

***Rooted In Authority***  
**Grow Series, Part 3**  
July 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

Years ago, I was working at a large Assemblies of God church in California. Every Tuesday morning, the main staff of about 15 people would gather in a room for a devotional and staff meeting. Every week the staff would take turns preparing and delivering a five-minute devotion to start our meeting. It was a way to put God first and to study God's Word together as a team. In one of the meetings, my friend on staff shared an encounter he had with God on the road. He was driving on the main road in our city, and he noticed a firetruck coming up behind him. I pulled over to get out of the way and like anyone else quickly got behind the firetruck to continue driving. My friend enjoyed one changed green light after another and was happy that he was going to get where he was going faster due to the firetruck. That was until he came to a red light. The firetruck was able to continue, but my friend had to obey the law and stop. It was at that moment that the Spirit of God spoke to him and said, "You can only ride someone else's authority for so long until you need to step out and take authority for yourself."

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul was telling the baby Christian's who were new in the faith, "I have fed you milk not meat." When you first come to know the Lord, you are learning and growing, and many times being disciplined under the authority of another mature Christian. However, there comes a time when you are to mature and begin to operate in your own spiritual authority. The point of what the Lord shared with my friend was that as a follower of Jesus you are called to submit to the assignment the Lord has for you and step out in your own authority.

The Christian church is not advancing the Kingdom of God when all it wants is to be spoon fed. When the church is designed to minister to people and not to God, we get fat on intelligence and starved in action. You and I were not called to simply show up and hear a message on Sunday mornings. You and I were called to be equipped on Sunday and to take it out into the world and minister in our sphere of influence.

Last week we took a break from our series titled "Grow." We heard an awesome word from Pastor Jonathan, and I am so thankful for the pastoral team God has blessed me with. Let me catch us up to speed really quick. God put this series on my heart to go back to the foundations of our faith. The Scripture in Colossians 2:7 says that we are to be rooted and built up in Jesus and established in faith. So, week one we looked at being rooted and grounded in God's love. The second week we looked at being rooted and grounded in our identity. Today I want to teach on the power of being rooted and grounded in our authority. You and I have authority in Christ.

As I was preparing this message and looking at the sequence of the Scriptures and points I have put together something struck me. I noticed that the reason many Christians are not walking in their authority today is because they are failing in the other foundational aspects of the faith. If you have your bulletins, I want you to fill in these words of our main point today:

***If you fail to properly understand God's love, you will not properly understand your identity. If you cannot properly understand your identity, you cannot properly release your authority.***

In other words, if you don't believe God is good and He loves you, you will live like a spiritual orphan. If you are a spiritual orphan, you will not believe what the Scriptures declare about your true identity. That's when the enemy's influence traps you. He preys on Christian's with a wrong view of their identity because he can then lie to them and trap them *so that* they never exercise the authority they have in Jesus.

So, what is the believer's authority? Authority is spoken of more in the New Testament than the Old. The most common word used is the Greek word *exousia* which has several definitions. Authority is really broken down in a few ways according to Scripture. First is having an authority in which you are not hindered in the choice you want to make. Secondly, it is authority of power. Third, it is authorities such as government. Finally, it is authority that is delegated such as a boss to an employee. Today I want to focus on authority being a choice that is not hindered and authority as in power.

Something we have to understand is that there is actually a difference between authority and power. This is why in Matthew 7:22 they come up to Jesus and say, "Did we not prophesy in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, do mighty works in Your name?" And Jesus would say, "Away from Me, I never knew you." This is because they were operating in power not in authority. The way you can tell the difference is what you are submitted to. If you don't have an assignment from God, then you are not operating in authority you are operating in your power. We see it still to this day. Many pastors are preaching from their own power, their own knowledge and not through an assignment with authority. Another way of saying this is like a police officer. Their authority is not in the gun, it is in the badge. Bad guys can have a gun, but not the badge.

