

# Understanding Authority



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## All Authority Comes from God

- Romans 13:1-2
- He uses authority to test our hearts
- We are in an army, not individual soldiers

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## He Will Always Be With Us

- All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

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**Delegated Authority Is Not  
Abdicated Authority**

- When Jesus gave us authority in the earth, He did not abdicate His authority here.
- When we delegate authority to others, we do not abdicate that authority.

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**Spiritual  
Authority**

**Secular  
Authority**

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Based in the anointing and calling of God | ■ Based on achievement or expertise |
| ■ God chooses whom He desires               | ■ Man chooses whom he desires       |

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**2 Corinthians 12:10**

- Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- Our strength comes from Him, not our own power

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### Walk In Faith For Your Leaders

- Honor the office
- There is great responsibility for those in authority
- Not elected—appointed by God
- Honor them when they are right and when they are wrong
- Not the job of those led to determine what happens to those who are leading
- Can only be obedient for yourself
- In serving we are made leaders

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### Our Call

- No one can keep us from God's plan for our life
- Only our own hearts can



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### Serving Under Authority Prepares Us To Be In Authority



- Timing is everything
- God's process is key
- Keep our hearts right (remember Joseph in prison)

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## God Honors and Protects Authority

- He deals with those who oppose authority
- He deals with those in authority when they are wrong
- Don't meddle in that over which you have not been given authority
- Recognize the boundaries of your authority
- Exercise authority within the boundaries God has established

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## We Are To Equip Others

- And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry...** Ephesians 4:11-12
- Need to determine if this is where you are called

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## Pray For Those In Authority

- Spiritual authority is rooted and grounded in relationship
- Interaction over issues
- Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

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**Servant Leadership**

- My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you... Galatians 4:19
- Lay down our lives for those we lead
- Pray for them
- Have faith for them

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**Faith and Grace for Those Led and Those Leading**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Secular Authority<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Imposes authority</li><li>□ Requires obedience</li><li>□ Controls</li><li>□ Exercises power</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Spiritual Authority<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Based in voluntary submission</li><li>□ Comes out of relationship</li><li>□ Requires choice not control</li><li>□ Chosen, not imposed</li></ul></li></ul>
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**Choose Life**

- This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. Deuteronomy 30:19

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## One-Flesh Leadership and Authority

- In this ministry we learn to flow as a couple in authority and under authority
- Different than domestic authority
- We don't have the option to choose who God brings
- We need to learn to honor and guard each other
- Couple to couple discipling
- As a couple, we increase and multiply spiritually (Genesis 1:28)
- We must model the process

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