can even pray this right now.

Father God, here am I! I offer myself to You!

With Your help and by Your grace, I will go where You send me and do what You want me to do!

*I am Yours, Lord Jesus! Use me as You desire and help me to fulfill Your plan.
I choose to yield myself to You!*

Thank You, Jesus, for Your victory on my behalf. I purpose to adjust myself to the truth that You so graciously reveal to me by Your Spirit. Thank You for helping me to live a life of dominion and victory to Your glory! Amen!

I know there are many willing volunteers reading this right now! The Lord is raising up a mighty army of willing vessels! And by God's grace, you are one of them!



SECTION 3

TOOLS
FOR
RULING



CHAPTER ONE

FAITH FOR RULING

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

Faith for Ruling comes to us by hearing God's Word about this particular subject.

Everything in the Kingdom of God works by faith, motivated by love. In other words, Kingdom things become operational in our lives when we BELIEVE what God says about them; believing to the point that we ACT upon God's words. This life of faith affects both what we say and what we do.

The following verses have been selected to feed your faith for RULING.

Take time to read through these verses again and again, even speaking and personalizing them. **God's words will create an image of dominion and victory on the inside of you.** You have been designed to rule and reign in Christ Jesus!

God's Will for You to Rule

Genesis 1:26-27

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, overall the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Psalm 145:13

*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and **Your dominion endures throughout all generations.***

Psalm 8:4-6

*What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?
For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,*

Psalm 34:19

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but **the Lord delivers him out of them all.***

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.***

James 4:7

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

1 Peter 5:8-9

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him, steadfast in the faith,** knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

1 John 5:1,4-5

*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world.** And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

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.*

Deuteronomy 28:7

“The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.”

2 Timothy 4:18

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Acts 5:38-39

“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Psalm 115:16

*The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; but **the earth He has given to the children of men.***

Revelation 5:9-10

*And they sang a new song, saying:
 "You are worthy to take the scroll,
 And to open its seals;
 For You were slain,
 And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
 Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
 And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."*

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.*

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.*

Matthew 16:18-19

*And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

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.*

1 Corinthians 15:57

*But thanks be to God, **who gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 2:14

*Now thanks be to God **who always leads us in triumph in Christ**, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

Joshua 1:3,5

"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."

Genesis 4:7

*"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but **you should rule over it.**"*

Psalms 41:10-11

*But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them. By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because **my enemy does not triumph over me.***

Jude 20,24

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

*Now to **Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,** and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

Mark 16:15-18

*And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **And these signs will follow those who believe:** In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 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."*

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."*



CHAPTER TWO

RULING IN YOUR THOUGHT LIFE

*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**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Spiritual warfare takes place daily in the realm of our thought life and in what we think. This is often where rulership begins! A disciplined thought life is essential to a life of dominion and authority. Whatever we think and dwell upon is what will ultimately govern our lives.

It is extremely liberating and empowering once you discover the following truth from God's Word:

"My mind is MY MIND. I can think whatever I choose to think. I don't have to think anything I don't want to think."

Knowing that you have authority over your own mind is life-changing! We have the power to proactively do both of the following:

- o **To choose those thoughts that we want to think.** This is why The Bible says *"Think on these things."* (Phil 4:8) If we didn't have a choice then we wouldn't be told what to think about.
- o **To reject and cast down any thoughts that we don't want to think.** This is why The Bible tells us to cast down imaginations and *"bring every thought into captivity."* (2 Cor 10:4-5)

God has really placed the authority of our minds within our own control!

The enemy may present thoughts to your mind, even doing so repeatedly, but that doesn't mean that you must receive those thoughts. Each of us has the authority over our own mind.

As I once heard someone say, “*You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.*” The same is true in regards to what we think. Thoughts may come to our minds, but that doesn't mean we must continue to think on those thoughts. **We always have a choice as to what we are going to meditate and dwell upon.**

Part of controlling what we think depends upon what we are allowing ourselves to watch and listen to. This is where *personal boundaries* will serve you well! Much unnecessary warfare can be eliminated, simply by constructing some healthy boundaries as to what you choose to read, watch, and listen to.

Ruling in your thought life can be best practiced using your WORDS. We can proactively choose and plant the thoughts we want by *speaking words*, and we can forcefully reject and cast down thoughts that don't belong by *speaking words*. Both must be done! Speak what you want...cast down what you don't want!

This will require awareness and diligence, but God has designed us in such a way that our minds will always stop to hear what is coming out of our mouths. **Putting God's words in your mouth allows you to operate in dominion over your mind.** You can control your mind with your mouth!



You can control your mind with your mouth.

It's very easy to overlook this basic area of authority (Ruling in Your Thought Life) because it doesn't sound nearly as exciting as an actual face to face combat with the prince of darkness! However, this area of authority — over our minds — can prove to be one of the most significant areas of all.

Why is this true?

Because as we think, we will believe.

And as we believe, we will speak.

And the things we believe and speak are those things which will ultimately control our lives.

It all begins in the mind!

Here are some verses pertaining to Ruling in Your Thought Life:

2 Timothy 1:7

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a **sound mind**.*

1 Corinthians 2:16

For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Colossians 3:1-3

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Isaiah 26:3

*You will keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on You,** because he trusts in You.*

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.***

Romans 8:5-6

*For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace.***

RULING WITH YOUR WORDS

*You will also declare a thing,
and it will be established for you;
so light will shine on your ways.*

Job 22:28

Dominion and authority is often exercised through *WORDS* – through what we say! Both death and life can be found in the power of your own tongue. (Prov 18:21) I often remind people of this simple truth:

“If you have a tongue, then you have power!”

As long as you can still open your mouth and *SAY SOMETHING*, then you are neither helpless nor powerless. In truth, since Jesus’ triumph, your deliverance is not any farther away than *your heart and your mouth*. “*The word (the answer) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*” (Rom 10:8–10; Ps 107:20)

For whatever reason, I have found this to be an area where we must be reminded again and again. ***“Your words have power, so rise up and say something!”***

As I become aware of the power and significance of my words, the question now becomes:

- o *What am I doing with this power?*
- o *In what direction am I channeling my words?*
- o *What words am I speaking about my life and the situations I’m facing?*
- o *Am I speaking “life,” or am I speaking “death”?*
- o *Have I become careless and undisciplined with my speech?*
- o *Have I allowed myself to be overcome with negative speaking and complaining?*
- o *Am I speaking the problem and circumstance? Or am I speaking the answer of God’s Word of deliverance?*
- o *Am I speaking words that propel me forward? Or am I speaking words that hold me back?*
- o *Am I speaking words that build up and create what I desire? Or am I speaking words that tear down and destroy?*

The enemy knows full well the power and authority of our words. That's why one of his tricks is to try to get us to speak in line with what we see and how we feel, rather than speaking in line with the unchanging report of God's Word. In doing so, he is able to get us to authorize things that even God Himself does not want for us.

