



## Kingdom Authority: *Authority Reimagined* (Week 1)

If we say "authority," we may not have shalom. In fact, we might recoil because we remember people who abused us with their authority. The challenge is someone always ends up in charge. So the issue is not authority, it's the person in charge. I might also add that sometimes it could very well be the one under authority believes they are being abused but maybe they are the ones who simply have a challenge with submitting to authority. It can go both ways. Today we begin our Kingdom Authority series with wrestling with our authority issues and asking the Lord to give us HIS vision of authority-AUTHORITY REIMAGINED.

**OG QUESTION:** *In your own words define authority? When you hear that word, what is your first impression? Give examples of good authority and bad authority you have experienced. How have these experiences tainted your understanding of authority?*

### WHAT IS AUTHORITY?

NOTES TAKEN/PARAPHRASED FROM ([www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com))

The concept of authority is used predominantly in the New Testament, where the greek word for authority functions in at least four ways.

1. First, authority is the freedom to decide or a right to act without hindrance. All such authority begins with God, for there is no authority except from God.

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God,"*  
(Romans 13:1 NIV).

2. Second, the concept of authority refers to the power, ability, or capability to complete an action. Jesus was given the authority to forgive sins (Matt 9:6-8) and to drive out spirits (Mark 6:7). Jesus gave seventy-two disciples the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions (Luke 10:19). Satan has authority to function within the parameters established by God (Acts 26:18).

3. Third, the word "authority" is used with reference to delegated authority in the form of a warrant, license, or authorization to perform. Jesus was asked by whose authorization he taught (Matt 21:23). He was granted authority for his ministry from God the Father (John 10:18). Saul was sent to Damascus to persecute Christians by warrant of the priests (Acts 26:12). God gave the apostles license to build up the church (2 Co 10:8).

4. Fourth, the greek word used for authority sometimes denotes the sphere in which authority is exercised. Next week we will be looking at the various spheres of authority so I'm not going to really get into that. Just know that God has established spheres of authority in the world.



In my preparation for today's message Pastor Mike shared with me that EVERY major theme/movement of the Bible originates in Genesis.

*"God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28 NASB).*

Authority is a BLESSING from God. He meant for a righteous humanity to RULE His Paradise. Indeed, righteous rulers are what we need. When I say the word righteous, what I mean is someone who is right with God.

*Righteousness is an attribute that belongs to God, the Lawgiver, and is manifested in His laws. No man can be justified by his own works apart from God's ordinance. Therefore, righteousness is a wonderful gift from God to humanity through His love: it is the God-given quality imputed to man upon believing in the Son of God (www.christianity.com).*

Authority Reimagined:

We have issues with authority because UNRIGHTEOUS people, people not right with God, miss use authority. To be clear, what separates us or causes us to walk apart from the Lord? SIN. And what did we learn last week that empowers us to walk right with the Lord? GRACE.

*"As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous— not even one"(Romans 3:10 NIV).*

It is no wonder so many have experienced authority in a negative manner. When we look at the Hebrew word for RULE in Gen. 1:28 we get more revelation of our need for righteousness. The Hebrew word is RADAH, which literally means "tread."

"Tread" means "wherever you walk." So today we are dealing with REDEEMING the notion of authority because, be it intentional or unintentional, it has been miss used. "Tread" could mean "walk alongside" OR it could mean "walk on" (as in crush) people. It depends on whether the authority is righteous or unrighteous; one walking with the Lord or one walking apart from the Lord.

The question of authority is a fundamental issue facing every person, especially the believer. We cannot underestimate the significance of authority in our everyday lives.

Every person has an authority in life that he or she has to come under submission. Ultimately, God has created human beings to live under his authority. When they choose to live under a different rule, that of self or an idol, they sin. They are no longer righteous, and mistakes are made. The first three chapters of Genesis is all about showing the human tendency, to be moved by pride, to rebel against authority and try to make self the final authority in their lives. And if we are honest with ourselves, we still struggle with this today.





**OG QUESTION:** *How do you struggle with your sin nature on a day to day basis? How can you grow in overcoming the flesh and living by the power of the Spirit?*

In the Old Testament, God exercised his authority through prophets, priests, and kings. In the New Testament we were introduced to the authority of the apostles and the church. And through the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus we see Christ's authority being given to the individual believer through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

And one of my favorite Old Testament stories that helped me understand this thing called authority and submission to authority is found in 1 Samuel 18-24. It's a long and epic story!

- David had won favor with King Saul and the people
- King Saul became jealous of David
- An evil spirit from God came upon King Saul and he on a number of occasions try to kill David; He felt threatened by David. Let's read 1 Samuel 18:12-16 NIV,

<sup>12</sup> "Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul.

<sup>13</sup> So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. <sup>14</sup> In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns."

- Saul continues to plan ways to see David be killed
- David spares Saul's life:

<sup>1</sup> "After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." <sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup> The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." <sup>7</sup> With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way," (1 Samuel 24:1-7).



I know what you are thinking... If all people are subject to falling to sin how can we trust any authority? This is why we need to learn God's purpose and plan for authority. Do you think God knew when He gave us the authority that we would fall short and make some mistakes? YES! Which is why is so important for us to understand HIS Grace.

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*  
(2 corinthians 12:9 NIV).

GRACE is the power to walk right or be loyal in our RELATIONSHIP with the Lord.

GRACE is the power to extend GRACE to others.

GRACE is the power to stay submitted to one in authority even when they are making mistakes as David did.

Grace is the Power behind our authority.

This GRACE is underserved!

Yes, we all have authority over us but we also have authority within us.

As believers, it is very important for us to know and understand who we are in Christ Jesus and the authority that we have in Christ. This will help us to live the life that Jesus called us to live here on earth.

When we understand authority, we will walk in our authority. When we walk in our authority we can take authority over things that are not a kingdom reality.

**OG QUESTION:** *What are some examples of things we as believers must take authority over that we face and are not a kingdom reality? How will you Respond to authority and How will you exercise your authority?*