



# WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

## The Authority of the Righteous, Part 3

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, January 16, 2022

**Text:** Pro. 29:2: The Bible determines what is righteous and what is wicked.

### Opening Summary

This is the year Christians will return to using their authority in Christ Jesus. Jesus gave every Christian His authority to help each another. That authority is exercised by faith-filled words, revelation of the Scripture and the kind of prayer that gets results. In this lesson we will closely examine the role of prayer as revealed in Ephesians chapter six. When you pray according to what the Scripture says, you can have all God says you can have.

- I. Mat 8:16: Believers have been given the right to the authority of Jesus.
  - A. Jesus exercised His authority with faith filled words.
  - B. We exercise our authority with faith filled words.
- II. Authority is exercised by understanding your authority (Hos. 4:6).
  - A. Pilot instructors don't teach just what buttons to push. They teach how the plane works.
  - B. Pilot instructors teach everything about an aircraft, so you understand how to correct problems that may occur.
  - C. In karate, there are degrees of knowledge that are defined by the belt color. That knowledge separates winning from losing.
  - D. Make decisions based on revelation from the Word, not on outward appearance.
  - E. Jesus said the church is built upon revelation knowledge (Mat. 16:18).
- III. Eph. 6:18: Prayer is required to walk in authority.
  - A. Eph. 6:10-20: Armor is needed to protect you in an assault.
  - B. Eph. 6:10: *Strong* (Gk.: endunamoo) means *empower, enable, increase in strength*.
  - C. *Lord* (Gk.: kurios) means *highest authority of all; controller*.
  - D. Instead of trying to do something in your might, increase in His authority.
  - E. *Power* (Gk.: kratos) means *vigor, dominion, might, strength*.
  - F. This is not something for God to do. This is something you must do.
  - G. *Might* (Gk.: ischus) means *ability*.
  - H. Act in His ability and His authority, not your own.
  - I. The believer's authority is actually Jesus' authority.
- IV. Eph. 6:11: *Stand* (Gk.: histemi) means *to hold up*.
  - A. Put it on to hold up in an assault.
    1. If you don't put it on you will be non-productive and fail (Mark 4:17-19).
    2. *Wiles* (Gk.: methodeia) means *methods* (Mark 4:17-19).
    3. This must be your response in an emergency.
  - B. Eph. 6:12: Underline this verse. *Flesh and blood* means *people*.
    1. Focus on the Word (Rom. 1:16)!
    2. Satan uses people to get you off the Word (Rom. 1:16).
  - C. Eph. 6:13: *Take unto you* (Gk. analambano) means *take up/in, receive up*.

1. Instead of being moved by fleshly things, take up the five elements of faith.
  2. Take up meditating the Word.
    - a. God didn't give Joshua military strategy at first (Jos. 1:6-8).
    - b. Speak the Word. Meditate the Word so you know what to do.
    - c. God starts by giving you spiritual understanding.
  3. *Withstand* (Gk. *anthistemi*) means *resist*.
  4. The evil day is that hurtful day, when you're most vulnerable to make bad choices.
  5. Mark 11:23: Do it with faith in your heart.
    - a. Mark 11:20: Jesus cursed the fig tree 24 hours before it looked like He cursed it.
    - b. Mark 11:21: The disciples had to bring it to His attention.
    - c. Mark 11:22: Jesus told them they could do it too.
    - d. You can do it too. Speak the Word instead of the hate, fear, gossip, lies.
- D. Word meanings and word usage is important when studying the Bible.
1. What a word meant in the 1600s may not have the same meaning in the 2000s.
  2. I provide Greek and Hebrew definitions of Bible words and verses because it tells us what the writer meant during the time it was written.
  3. When reading history, word meanings during the time it was written may be different than today's definitions.
- V. Eph. 6:13: This means to overcome all. You overcame when Jesus overcame.
- A. You are not trying to get victory. You have victory now. You have already overcome the problem.
  - B. When you know that, you know what to do.
  - C. If you don't know that, you won't know what to do.
  - D. Meditate the Word by thinking about what it means and how it applies to you.
  - E. Ask questions when you read the Bible: who, what, when, where and why.
- VI. Eph. 6:14: *Stand therefore* means *continue*.
- A. James 5:16: *Fervent* means *to deeply care about it* from your heart.
  - B. *Availeth much* means *it brings a huge amount of force much stronger than any level of force you can bring*. You bring God in on the scene.
  - C. James 5:17: Elijah was just like us, and he prayed earnestly. Real prayer is fervent prayer that is done with authority.
    1. 1 Kings 16:30-17:1: King Ahab was an evil king.
    2. 1 Kings 17:1: This is where James 5:17 comes in.
  - D. Who was Elijah?
    1. Elijah was a prophet of God.
    2. Elijah was about holiness and following God.
    3. Elijah is grieved at this wicked king because the people are mourning.
    4. It's like watching what's happening in China. The people can't move without the government's permission.
    5. Men were not born to be dominated. Men were born to be free.
    6. Even when we tell our children what they can't do, the first thing they want to do is rebel. My four-year-old grandson wanted to do what he wanted to do. He was in the back seat of my car, kicking my seat. He kept on until I had to tell him to stop. My point is that it's in our heart to be free to do what we want to do.
  - E. 1 Kings 17:1: In an agricultural society, lack of rain means economic collapse.
    1. James 5:17-18: Elijah exercised authority over the weather.
    2. Jesus exercised authority over the weather (Mark 4:39).
- VII. In prayer things are happening that produce the result.