That's how powerful your words are! They can even be more powerful than God's Word and God's will in your own life. God may will and desire one thing for your life, but He cannot bring it to pass if you won't agree with Him and speak accordingly. We don't want our words to be "*stout against Him.*" (Mal 3:13 KJV; Num 14:28)

It really does matter what we say! As I once heard someone say, "*Sometimes what we need is a check-up from the neck-up!*" In other words, we need to check up on what words are coming out of our mouths. It can mean the difference between life and death, between victory or defeat. There are times, especially when the pressure is on, when we must guard our mouths and our tongues.

*Whoever guards his mouth and tongue
keeps his soul from troubles.*

Proverbs 21:23

Your words of faith have creative power! (Isa 57:19; Prov 18:20) Not only is it important to be aware of what we are saying so as not to give place to the adversary; but we must also learn to *use our words on purpose*, to release and to create what we desire.

The power of binding and loosing can be released through words! We have the power to release what we desire and to forbid what we do not desire. Jesus told us that *WE WOULD HAVE WHAT WE SAY* if we believe and do not doubt in our hearts. (Matt 18:18; Mk 11:23)

God has given us authority to declare and decree things! This is a normal part of how we operate as sons of God. As kings we rule through decree! We don't just speak what we see — we speak *WHAT WE DESIRE!* This allows "*light to shine upon our ways.*" In other words, it allows for God's direction to enter our situation — direction which will bring us to victory when we act upon it! (Job 22:28)

The Word of God in your mouth is *THE WORD OF DOMINION.* Those who rule and reign in life have learned the power of controlling their own tongues and using their words on purpose, even calling things that do not exist as if they do exist. (Rom 4:17)

Jesus is the High Priest of our confession! If we want to rule and reign, then our words and speech should line up and be in submission to God's Word and Jesus' finished work on the cross.

As our great High Priest, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, faithfully watching over His words in our mouths to perform them. (Heb 3:1; Heb 8:1; Jer 1:12)



As our High Priest, Jesus is watching over His words in our mouths to perform them.

This is why we are told to “*hold fast to our confession*” of God's Word, despite the pressure that comes through what we may see and feel around us. This is often where life's battles are won or lost. (Heb 4:1; Heb 10:23)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 4:14

Jesus operated in dominion on earth through His words. He spoke to demons, sickness, a fig tree, and a storm. And they obeyed Him! Jesus did so as our example, even telling us that we can do the same works and even greater! (Jn 14:12)

Here are some more scriptures about the power of your words:

Proverbs 18:20–21

*A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled. **Death and life are in the power of the tongue**, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Isaiah 57:19

“I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,” says the Lord, “And I will heal him.”

James 3:2 (CEV)

All of us do many wrong things. But if you can control your tongue, you are mature and able to control your whole body.

Mark 11:22–23

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not

*doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, **he will have whatever he says.***

Proverbs 12:6

*The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," but **the mouth of the upright will deliver them.***

Revelation 1:5–6; Ecclesiastes 8:4

*...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father...*

***Where the word of a king is, there is power;** and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"*

Hebrews 10:23

***Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,** for He who promised is faithful.*

Jeremiah 1:9–10

*Then the Lord put forth His hand and **touched my mouth**, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, **I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.**"*



CHAPTER FOUR

RULING WITH THE NAME OF JESUS

*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him
the name which is above every name, that at **the name of Jesus**
every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and
of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11

The Name of Jesus is the Name above every other name, and it has been given to you to use!

Whatever you do...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col 3:17)

Whatever you ask of the Father, ask in the Name of Jesus. (Jn 16:23)

Whatever you demand of the enemy, demand it in Jesus' Name! (Jn 14:13)

Jesus has authorized you as His representative. You have been commissioned to go forth and to carry out His will and wishes. You are no longer acting in your own name. You are no longer moving in your own name. You belong to God! You are His! You are now acting and moving in HIS NAME — the Name of Jesus!

Jesus' Name carries His authority! His Name represents all that Jesus is and all that He accomplished through His total victory on the cross. What an honor to pray in His name! What a privilege to speak in His Name!

What can you do in His Name?

You can ASK and receive from your Heavenly Father IN HIS NAME. (Jn 16:23-24)

You can heal the sick IN HIS NAME. (Mk 16:18; Acts 3:6)

You can exercise authority over evil spirits IN HIS NAME. (Matt 16:17; Lk 10:17; Acts 16:18)

You can declare and decree the will of God IN HIS NAME. (Job 22:28)

You can speak to your body IN HIS NAME.

You can resist fear IN HIS NAME. (2 Tim 1:7)

You can command finances and resources to come IN HIS NAME. (Phil 4:19)

You can speak peace to the storm IN HIS NAME. (Mk 4:39)

You can bind Satan and command him to leave IN HIS NAME. (Matt 18:18)

You are Christ's. All things are yours! Including His Name! (1 Cor 3:21–22)

The enemy (Satan) doesn't mind so much if you speak to others about "God." He has no problem with you mentioning "a higher power." He is fine with you talking about your church or your religion. But what Satan is terrified of is THAT NAME — JESUS. For that Name reminds him of his defeat. Our authority is found in that Name! And there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved! (Acts 4:17–18; Col 2:15; Acts 4:12)

Let's be bold to use His Name!

What a glorious Name! What an excellent Name! There is no greater name or higher name — Jesus. *"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth."* (Ps 8:1; Heb 1:4)

The Name of Jesus is much more than some sort of "lucky charm" that we attach to the end of our prayers. It is important for us to **develop faith in His name**. We can only rule and reign as we exercise faith in the Name of Jesus. That means we must really believe in the power and authority of His Name when we use it.

As you meditate on the following verses, they will feed your faith to boldly use The Name of Jesus!

Psalm 8:1

*O Lord, our Lord, **how excellent is Your name in all the earth**, who have set Your glory above the heavens!*

Acts 3:16

*And **His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong**, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

Luke 10:17–19

*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.*

Mark 16:15,17-18

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 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.**"*

John 14:13

*And **whatever you ask (demand) in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.***

Acts 4:12

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for **there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"*

Colossians 3:17

*And **whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.***

Acts 4:17-18

*"But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that **from now on they speak to no man in this name.**" So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*

John 16:23

*"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.**"*



CHAPTER FIVE

RULING THROUGH REJOICING AND PRAISE

*Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.*

Psalm 67:5-6

Rejoicing, praise, and giving thanks to God is perhaps the ultimate expression of faith!

When we really believe that we are victorious...

When we really believe that God is for us and not against us...