It is so painful to watch the news. There is so much venom in the political narrative. Every single day in DFW someone is shot and killed. There is one horror story after another. All I can think when I hear of these terrible events is "if they only knew the love of God. If they only knew they were a child of God. If they would only use their power for good and not evil." Authority is important. The proper release of the believer's authority WILL change the world. Let me breakdown why this is important. If you are taking notes, please fill in number one:

*Why does the Christian need to walk in their authority?*

### **#1 – To be successful in warfare.**

Ok, a couple weeks ago I opened the sermon with a joke about my son acting like the devil. So let me give you a different story where I am the devil. When Gabe was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, he started getting an interest in basketball. At that point I was showing him a few moves and how to shoot the ball. If he challenged me to a game of one on one, I would beat him every time. I am not a participation trophy dad. I will make you cry in UNO when I dop two draw four cards on you. It's

just life lessons. When we moved to Dallas, he started getting really serious about basketball. So, we put a hoop in our backyard, and he got to practicing. It became harder and harder for me to beat him. Y'all know I only wear shoes to church, every other time I am in flip flops. So, I was playing Gabe one on one in my flip flops, and he beat me for the first time. So, then the next day I put shoes on. And he beat me again. If he were to challenge me to a game of one on one right now...even the Holy Spirit couldn't help me on that one. There is no contest, no chance. That's how it is in spiritual warfare. When we are baby Christians, we can easily get beat up by the enemy's influence. But as we mature and learn more about the love of God and our identity, the easier it will be to rebuke his lies and influence.

I wrote a sermon a while back called "Spiritual Victory." I believe that spiritual warfare is more about maintaining the victory we have in Jesus than it is fighting the devil. If you stand in your authority and refuse to even listen to the enemy, there is no chance for defeat. Just look at how the Scriptures boldly declare our authority:

*Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. – Luke 10:19 NASB1995*

*Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. – Matthew 10:1 NASB1995*

*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. – James 4:7 NASB1995*

Without a proper understanding of your authority, the enemy will have greater influence and impact on your life.

## **#2 – To be successful in God's will.**

*17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:17-20 NASB1995*

Again, there is a difference between power and authority. Authority comes from our assignment. Whatever God commands us to do, we can have the assurance that He has also given us the authority to accomplish it.

## **#3 – To be successful in witnessing.**

I believe I have shared this story before. I have a friend back in California who has done a lot of street ministry. One day he was at a street fair evangelizing when a demon possessed man came up to him. This man spun my friend around and said, "I am here to kill you." My friend just turned around and continued to minister to the person he was speaking with. The demon spun

him around again and said louder, "I said, I am here to k..." And before he could finish my friend said, "Shut up, go in the name of Jesus." The demon left and my friend was able to minister to him. But that is only one part of the story. Right after this happened another person walked up to my friend. He said, "Look, I'm an atheist but what just happened there was real. I say that man's pupils dilated and crazy. Ok, what do I need to get this Jesus thing?"

We don't walk in our spiritual authority to get what we want, or to boast of our strength. We walk in authority because it is the means to carry out our God given assignment. One of the purposes is to use our authority and the power of God to witness to the lost. Power, signs, wonders, and miracles are birthed from God's love and have the power to transform people's lives. It is not to give us credit, or to grow our ministries...it is to expand His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

*7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.  
– Matthew 10:7-8 NASB1995*

*8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." – Acts 1:8*

So, these are the reasons why we need to stand in our authority, but how do we release our authority? How do we walk in it? If you have your Bibles go with me to Matthew 8:

*5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, 6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." 7 Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment. – Matthew 8:5-13 NASB1995*

Let me close with this statement. If you did not listen or pay attention to anything else, listen to this. The greatest fuel to releasing your authority is by the power of your declarations. What you say. Proverbs tells us that there is the power of life and death in the tongue. I saw this cute video online the other day. I very tired looking young mom was eating a slice of pizza. She said, "We are eating pizza tonight because I'm a bad mom." She probably ran out of energy, or her day was too busy, and she couldn't prepare a more nutritional meal for her family. So she took the easy way out and got pizza. But the moment this young lady said "I'm a bad mom" her

daughter who may have been three years old jumped in and said, "No, you are not a bad mom, you're a good mom. You're a good mom." The mother started smiling because of how precious that gift was but the daughter didn't stop there. The little girl said, "Say it mommy, say I'm a good mom." And through happy tears and proud eyes the mom said, "I'm a good mom."

Before there is a release of authority there is a declaration of truth