

The Authority of the Righteous, Part 4

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, January 30, 2022

Text: Pro. 29:2

Opening Summary

There is natural authority and spiritual authority. Authority will remain dormant or unused if you do not use it. This Bible study brings understanding of the authority that's in you. You'll learn how far your authority goes when praying for other people. Further you will see how to exercise your authority, and how the devil flees when you cast him out, in Jesus' authority.

- I. Authority can be exercised in the two realms of existence: natural and spiritual.
 - A. 1 Tim. 2:1-3: When quietness and peace are absent, it is because prayer has diminished in the church, as a whole.
 - B. Let's look at natural authority. It can also be called governmental authority.
 1. Rom. 13:1-8: Government is supposed to jail evildoers.
 2. Rom. 13:6: We pay taxes so the government can take the evil off the street.
 3. We obey natural laws unless they go against God's laws, the highest authority.
 4. Gen. 6:12: The greatest judgment in the history of mankind was the flood. It was the result of mankind corrupting God's way (Rom. 1:22).
 5. 1 Cor 6:19-20: God made you responsible for your body. The government cannot force you to put something in your body against your will (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
 - C. Spiritual authority is exercised in the unseen realm of the spirit.
 1. John 4:24: The spirit realm created the natural realm (2 Ki. 6:16-17).
 2. Authority unused can cause sickness, poverty, premature death.
 3. Heb. 1:13-14: Authority can be exercised over demons to stop harassing believers. Authority can be exercised over angels to assist believers.
 4. Luke 10:17-19: Jesus gave the church His authority over satan and demons.
 5. John 14:13-14: *Ask* means *demand*.
 6. You become proficient by applying the five elements of faith with meditation.
- II. Eph. 1:16-20: Paul is praying that you understand what is in you.
 - A. What you saw in the gospels is what God wrought in Christ.
 - B. Jesus is at God's right hand, the seat of all authority in the universe.
 - C. Heb. 10:13: Jesus sat down expecting the church to make the devil His footrest.
- III. Eph. 1:21-23: *Above all* (Gk.: *huperano*) means *high above or far above, and refers to both rank and dignity*.

- A. *Principality* (Gk.: arche) means *rulers of the highest level, whether angelic beings, all human rulers, including kings, presidents, prime ministers dictators, or politicians. It refers to both natural and spiritual realms.*
- B. *Power* (Gk.: exousia) is *delegated power, or ability, privilege, jurisdiction, authority.*
- C. *Might* (Gk.: dunamis) is *force, explosive power, or the full strength of a military force.*
- D. *Dominion* (Gk.: kuriotes) is *lordship, any world system or type. Which means superior to rulers, elected leaders, military power, elected leaders and constitutional authorities.*
- E. Jesus is seated above any authority ever mentioned now and forever.
- F. Eph. 1:22: *Under* (Gk.: hupo) means *to subjugate or dominate* (Phil. 2:9-11).
- G. *Head* (Gk.: kephale) means *a physical head or a capstone, connecting two sides of an arch in the center. Chief.*
- H. *Church* (Gk.: ekklesia) means *those who are called out and invited, an entire assembly or people who are called out, called forth and separated to a position of honor and privilege.*
 - 1. Greek assemblies had decision making bodies. Its influence was in every area of society, both public and private.
 - 2. The church is not a building.
 - 3. God invited you to this special assembly. It is an honor to be born again.
 - 4. The church should apply God's laws in the earth (Prov 29:2).
- I. 1 Cor. 12:12-13: *Baptized* (Gk.: baptizo) means *immerse, submerge, wash.* We are one body regardless of our skin color or nationality (Gal. 3:27-29).
 - 1. *Drink* (Gk.: potizo) means *to water or irrigate* (Gal. 3:27-29).
 - 2. The body of Christ should not be divided.
 - 3. Division is of the devil, a distraction to keep you from using your authority.
- J. Eph. 4:1-6: This baptism is not physical water. It is immersion into the body of Christ.

IV. Exercising authority in the earth.

- A. Mark 16:15-17: Believers have Jesus' authority now.
- B. This is not prayer. Jesus never prayed to cast out devils, neither did Paul nor Peter.
- C. Jesus' name is not a title; it is authority given and it is His love.
- D. They demanded devils to leave (John 14:14).
- E. Jesus didn't argue with devils. He demanded them to leave, and they did.
- F. Ministering to the sick, is not praying. In Jesus' authority demand sickness to leave.
- G. Paul and Peter received, believed spoke and acted on what Jesus told them.

V. How far does your authority go with another human being?

- A. An adult has a right to their own decisions. Choose life or death (Deu. 30:19-20).
 - 1. You cannot force another adult to choose life or death.
 - 2. You can pray Eph. 1:16-23 for the conditions around a person to improve, to give them the best chance to see the truth.
- B. You have authority over your own *minor* children.
 - 1. You have no authority over your *adult* children.
 - 2. *It's not your fault* if they decide to turn away from God.

- C. When you lay hands on the sick and they get healed, it doesn't mean they'll get saved.
- VI. They have no chance if no one tells them the word. God will hold you accountable for witnessing to the loss. Someone must tell them.
- A. God had me witness to a man on the golf course. In my mind it was a bad time to witness to someone. I know God has sent many to witness to him.
 - B. But God was giving him one last chance. I had no authority to force him to get saved. All I could do was tell him the gospel. And I told him.
- VII. Eph. 1:17-18: This is what you pray for the unsaved.
- A. In Jesus' authority, you can take authority over demon spirits working against them.
 - B. Tell those spirits to desist from their maneuvers against them. The demons will flee.
 - C. That person will see the truth. But they must decide to act on it.
- VIII. Authority unused will cause you to be abused. Say this with authority, "satan and demon spiritus I command you to desist from your maneuvers against me today! Angels go forth and bring about God's will in my life today (Heb. 1:14)!"
- A. God gives mercy when we've done things we should not have done.
 - B. Don't live on mercy; walk in the authority God has given you.
- IX. God puts his influencers everywhere people are.
- A. God gives people athletic ability to influence others to be saved in that field.
 - B. Continue to do your assignment so you can effectively use your authority in your field to influence people to be saved.
 - C. Children should listen to God about their career. Let your children follow God.
 - D. The greatest problem in the body of Christ is that many do not understand assignment.
 - E. One man in my church was in college to be a nurse. But it didn't work out. Then he was led to go to flight school and learn to fly an airplane. Now he's a pilot and flies for God.
 - F. If someone prophesies about blessings that will happen to you, God means those things will happen if you are doing your assignment.
 - G. Get in your assignment and stay in it for your own safety and protection.

Closing Summary

You have seen the difference between natural and spiritual authority. But your spiritual authority will be dormant if you do not use it. Contrarily, if you use it to its fullest extent, you can effectively help yourself and others. When exercising authority over devils and demons, they must leave (Mark 16:15; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:7-9). So, use your authority. Demand devils to flee. Charge your ministering angels to bring God's Word to pass in your life. In short, return to using the authority Jesus gave you.