When we really believe God's Word is true...

When we really believe that we have what God has promised...

When we really believe that God has heard our prayer...

...it's only but normal and natural to sing, shout, rejoice, praise, give thanks, and worship God. (1 Pet 1:8)

Praising God is a powerful tool among our spiritual weapons. How powerful? When God's people praise Him "*the earth shall yield her increase.*" Praise precedes the increase of God in our lives!

A life of victory is inseparable from a life of praise! This is a significant part of a ruling and reigning lifestyle.



A life of victory is inseparable from a life of praise.

I have found that it's not really possible for me to say that I believe God's report and yet still be sad, discouraged, and depressed. After all, if I really believe then why am I still so upset?

The truth is: If I'm responding this way, maybe I don't really believe as I should, or as I say I do. Maybe I need to cast aside doubt and unbelief and make a decision to once again stir myself up and lay hold of what God has said. If I really believe God there will be rejoicing, praise, and a note of victory in my heart. For this reason, my praise life is one way I can accurately diagnose myself: *Am I really in faith?*

***I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.***

*My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;
The humble shall hear of it and be glad.*

***Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His name together.***

Psalm 34:1-3

Praise, rejoicing, and thanksgiving are not only indicators of true faith, but these are also tools which can be used to help us stay “on top” in our rightful place of victory and authority, even bringing confusion to the enemies’ plans and strategies against us. The enemy really doesn’t know what to do with someone who has made up his mind to “*bless the Lord at all times*” and to continually praise Him.

◆ **A life of rejoicing and praise is a tool which will help you to stay “on top” and in your rightful place of victory and authority.**

The Psalmist proclaims, “*Oh magnify the Lord with me. Let us exalt His name together.*” Why did He say “magnify the Lord”? Can we really make the Lord bigger than He already is? No, He’s big and great all by Himself, whether anyone praises and magnifies Him or not. But I have found that when I magnify Him through praise and worship, He becomes magnified and bigger IN MY OWN EYES. This is very important for my life of faith and dominion.

My praise, worship, rejoicing, and thanksgiving enables me to refocus, gain proper perspective, and begin to see The Lord more and more as He truly is — GREAT! He is The Almighty, with Whom nothing is impossible! And perhaps the best part is this — HE IS FOR US! This always brings whatever obstacle we are facing down to size.

◆ **Our praise and worship enables us to refocus and gain a more proper perspective of just how big and mighty our God is.**

It’s good to remind ourselves of the role that praise and rejoicing has played in victories recorded in The Bible. For example:

- The seemingly “insurmountable” walls of Jericho came down with A SHOUT. (Joshua 6:20)

- o Jehoshaphat sent out the singers and praisers ahead of the armies of Judah, and their enemies were confounded. (2 Chron 20:21–22)
- o Paul and Silas received supernatural deliverance from prison as they prayed and sang praises to God. (Acts 16:25)

No matter what the challenge. No matter what the test. No matter what the adversity, **THERE IS ALWAYS A SONG!** God is our hiding place, and He surrounds us with “*songs of deliverance.*” But we must open our mouths and yield to those songs! We must sing those songs! (Ps 32:7)



**No matter what challenge you are facing
THERE IS ALWAYS A SONG!
God surrounds us with songs of deliverance.**

Scripture exhorts us to “*rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS.*” And then again to **REJOICE!** (Phil 4:5)

We are also told to “*count it all joy*” when we fall into various trials. This is definitely odd to the unrenewed mind!

- o What’s the purpose of this joy and rejoicing?
- o Why would the Lord prescribe this for us when we feel bothered or tested?

Because **THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH!**

As you stay strong and steadfast in the Lord, holding fast to your confession of faith and victory, your perseverance will bring you to God’s intended end for you — “*that you be perfect and complete, lacking nothing!*” (Jas 1:2–4; Neh 8:10) This is what God has on His mind for you! This is what this joy and rejoicing is all about!

We are further told “*in everything give thanks.*” (1 Thes 5:16–18) This is God’s will for us! What is there to give thanks for when we seem to have problems and troubles?

We are thankful for **THE ANSWER!**
 We are thankful for **JESUS’ VICTORY!**
 We are thankful that **GOD IS FOR US!**
 We are thankful for **THE WAY OF ESCAPE!**
 We are thankful that **GOD IS HELPING US!**
 We are thankful for **GOD’S FAITHFULNESS!**

There is always something good to thank God for! If only our spiritual eyes were opened, we would discover that He is already helping us much more than we

realize and deserve. We should stop to count our blessings and name them one by one. This is a big key to staying in faith and walking in victory!



**It's important to take time to recount your blessings,
naming them one by one!**

Rejoicing and thanksgiving are part of God's recipe for success in the Kingdom of God. You cannot rule and reign without it!

Friend, don't allow the enemy to steal your joy! Don't allow him to take your praise! Instead, *"Shout to God with the voice of triumph!"* (Ps 47:1) A victorious child of God always has a shout! Don't let the enemy steal your shout!

Find a place that you can rejoice and lift your voice!

Find a church where you can praise and worship freely!

Find a good faith friend who will praise and give thanks together with you!

Put on your favorite music recording and sing, sing, sing!

Will you always feel like rejoicing? Will you always want to shout and praise God? No, you won't! But that's when it's time to remind yourself of what Jesus has accomplished for you and what God's Word has specifically promised. That's when it's time to offer up THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE — *"the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name!"* (Heb 13:15)

The Lord has given us *"the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."* (Isa 61:3) You may not feel like praising God, but do it anyways! Put on your garment of praise. Put it on! In other words, do it on purpose! No one accidentally gets dressed in the morning. The putting on of our clothes and garments is always done deliberately. We must do the same when we sense a spirit of heaviness. We must dress ourselves with praise.



**We must purposefully put on the garment of praise.
No one accidentally gets dressed in the morning!**

At times it will be necessary to praise the Lord in spite of how you may "feel." In truth, your feelings will lie to you! **If we only respond in life based upon how we feel, we will be misled.** Your faith in God is often working much stronger than how you feel. Let's not allow ourselves to be fooled by "a spirit of heaviness."

Here's some good news: Heaviness will lift from you as you continue to praise the Lord for His goodness and His promises. It cannot remain! And once you get started you really won't want to stop. I often ask people, *"How can you really tell when you are praising and worshiping as you should?"* And here's the answer I give: *"You won't want to stop!"* You will find it to be truly enjoyable and helpful.

As you begin to rejoice, praise, and worship God...and then continue...you will begin to sense the Holy Spirit within you getting involved in what you are doing. You will begin to sense God's presence and His power! You will begin to sense His life, His strength, and His victory! And then you won't want to stop!

