

## Living the Supernatural Life – Part Eight – “Our Supernatural Authority in Christ”

1. **Do you believe that God does everything with a purpose and an intention?** At least intellectually most of us do. We at least believe it with our heads that God doesn't have to “figure stuff out” or “come up with a plan.” In fact, in Jeremiah 29:11 He says, “**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**”
  - a. God starts with a purpose, with an goal or end result in mind and then backs up to design.
  - b. When Isaiah says that God knows the “end from the beginning” (Is 46:10) the word end is the same word for future in Jeremiah 29. It means Destiny.
  - c. So when God created the heavens and the earth, He didn't create it and then say, “Hmm, what shall I do next?” He knew His purpose and His purpose was US. You and I are His purpose.
    - i. The Architect of the universe created the earth to be our home, placed us upon it and put us in charge of it.
      1. It was His entire purpose and intent to make us the centerpiece of His creation.
      2. It very well may be that the entire universe may have been created just so that in the possibilities of the trillions, one planet could support life as God intended.
  - d. Sidenote:
    - i. What I find fascinating is that God after six days of creating, planned a day to celebrate. Most of us think He rested, but God doesn't get tired. The word rest can also be translated celebrate. I think God was a proud and joyous Father who couldn't help but to celebrate this incredibly good creation (Gn 1:31).
    - ii. God celebrates over you! Zephaniah says that God dances over you!
2. What happened after creation? God gave humanity its assignment.
  - a. **God intended that this creation would be governed and ruled by human beings.**
  - b. Psalm 115:16 “*The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth he has given to the sons of men.*”
    - i. God said, “I'll take care of the stars, you're in charge of the earth.”
    - ii. God didn't give away *ownership* of the earth, but rather assigned the responsibility of governing the earth to you and I.
      1. And that act of governing begins with our own *private world.*” (*explain later*)
    - iii. Why? Because God wanted people to share in His plans and He wanted to work through people. Do you doubt this amazing truth??
      1. God negotiated with a human being (Abraham) over whether or not to destroy a city.
      2. God waited for a man to pray before the rain would start (Elijah).
      3. There are dozens of examples of how God waited upon people.
    - iv. God works on earth THROUGH humans, not independently from them.
      1. In fact, God appears to have limited many of His actions on earth to our prayers.
        - a. Perhaps this is why the world is so messed up.
      2. Why isn't God doing something? Could it be He is WAITING upon us to do something (like pray or declare His will).
      3. It is when we see our relationship with God as a partnership, it begins to answer a lot of questions about how God works, why He desires our prayers and how we can be a bigger part of what He is doing!
      4. **Some of you might remember in 2002 Oct: - 13 people shot, 10 killed in DC sniper shootings. People were filling their cars hiding behind their cars in fear. In a service in DC, during a service, a word was given to Chuck Pierce (a prophetic minister) that if the church would pray diligently for 17 days, that the snipers would be found. All across the city churches began to coordinate their prayer. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day...you guessed it, the snipers were caught. Why? Because people joined God!**

- c. Man was given dominion over the earth, to rule and subdue and take possession of it.
  - i. That is the meaning of the Hebrew word for “rule.” God’s intention is that you and I rule our personal world and partner with other brothers and sisters to bring about the Kingdom of God in other’s lives.
  - ii. We all know that the story didn’t start too well... Adam sinned and gave or forfeited his authority over the earth to Satan. Satan became the ruler of this world. But then Jesus came and took back the headship that Adam had lost.
    - 1. Sidenote: A Scientist, Louis Slotin and two halves of uranium 235 and critical mass, slipped together and began to glow, starting a chain reaction. He sacrificed himself, absorbing the radiation. 2000 years ago, the Son of God came into contact with sin’s most concentrated radiation, allowed himself to be touched by its curse and to die...but broke the chain reaction. He broke the power of sin. He also conquered it. Authority over the earth was now safe in the hands of the God-man Jesus. Col 2:10 *“He is head over all rule and authority.”*
  - iii. Where God and Satan are concerned, the issue has never been about power.
    - 1. God is all powerful, and when Satan rebelled, it was no effort to kick him out of heaven. There was never any question who would win. Satan’s power was already limited, but God’s power is infinite.
    - 2. Satan didn’t gain any power at the fall of man. And he didn’t lose any power at Calvary. His power has not changed. But his authority or right to use that power has changed.
  - iv. **When Jesus went to the cross, he dealt with Satan’s authority.**
- 3. Are you aware that the word “authority” appears 75 times in the New Testament? Power is appears 96 times.
  - a. **Authority is first, but power is required to back up the claims to authority.** Jesus possessed both.
  - b. Just as a policeman has the authority to arrest someone. If a person resists, the policeman can then use power to back up his authority. On the other hand, you can’t jump out of your car to give a person who just ran a red light a ticket...why not? Because you lack the authority to do so. You might possess some form of power (say a big stick), but it is illegitimate power, and has no legal standing. The person has no compelling reason to stop except for fear of you. You also might trick the person into believing you have the authority to stop him by wearing a blue uniform with a tin star on it. But again, you have no true authority.
  - c. **Because of the Cross, Satan has lost his authority on earth.**
    - i. He has lost his authority over you. He has lost his authority over Christians.
    - ii. Yet Christians act like he still possesses power, if not authority.
    - iii. They comply passively with his wishes and suggestions Why is this so?
  - d. In Colossians 1:13 *For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.*”
    - i. Translated more literally, it says that Christ, *“who has delivered us from the authority (sometimes improperly translated domain or power) of darkness, has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved son.”*
    - ii. This is more than a mere technicality. If Jesus stripped Satan of his **power**, then we would no longer have any worry about Satan. That would mean that he could no longer control us or affect us. We could IGNORE him like so many Christians do.
    - iii. But Jesus didn’t strip Satan of his power, but his authority.
    - iv. **Jesus took away Satan’s RIGHT to use his power.**
      - 1. This means that we deal with Satan as a counterfeit cop, as a usurper, a rebel, a thief who has no right to steal, kill and destroy, but who WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO if he is not stopped.
    - v. This means that you and I must EXERCISE the authority in Jesus Name that Christ has given us. And when we do so, God’s unlimited power will back up our authority.