- A. Miracles happen first in the unseen.
  - B. When a person comes to the altar to get saved, that wasn't the first time the Word penetrated their heart. God's been sending people to them for years. Then the miracle, rebirth, happens.
  - C. When you pray, you may not see the result immediately. Mark 11:24 tells you to believe you receive and you shall have.
- VIII. Eph. 6:14: The truth is the Word.
- A. The Word will tell you that you are righteous, in Christ Jesus.
  - B. Eph. 6:15: Go to the Word first and let it calm you down.
  - C. In karate, a white belt will be frantic, but a black belt will be relaxed in an emergency.
  - D. Fear comes from lack of information, not believing it or not having it deep in you.
- IX. Eph. 6:16: *Above* all means *in front of everything else*.
- A. This is a shield of your trust, confidence and belief in God and His word.
  - B. *Quench* means *extinguish*.
  - C. *All* means *all*. Whatever the affliction, you have enough Word to conquer it.
  - D. You don't know what you've got until affliction shows up.
  - E. Fiery darts: If you don't extinguish it with your faith, it'll burn your house down.
  - F. The *wicked* can mean *rulers*.
- X. Eph. 6:17: Continue to meditate the Word.
- A. The sword of the Spirit: A sword was both defensive and offensive. It defends you and lets you strike against your enemy.
  - B. *Word* (Gk.: *rhema*) means *the word spoken out of your mouth*.
  - C. Mark 11:23-24: Not doubting in your heart is heartfelt prayer.
  - D. It's like squeezing a cream-filled cake. The cream filling will ooze out.
    1. You find out what's in your heart when you're squeezed.
    2. Meditate the Word before watching the news or talking to friends.
    3. Everyone on earth will face times of pressure, tests and trials.
    4. In pressure, you want the Word (God's power) to come out of your mouth.
  - E. Trying to build a house in a storm is like trying to become a black belt in the middle of a fight.
    1. Although God tells folks what to do to avoid a storm, many don't do it.
    2. If they go to Him and ask for mercy, He will help them, because He is good.
- XI. Eph. 6:18: This connects with verse 17. This is a part of the armor.
- A. God is talking about a weapon used against the enemy. It's active and reactive.
  - B. Find Scriptures that apply to your situation.
  - C. I pray the Scripture for my family, my congregation and KBM partners.
  - D. Pray in the Spirit: allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in what to pray (2 Chr. 16:9).
  - E. Pray for all Christians diligently.
- XII. Eph. 6:19: Pray for your preacher.
- A. Why boldness? As they prepare to preach, they face spiritual opposition.
  - B. Every time my wife prepares to speak, she's attacked. I lay hands on her and she goes forth.
  - C. I was at a KCM convention. Bro. Copeland was in the back, laid across a table with back pain. He asked me to lay hands on him. I did. He preached the Word like he never had back trouble.

### Closing Summary

Jesus gave every Christian His authority so Christians can have supernatural ability to help one another. Praying according to what the Scripture says assures you that you are praying God's will. And when you know God's will, your faith is activated, your prayers will be heartfelt, thus bringing the power of God into your life and the lives of those for whom you pray.