So rejoice! Shout! Praise God! And give Him thanks! And don't forget to do so SPECIFICALLY! When Joshua and Israel possessed Jericho, Joshua told the people to shout. Why? It was specific. *"For the Lord has given you the city!"*

◆ **It's important to praise and thank God specifically.**

Praising and thanking God SPECIFICALLY will make it more meaningful to you, and thereby more powerful!

Thank You, Lord, that my body is healed! (1 Pet 2:24)

Thank You, Lord, that I have been delivered from the hand of the enemy!
(Col 1:13)

Thank You, Lord, that I have plenty of money! (Deut 28:11)

Thank You, Lord, that all my bills are paid! (Phil 4:19)

Thank You, Lord, that I am going forward in Your will! (Phil 3:12)

Thank You, Lord, that I am victorious! (1 Cor 15:57)

Thank You, Lord, that I know what to do! (1 Jn 2:20)

Thank You, Lord, that You are protecting me! (Ps 91:7)

Thank You, Lord, that this situation is working out for my good! (Rom 8:28)

Thank You, Lord, that You always cause me to triumph! (2 Cor 2:14)

Friend, let the following verses fuel your faith for a life filled with praise, worship, and thanksgiving to God. **Keep your praise loud and strong, and keep the enemy on the run!**

And don't forget! We are not trying to get the victory. Jesus has already won the war! **Let's be sure to think, believe, speak and praise God from the victory side of life!** *"Now thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"* (1 Cor 15:57)

Psalm 47:1-3

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
For the LORD Most High is awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.
He will subdue the peoples under us,
And the nations under our feet.*

Psalm 32:7

*You are my hiding place;
You shall preserve me from trouble;
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah*

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

“Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.”

Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

Acts 16:25-26 (KJV)

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Peter 1:8

whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

James 1:2-4

*My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

Hebrews 13:5

*Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise to God,** that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*



CHAPTER SIX

RULING BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS

*In Him we have redemption
through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of His grace.*

Ephesians 1:7

In order to rule and reign in life, you will need to regularly feed your faith and have revelation knowledge of the power of The Blood of Jesus and the benefits it affords you.

◆ **The Purchase Price of Our Redemption**

The word “redeem” literally means *to buy back* or *to ransom*. It refers to freedom through the payment of a price. What was the purchase price and payment for our redemption, freedom, and deliverance? None other than **the precious Blood of Jesus!**

This is a present-tense reality for the believer in Jesus Christ. We NOW have redemption “*through His blood.*” In other words, our redemption from the hand of the enemy and from the curse of the law is a finished, legal work in the spiritual realm. It is finished! We must now only stand upon this great redemption!



**Your deliverance from the hand of the enemy
and his curse is a legal reality, bought and paid for
by Jesus’ shed blood.**

Your faith in The Blood of Jesus will give you the confidence necessary to stand your ground, boldly claiming all of God’s promises and all of your redemptive rights and benefits. Jesus has made all these things CERTAIN and SURE on the legal basis of His blood. (Eph 1:7; Heb 9:12; Gal 3:13; Ps 103:2-6; Heb 7:22)

No matter what God has spoken to you through His Word, you can employ this sort of legal spiritual language for yourself:

“On the basis of the blood of Jesus, and according to the Word of God, I have it now!”

◆ **Bold Access to the Throne of Grace**

Our faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus is the means by which we can each “draw near” to God and “come boldly” before His throne of grace. What a right and privilege! The blood of Jesus enables you to come to God “with full assurance of faith” so that you can be sure to obtain mercy and find grace to help every time you come. (Heb 4:16; Heb 10:19–22)

◆ **Confidence Before the Enemy**

Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse a guilty conscience and restore the confidence necessary for us to boldly stand before the enemy, to rule and reign over him. Satan will do his best to bring accusations to your mind against you. But you can overcome him every time through your revelation of The Blood of Jesus, and your outspoken testimony of what you know that Blood has done for you. (Heb 9:14; Rev 12:10–11)

◆ **Deliverance From The Destroyer and His Destruction**

Just as the blood of the Passover lamb was applied in the Old Testament, securing deliverance for God’s chosen people from the destroyer, even so Jesus’ Blood can now be applied by faith from your heart over your own life, your loved-ones, and your possessions, keeping the enemy at bay and in check.



**It’s important to BOLDLY SPEAK about The Blood of Jesus
and what you know it’s done for you!**

The Blood of Jesus is a constant reminder to Satan of his eternal defeat and of your victory in Christ! In the Old Testament, the enemy could not bring destruction where the blood of the Passover lamb had been applied! Now, in the New Testament, Jesus Christ is “our Passover, sacrificed for us.” (Ex 12:13; 1 Cor 5:7)

Allow the following Scripture references to fuel your faith to use The Blood of Jesus to rule and reign in life!

Romans 3:24-26 (KJV)

*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Revelation 12:10-11

*Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

Hebrews 9:12,14

*Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.***

*how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?*

Hebrews 4:16

***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 10:19-22

*Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Exodus 12:13

*Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And **when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you** when I strike the land of Egypt.*

1 Corinthians 5:7

*Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.***



CHAPTER SEVEN

RULING WITH ANGELIC HELP

*But you have come to Mount Zion and to
the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly
and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven...*

Hebrews 12:22-23

You are not alone in your life of dominion and authority! You have angelic help from heaven! It will serve you well not to forget God's unseen messengers assigned to help you navigate safely through life and to fulfill your Kingdom purpose.

God's "ministering spirits" are ready to back you up and stand guard around you as you fearlessly move forward in God's plan for your life.



**Angels are ready to back you up and stand guard
around you as you fearlessly move forward
in God's plan for your life.**

This reality of angels is a revelation! For the most part, we cannot see angels. You may live your life mostly unaware of their presence, YET they are very present! We are made aware of their existence and the role they play in our lives *THROUGH SCRIPTURE*. Whether we see them or not, as part of our Kingdom inheritance, we have come unto "*an innumerable company of angels.*"

So what can we learn about angels from scripture? And how can we cooperate with the ministry which they have been sent to provide? Let's take a look!

*But to which of the **angels** has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? **Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?***

Hebrews 1:13-14

- ❖ Angels are called “ministering spirits.” These spirit beings are sent to serve those who have become heirs of God’s salvation. That’s you!

“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.”

Exodus 23:20

- ❖ Angels are sent to help us to stay on track and to bring us into those things which God has prepared for us.

This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Psalm 34:6-7

- ❖ Angels encamp around those who reverence and obey God, bringing supernatural deliverance as necessary.

*No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for **He shall give His angels charge over you**, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Psalm 91:10-13

- ❖ God gives His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. This is why we can be bold to say “no evil shall befall me, nor shall any plague come near my dwelling!”

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Hebrews 13:2

- ❖ Angelic encounters can be part of our day-to-day lives, often unaware!