- vi. We don't "take" authority over the devil, we EXERCISE that authority by faith, through conduct like prayer, declaration and bold obedient action.
  - 1. Luke 9:1-2 *"And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing."* (authority: exousia – government, rule, right, superiority plus dunamas – power;
    - a. Whose power? Certainly not our own. We know better!
    - b. But the power of Jesus Christ is infinite, so we when we act in the rightful authority we have been given, we are backed up by the entire power of heaven and God Himself.
  - 2. Do you wonder where the power is in Christian's lives? It lies in what has happened to our authority!
    - a. Mark 6:7 *"And he called his twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two, with authority to cast out evil spirits."* (same word, exousia)
    - b. Luke 10:17-19 *"When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you."*
  - 3. We have not understood our authority so we do not walk in it. We are powerless because we are not exercising authority. We want power but we forget power comes from authority.
    - a. Sidenote: authority is a chain effect. You must be under authority to wield authority. If you are busy doing your own thing, then you will not be able to exercise authority. (like a policeman or soldier, acting against orders).
    - b. It is also why Jesus wielded such amazing power...because he was totally surrendered to his Father's will (and authority).
  - 4. **Authority in itself is not power, but the right to use and yield power.**
    - a. Walking in authority and being under submission go hand in hand.
    - b. When we have learned to submit to authority, we can then be given a place of authority over others, just like this Roman Centurion.
      - i. He submitted to higher authority and others under him had to submit to his authority. Authority is tied in with submission and faith is tied in with authority, this is just the way it works. This soldier knew what authority meant and what the inevitable outcome would be. His servant was healed just like Jesus said, and it happened because an ordinary soldier recognized the authority Jesus walked in. There is a great truth here if we will receive it.
    - c. This is just the beginning of leaning to walk in our authority but it is an important first step that every believer should learn to take.
    - d. Do you want power? Get under the Father's authority!
- vii. **Rightful authority trumps illegitimate power.**
  - 1. Acts 2:24 *"But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."* Why? Because the authority of Christ trumps power, even the power of death.
  - 2. Acts 8:18-19 *Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*

- a. Simon asked not for power but for “this authority.” Why? Well, the power wasn’t of themselves. Even though Simon had dabbled in the occult and understood occult power, it appears that he knew the difference between power and authority.
  - 3. **Power can only legitimately work where you possess proper authority.**
  - 4. God desires that you and I pray with true authority, knowing that Christ wants to release His kingdom rule and power through us. The Father’s original plan...to govern the earth through His kids is reinstated in the Kingdom of God!
4. Last week I mentioned that you and I can no longer say, “we are only human.” When we were born again, we became a new race of supernatural beings called Christians (or little Christs).
- a. Paul in 1 Corin. 3:3 rebukes his readers for “acting like mere men.”
  - b. We are supernatural sons and daughters of God, filled with His Spirit and anointed to rule.
  - c. 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians see the word “church” to refer to a building. But that isn’t biblical.
    - i. The Greek word is “ekklesia.” To the Greek it meant a “group of people set apart to govern an area.”
    - ii. To the Romans, ekklesia was a group of people who were SENT into a conquered region to ALTER the culture until it became like Rome. Romans infiltrated the government, schools, language, and social structures until the people talked, thought and acted like Romans.
    - iii. Jesus has Sent you and I into the conquered regions of this world to bring His Kingdom, its values, ideals, principles, and its benefits of love, health, joy, peace, etc. into the world that we touch. To bring them into “our world” which is defined by the arena of the world that we touch regularly.
  - d. Your housekeeper, your nurse, your employer, your coworkers, your banker, your waitress...all should be profoundly affected by the authority of the Kingdom working through you!
  - e. But Satan wants to keep the church tucked away in a building, in a private area of your life, away from where we do what we were made to do!
  - f. Satan’s plan for stopping the spread of the Kingdom of God is to keep us tucked away, hidden, to keep the church from being the church. He wants to leave God without a government, a people to rule on earth. That way, even though he has no authority, Satan can still run things as if he does.
    - 1.
5. What is our response? We must invade our culture and DECLARE the Kingdom of God is here! We must spread His life and love everywhere.

We don't "take" authority over the devil, we "exercise" it.

Jesus walked in this kind of authority and when He spoke to sickness, it had to go. When He spoke to death, it had to go. When He spoke to demons, they had to leave.