*The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, you **His angels**, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.*

Psalm 103:19-20

- ❖ Angels are part of God’s victorious Kingdom administration. That Kingdom is yours! (Lk 12:32; Col 1:13)
- ❖ Angels are exceedingly strong, unlike some drawings and paintings that we have become familiar with. On the contrary, “They excel in strength!”
- ❖ Angels are part of God’s Word being performed. They “do His word.”
- ❖ Angels respond to and listen intently for “the voice of God’s Word.” As God’s body, we are also called to give voice to His Word. This means that angels respond to us when we speak forth the Word of God over our lives and over various situations.



**Let’s put our angels to work for us with a bold
and steadfast declaration of God’s word!**

Angels are much more a part of our lives than we realize. Be bold, take comfort, and speak God’s Word with authority. We have plenty of unseen help as we do the will of God!

*So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us
are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said,
“LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes
of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses
and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

2 Kings 6:16–17



CHAPTER EIGHT

RULING THROUGH DILIGENCE

*The hand of the diligent will rule,
but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*
Proverbs 12:24

One practical and often overlooked way to rule and stay on top in life is through *DILIGENCE* – being attentive to those things within your responsibility and control.

- Diligence involves watchfulness.
- Diligence involves mindfulness.
- Diligence involves attentiveness.
- Diligence involves making preparation.
- Diligence involves steady and earnest application.

*I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man
devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns;
its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.*

*When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your
poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.*

Proverbs 24:30-34

As these verses so well describe, because of the curse that's in the fallen world around us, unless properly tended to, things will naturally and automatically go in the direction of chaos and disorder. We have all experienced it.

- The hair gets messy.
- The house becomes dusty.
- The weeds will grow.
- The car rusts.
- The mind wanders.
- The thief enters.

Unless, of course, we attend to these things diligently. It's a normal part of life.

Sometimes we fail to rule and reign simply because of neglect — we have taken our eye off the ball! Or maybe we have failed to study and investigate a matter thoroughly. In some cases, we haven't taken the necessary time to seek God and do our “homework” before starting something.

The Bible tells us that “*diligence is our precious possession.*” Why is it so precious? One reason it's so precious is because it enables us TO RULE — “*the hand of the diligent will rule!*” (Prov 12:24,27)

Since diligence is our possession, let's put this precious possession of ours to work!

Be diligent to know what's under your care and stewardship. What are you responsible for? How is it being handled? Are you aware of what's really going on?

Be diligent to seek out wise counsel before making major decisions which will affect you and those following you. (Prov 1:5; Prov 24:6)

Be diligent with your finances; keeping track of what's coming in, what's going out, which part is God's, and how much is being saved.

Be diligent to seek God and to study a matter before moving forward.

Be diligent in relationships; taking time to know people and to inspect the fruit of their lives before entering into a relationship or partnership.

Here are some more verses which emphasize the importance of employing diligence in our lives:

Proverbs 12:27

*The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting,
but **diligence is man's precious possession.***

Proverbs 10:4

*He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
but **the hand of the diligent makes rich.***

Proverbs 21:5

***The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,**
but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*

Proverbs 13:4

*The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;
but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

Proverbs 27:23

***Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,**
And attend to your herds;*



APPENDICES

What's the Difference between Dominion & Authority?



Throughout this book, you will regularly find the words “dominion” and “authority” in relation to a life of ruling and reigning. Although these terms are closely related and used almost interchangeably, there really is a difference — a difference I would like to take a moment to differentiate right now.

Authority

First, let’s talk about “authority.” I will attempt to better define this word with the following descriptions:

Authority is **delegated ruling power**.

Authority is **oversight**.

To have authority is **to be given responsibility** for something.

To have authority is **to be in charge** of something.

To have authority is **to be put in command**.

To have authority is **to have control**.

To have authority is **to have been given jurisdiction** over something.

Having authority gives **the ability and responsibility to decide and even dictate the direction that things will go**.

Dominion

“Dominion,” on the other hand, is **THE RESULT of the exercising of authority**. When authority is exercised, dominion is established.

Dominion refers more specifically to **THE REALM or DOMAIN of one’s rule and authority**. In other words, because you have been given authority, you can then establish dominion.

Where dominion is established, there is governance, “sway,” consistent influence, and prevailing power.

Where dominion is established, there is **supremacy**.

When dominion is established, there will be **undeniable evidence**.

For example, in the case of the Kingdom of God, when authority is exercised and Kingdom dominion is established in regards to a person, a place, or a thing, there will also be *righteousness (what’s good and right), peace, and joy* in manifestation by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 91 — A Psalm of Divine Protection and Supernatural Deliverance



The 91st Psalm is God's Covenant word to you! As you read this Psalm, you will discover that it's God's will to protect you and keep you safe — supernaturally safe! God desires to deliver you and keep you from all forms of evil and calamity, enabling you to live a “long life” that satisfies. The Lord knows how to preserve you and keep you alive! (Ps 41:1-3; Ps 121:5-8)

Here are four simple and important keys to help you stay activated in God's promise of supernatural protection and deliverance:

1. **BELIEVE** the words contained within this Psalm.
2. **CONFESS and DECLARE** this Psalm with your mouth. Make it personal! “I will SAY of the Lord. He is MY refuge and MY fortress...”
3. **EXPECT** the specific results mentioned in this Psalm. Take these words literally and seriously.
4. **PAY ATTENTION TO THE LEADING OF GOD'S SPIRIT.** If you want the full protection of the Lord, it's important to pay attention to His direction. If you will pay attention to His leadings, He knows how to keep you safe.

PSALM 91

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.”
Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.*

(continued from previous page — **Psalm 91**)

*He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.*

*A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.
Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.*

*“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation.”*

IN CHRIST Realities

*that the sharing of your faith may become effective
by the acknowledgment of every good thing
which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

Philemon 1:6



A powerful way to submit to Jesus' victory on the cross is to take time to regularly **acknowledge** and **affirm** every good thing which is already yours "In Christ."

Take time to boldly confess these truths out loud, and thank God for each of them:

- *Grace and peace are now multiplied to me in the knowledge of God and of **Jesus my Lord**.* (2 Pet 1:2)
- *I am born again and have passed from death to life. I am now a partaker of God's divine nature.* (1 Pet 1:23; 1 Jn 3:14; 2 Pet 1:4)
- *I am a new creation **in Christ**. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. Now all things in me are of God.* (2 Cor 5:17-18)
- *I am the righteousness of God **in Christ**.* (2 Cor 5:21)
- *I am a son of God through faith **in Christ**.* (Gal 3:26)
- *Having been justified by faith, I have peace with God **through my Lord Jesus Christ**.* (Rom 5:1)
- *There is therefore now no condemnation for me **in Christ Jesus**.* (Rom 8:1)
- *Now **in Christ Jesus** I have been brought near to God by the blood of Jesus.* (Eph 2:13)
- ***In Him** I have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.* (Col 1:14)
- *I have been delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's dear Son.* (Col 1:13)

- *I am complete **in Him** who is the head of all principality and power. (Col 2:10)*
- *I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places **in Christ**. (Eph 1:3)*
- ***In Him**, having believed, I was sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Eph 1:13)*
- *I have been chosen **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that I should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph 1:4)*
- ***In Him** I have an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the plan of His will. (Eph 1:11)*
- *I have been raised together **with Christ** and made to sit together **with Him** in the heavenly places. (Eph 2:6)*
- *I am God's workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand that I should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)*
- *I am established and anointed by God **in Christ**. (2 Cor 1:21)*
- *I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)*
- *I have been crucified **with Christ**. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. (Gal 2:20)*
- *I am an heir of God and a joint-heir **with Jesus Christ**. Whatever Jesus has, I have, because He got it for me! (Rom 8:17)*
- *I have received abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, and I reign in life **through Christ Jesus**. (Rom 5:17)*
- ***Just as Christ** was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so I** also walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)*
- *I consider myself to be dead to sin but alive to God **in Christ Jesus my Lord**. (Rom 6:11)*
- *The law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom 8:2)*
- ***In Christ** are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am in Him; therefore I have access to His treasures. (Col 2:3)*
- *I know the grace of my Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for my sake He became poor, that I through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)*

- **By His stripes** I am healed and made whole. (1 Pet 2:24)
- My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory **by Christ Jesus**. (Phil 4:19)
- **Jesus was made unto me** wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Now I boast and glory in the Lord! (1 Cor 1:30–31)
- Jesus died as my substitute on the cross. He became sin with my sin. He became sick with my sickness. He became poor with my poverty. Now **in Him I am righteous, healed, and rich**. (2 Cor 5:21, Matt 8:17; 2 Cor 8:9)
- I am more than a conqueror **through Him** who loves me. (Rom 8:37)
- Nothing shall be able to separate me from the love of God **in Christ Jesus** my Lord. (Rom 8:39)
- Thanks be to God, who always leads me in triumph **in Christ**. (2 Cor 2:14)
- Thanks be to God, who gives me the victory **through my Lord Jesus Christ**. (1 Cor 15:57)

Who Should I Submit To?

*Honor all people. Love the brotherhood.
Fear God. Honor the king.*
1 Peter 2:17



Study the following verses to get a more accurate picture of exactly who to submit yourself to in various settings and contexts:

In Life Generally

James 4:7

Therefore **submit to God**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:6

Therefore **humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**, that He may exalt you in due time.

Job 22:21–22 (NIV)

“Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.”

James 1:21

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

In the Home

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to know that **the head of every man is Christ**, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 5:22–24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore,

just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

1 Peter 3:1–2

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

Colossians 3:18–21

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Within the Church

Ephesians 4:11–13

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Hebrews 13:7,17 (NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

In Society

1 Peter 2:13–14

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, **whether to the king as supreme, or to governors**, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

Romans 13:1-7

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.

Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Therefore **you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.** For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Titus 3:1-2

Remind them to **be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey**, to be ready for every good work, **to speak evil of no one**, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

Acts 23:5

Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, **'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'**"

At the Workplace**Colossians 3:22 (Passion)**

Let every employee listen well and follow the instructions of their employer, not just when their employers are watching, and not in pretense, but faithful in all things. For we are to live our lives with pure hearts in the constant awe and wonder of our Lord God.

Limits to Our Submission**(When God's Word and Human Authority Contradict)**

There may be times when instructions from human authorities obviously contradict God's law and His revealed will. What to do in such instances? The verses below will give you insight, wisdom, and courage.

It's important to mention that even when it becomes necessary to defy an order or instruction from a human authority in lieu of God's law and revealed will, it should still be done respectfully "*as unto the Lord.*"

Authority, in general, is ordained by God and should be respected, even in times when the authorities' instructions must be held out against. Having a disrespectful attitude is not okay. Our respect for God will cause us to be respectful toward authorities, even when we must disregard their instructions.

Acts 5:27–29

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Exodus 1:15–17 (NIV)

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

Daniel 6:6–7, 10–13 (NLT)

So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions..."

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?"

"Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

Acts 23:4-5

And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"

Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

1 Peter 2:17

Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Where Do I Have Authority?

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*

Matthew 28:18

*“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matthew 16:19



As previously stated: authority and responsibility always go together. If we have authority in any area, then that area is “within our control” and we are ultimately responsible for the outcome. For this reason, it’s important for each of us to know exactly where we have been authorized and where we have not. This will help to ensure real results, and also eliminate much confusion and potential frustration in our lives. Some areas have been placed within our power to change, and others have not.



**It’s important for each of us to know exactly where
we have been authorized and where we have not.**

If we have been authorized in an area, then there is always something within our individual control that we can do, at the Lord’s direction, to change or affect the outcome. God’s leading, direction, and wisdom will always be required. But nonetheless, He has placed the keys of the Kingdom in our hands and within our control. (Matt 16:19)

*We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within **the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere** which especially includes you. For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men’s labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in **our sphere**, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in **another man’s sphere** of accomplishment.*

2 Corinthians 10:13–16

Jesus Christ, through His victory on the cross, has regained ALL AUTHORITY. (Matt 28:18) Yet, we don’t individually have authority in all places and situations, over all people, and over all things. Jesus’ authority has been delegated throughout His body.

The Apostle Paul wrote specifically about *SPHERES* and *LIMITS* to our authority. (2 Cor 10:13–16) Our specific sphere of authority will depend upon our placement within Christ’s body, our geographical and spiritual assignment, and also the particular leading and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the moment.



There are spheres and limits to our individual authority.

So, where exactly DO we have authority? I will express this in the first person.

To put it simply, I have authority over:

- MY life
- MY mind
- MY body
- MY things
- MY money
- What’s been entrusted to ME
- Over all the power of the enemy in MY life

“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.”

Luke 10:19

This is true for each and every believer in Jesus Christ! We have each been raised and seated together with Christ, far above all principalities and powers! No matter what your calling or status in life, if you belong to Christ, the above list is true concerning you right now!

We don't have authority over other people, over their free-will, and over their individual choices. (With the exception of parents and young children under their care) We can use our authority to serve and pray for others, making it easier for them to make right choices and to receive from God for themselves. But, in the end, those choices are still theirs to make.

For example, I don't have authority over what YOU think, over YOUR body, or over how YOU handle and discipline YOUR children. These areas are beyond my sphere and jurisdiction of authority. Likewise, I do not have authority over how YOU handle YOUR money or over the words that YOU speak regarding YOUR life. These areas are within your individual spheres of authority and responsibility. We can invite others to join us in prayer, agreement, and faith in any area where we are personally authorized, but even the act of giving others access to help us and to minister to us spiritually is still within our control.

More specifically, where else DO we have authority?

◆ **We have authority over our own minds and what we think.**

(Please see *"Ruling in Your Thought Life"* on page 155.)

◆ **We have authority over what we have been redeemed from.**

Whatever you have been redeemed from, you have authority over! To "redeem" something means to ransom, to rescue, or to buy back. This is exactly what Jesus has done for us through His blood sacrifice. (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14) Jesus' shed blood, presented in the heavenly holy of holies on our behalf, was and remains the payment price for our redemption. His blood is ever-speaking in heaven on our behalf! Adam sold the entire human race under sin and the curse, but Jesus Christ has rescued us and bought us back from under Satan's curse, control, and tyranny. If you belong to Jesus, it is finished! Yet, for many reasons already discussed in this book, this reality still needs to be enforced and acted upon.



**Whatever you have been redeemed from,
you have authority over.**

So, what exactly have we been redeemed from? What exactly are those things exactly according to God's Word? Remember, whatever we have been redeemed (rescued) from, we have authority over.

We have been redeemed from the dominion and authority of darkness. (Col 1:13)

This includes Satan and every evil spirit. We have been delivered from their control and made to sit with Christ in heavenly places, far above all of their power. They are all under our feet. This is why we can tell Satan "NO!" This is why we are able to tell him "TO GO!" This is why we can tell evil spirits to leave those areas and places that are within our control and affect our lives personally. Not only CAN we exercise authority over the world of darkness in our own lives... there will be times when we MUST!

- I have authority over Satan and evil spirits in my own life.

We have been redeemed from the curse of the law. (Gal 3:13; Deut 28:15–68)

As Deuteronomy reveals, the curse of the law includes every sickness and disease, mental anguish, poverty, loss, and defeat. Jesus has already delivered us from all that is contained within this curse, so we should be bold to stand up against it. He became a curse for us when He hung on the cross! If we are redeemed and delivered, then all these things are illegal and unlawful in our bodies and in our lives. But it's up to us to say so! This is part of exercising our authority.

- I have authority over all the curse of the law, including every sickness and disease, poverty, lack, loss, and defeat.

We have been redeemed from aimless conduct. (1 Pet 1:18)

This means that we don't have to live out of control lives, subject to sin, bad habits, and the dictates of our own flesh. (Rom 6:14; Rom 8:12; 1 Pet 2:24 NLT) If these things are ruling in our lives, it's because we are allowing them to rule. God loves us unconditionally, no matter what condition we find ourselves in now. Yet, in truth, by God's grace we have victory over all of these.

- I have authority over sin, bad habits, and the dictates of my own flesh.

◆ **We have authority over our own bodies.**

Although Jesus has bought and paid for our bodies, He has left the stewardship and oversight of our own bodies within our control. (1 Cor 6:15,20) We now have the right to decide what we do with our bodies and what we don't do. Isn't that true?

For example, God is not the one who decides what we eat, how much we sleep, and whether or not we exercise. This is because He has left the authority and control of our bodies with us. Included with this authority is the right to decide what is allowed in our bodies and what is not allowed. This part has often gone unrecognized.

Think about it:

We are told to “*present our bodies*” to God as a living sacrifice. (Rom 12:1)

We are told to “*keep under*” our bodies and bring them into subjection. (1 Cor 9:27)

We are told “*do not let sin reign in your mortal body.*” (Rom 6:12)

The question we must each answer for ourselves is this: Do we really have authority over our bodies or not? From the above verses, it seems quite clear that we do! In many cases, we have not taken this right and responsibility over our bodies as far as we should, to include the following areas as well:

- **speaking life** to our own bodies
- **commanding our own bodies** to be healed and restored according to God’s Word
- **forbidding sickness** from entering or staying in our bodies

These things are also part of the stewardship and authority we have over our own bodies. This can seem difficult to accept, but if we get sick and remain sick, it’s because we are not exercising our authority over our bodies as we should. Any one of us can let our guard down and slip in this area.

Being sick doesn’t mean that we are lost or that God doesn’t love us. We should not allow ourselves to feel condemned in any way because we are sick or afflicted. Being sick just means the devil is taking advantage of us in a way that he really should not. It’s empowering to be reminded that we really have authority over our own bodies, and therefore we really have the final word!

The same sacrifice for our sins on the cross of Calvary was also for the healing of our bodies. (Ps 103:3; Isa 53:5) Divine health and healing are part and parcel of God’s complete salvation package. If we are told not to allow sin to reign among our members, in like manner, we should not allow sickness to reign in our mortal bodies either! Both sin and sickness were dealt with at the same time when Jesus went to the cross. We have been delivered from the power of both of these!

The Book of James teaches us that if we can harness and control what we say, we can also control our whole bodies. (Jas 3:2) It is clear that we can exercise autho-

rity over our bodies using our own faith-filled words! Perhaps we have not had better results in this area because we haven't taken seriously the stewardship of our own bodies. Perhaps we have been mistakenly leaving up to the The Lord what He has left up to us.

When was the last time you spoke to your own body and commanded it to be strong and healed?

When was the last time you spoke to a cold, fever, symptom, or any other foul thing that was trying to attach itself to your body and told it to go from you?

I realize that this area of authority over our own bodies may be largely unexplored by many, but it doesn't make it any less true and available for each of God's children.

◆ **We have authority within our individual places of divine assignment.**

For example:

- Husbands (and parents) have authority within the home.
- Pastors have authority within the church.
- Ministers have authority within their ministries.
- If the Lord sends you on a special mission, outreach, or assignment, then you have authority wherever He sends you in order to get your job done!

Please note that these places of authority are places of SERVICE. God delegates His authority in these places for the purpose of ensuring that His will is accomplished, and also for the service and ultimate well-being of those within any given sphere. (2 Cor 10:8; 2 Cor 13:10)

◆ **We have authority over the weather.**

This is not to say that you and I are authorized over all the weather in all places. However, we do have authority over the weather, particularly when it affects our lives, our possessions, and our Kingdom assignments. We should not allow the weather to stop us or shut us down!

So, if there is a storm or bad weather heading your way – weather which could cause damage to you or that which has been entrusted to you – then you should look for the leading of the Holy Spirit and then be ready to speak to it as His direction! Even in instances where you may not be able to totally change the weather, you can still keep it from causing damage to you and your property. On what basis? ***“No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.”*** (Ps 91:10)

Jesus is our example. He spoke to winds and storms — storms that were not only life-threatening, but which also attempted to stop and derail His mission and assignment. Jesus told us that we can do the same things He did and even greater! (Mk 4:39; Jn 14:12)

A big key here is the leading of the Holy Spirit. What is His specific direction to you? What is He prompting you to do? As you look to Him, there will be times when He specifically leads you to rise up and speak to the storm, hurricane, typhoon, or tornado in Jesus' Name. Remember, since you are the one in authority on earth within your sphere, He will need you to speak up! He needs your faith and your voice!

On the other hand, there may also be times when you don't have any particular leading or unction of the Spirit to do anything in regards to a certain weather report. It could be that the storm isn't really as significant as expected. In such instances, the Lord's leading may be to just stay indoors, so as not to be inconvenienced. Or, He may even remind you to be sure to bring your umbrella along so that you don't get wet!

Another important factor in regards to authority over the weather is **your geographical assignment.** Where do you live? And where has The Lord assigned you? If anyone would have authority over the weather where you live and where you have been geographically assigned, certainly you would!

Keys of the Kingdom

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

*Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matthew 16:13–19



As Kingdom citizens we have each been equipped with the keys of the kingdom of heaven. These “keys” allow us to purposefully operate in spiritual realities which change situations in our lives and upon the earth.

As we learn from these verses, THE MASTER KEY of the Kingdom becomes ours with the revelation of Jesus as The Christ – The Messiah and The Anointed Savior and Deliverer of the world! This is THE KEY upon which the entire church is built and founded. This is also where we all must begin in a life of dominion and authority. We must each bow our knee and heart to the Lordship of Jesus, The Messiah. (1 Pet 2:6; Acts 4:11–12; Eph 2:20)

◆ **The revelation of Jesus as Messiah is THE MASTER KEY of the Kingdom. All dominion and authority begins here!**

But then, because of this master key, there are other keys of the Kingdom which are available to us and allow us further and more specific mastery. These keys are “God’s ways” and each key becomes “ours” through a revelation of God’s

Word. These keys can then be specifically deployed at the leading of the Holy Spirit. (Lk 8:10; Mk 4:21–22; Deut 29:29)

◆ **The keys of the Kingdom can be specifically deployed at the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

When you think of life in terms of proactively operating in the keys of God's Kingdom, it's difficult to see yourself as a victim any longer. You will see yourself as a ruling one! After all, you now have the keys! Keys give us authority and control!

◆ **We are no longer victims. The keys of the Kingdom give us authority and control.**

If we are in authority, there is always something that we can say or do at the direction of the Holy Spirit – some KEY which we can utilize – which will produce a specific and predictable result. These keys enable us to live offensively, leaving the gates of hell without any defense. Having the keys of the Kingdom and operating in these keys will put you in charge!

With the keys of the Kingdom in our hands, we are no longer victims of circumstances. Instead, with these keys, we actually become masters of circumstances. Isn't that what's happening when we can purposefully use something that will always bring a specific result or outcome? Remember, we are talking about ruling and reigning here!

◆ **When you have the keys of the Kingdom, you become a master of circumstances. You can begin to create certain desirable circumstances and outcomes on purpose!**

We may not always know exactly by what means God and heaven will back us up and do their part, but we do know that these keys are reliable – they always work when we put them to work by faith, at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Following are some examples of Kingdom keys which have been made available for all of God's people. (They are not listed in any particular order.)

Submitting to Jesus' Lordship is the master key. When I make Jesus my personal Lord and regularly submit myself to His Lordship and leading, it places me in a secure position of rulership.

Binding Satan is a key. As I take authority over Satan and resist him in Jesus' Name, he must cease and desist in his activities against me. (Matt 16:19; Matt 12:28–29; Lk 11:21–22)

Generosity is a key. As I give to others, it will be given unto me. (Lk 6:38; 2 Cor 9:6; Prov 11:25)

Speaking Gods Word from a heart of belief is a key. As I believe and speak, holding fast to my confession, I will have whatever I say. (Mk 11:23; Heb 10:23; 2 Cor 4:13–14)

Repentance is a key. As I acknowledge the truth and receive God's forgiveness, it allows for God's mercy to come into my life. (Prov 28:13; Heb 4:16)

Praise and Thanksgiving is a key. As I praise God and continually thank Him, it causes God's presence to manifest and brings forth an increase in my life. (Ps 67:5; Ps 22:3)

Forgiveness is a key. As I forgive those who have hurt me or mistreated me, it allows me to walk personally free from associated pain and torment. (Matt 18:21–34)

Affirmations are a key. As I continually affirm who I am in Christ and what I have in Christ, it causes my faith to become operative and effective. (Philemon 1:6)

Joy is a key. As I rejoice in the Lord and release His joy within me, it supernaturally strengthens me. (Neh 8:10; Phil 4:4)

Praying in Tongues is a key. As I speak to God in tongues it allows me to build myself up and pray beyond my personal understanding of a situation — enabling me to pray God's perfect will. (Jude 20; 1 Cor 14:4,14; Rom 8:26)

Honor is a key. As I honor God by honoring His things and those whom He sends, it makes way for God's honor to show up in my life and among my things. (1 Sam 2:30; Matt 6:33; Jn 13:20; 1 Tim 5:17)

My Shepherd (pastor) is a key. As I pray for my pastor and pay attention to His words in my life, I can stay one step ahead of the enemy and avoid becoming weary and harassed. (Matt 9:36; Jer 23:4)

Tithing is a key. As I tithe and honor God, it gives God access to my life and finances, to bless and protect. (Prov 3:9–10; Heb 7:7–8; Mal 3:10–11)

Preaching God's Word is a key. As I preach God's Word, it allows God to confirm the very thing which I am preaching. (Mk 16:20; Isa 55:11; Jer 1:12; 1 Cor 3:6)

Assembling with other believers is a key. When two or more are gathered in Jesus' Name, He is there! Multiplied power and potential is available to me when I take advantage of the assembly. (Heb 10:25; Ps 133:1-3; Deut 32:30)

Asking God is a key. I have not because I ask not. Yet, when I ask in faith, I receive and my joy is made full! (Jas 4:2; Jn 16:24; Jas 1:5-6)

Sowing Seed is a key. Whatever I help to make happen for someone else, God will make happen for me. (Matt 7:12; Eph 6:8; Gal 6:7)

Other keys of the Kingdom are revealed throughout this book and are listed within [Section 3 – “Tools for Ruling.”](#)

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Author and equipper, Joseph Kack, has been involved in Christian leadership training around the world through bible schools, seminars, and various training events.

With a ministry based in the Philippines for more than 20 years, Joseph and his ministry team have published a number of books and resources to build up God's people and to help them realize their full potential in Christ.

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