

Bethany Assembly of God
Authority In Christ
7.21.2024

Central Proposition: Your position in Christ gives you authority in spiritual conflict.

Introduction

As we continue our Overflow series, let me remind you that we are studying the elements of renewal for application in our lives. These are not merely academic pursuits of study. The objective is to comprehend them so that we can increase our capacity for a move of the Holy Spirit. We desire renewal over the long term. As we continue this study and come to the topic of spiritual authority, the connection becomes clear: Because I am justified, being sanctified, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, I have what I need to exercise authority in spiritual conflict. If I rejoice in spiritual authority, I am putting the cart before the horse. Spiritual authority is a result of my position in Christ. See Luke 10:17-20.

Christ has all authority. See Mark 1:22, 27; Luke 4:32-36.

Christ came to this earth with authority and he astonished the Jewish people with the authority with which He spoke. His teaching was with authority; His actions, both spiritually and physically, were with authority; and He had the authority to forgive sins. His healing power validated His authority as God in the flesh. His authority was established on the cross. It gives us victory and is available to us in our fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The realm of the conflict is spiritual. See 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Romans 8:7-8, 12:2.

While this seems like a rather obvious point not worth emphasizing, the reality is that we often fail to recognize and operate within the correct realm when conducting spiritual warfare. We get so caught up in the flesh, that we ignore the spiritual. The realm of the conflict is spiritual. The weapons are not in the realm of the physical, but the spiritual. When we recognize that the realm of the conflict is spiritual, we can more readily identify the battlefield and the enemy's tactics.

We need to assume a posture of courage over fear. See 1 Samuel 22:7; 1 Cor. 6:11.

It should be more natural for us to defeat Satan than to be defeated by him, because your position in Christ allows you to be a mighty man or woman of God. Where are the mighty men who will lead their families? Who will exercise spiritual authority to protect themselves and their families, and lead them in an offensive against the enemy? Where are the mighty women who will storm heaven with their intercession?

Conclusion:

As we conclude today, I want to bring one final application to bear. There is an enemy of the soul that wants to keep you in bondage to sin. Mankind, with all of his ingenuity and genius, is powerless to overcome this enemy because of his own sinful state. Today, are you under the bondage of sinful habits and thoughts? Are there patterns in your life that are wreaking havoc and destruction on you and those you love? No matter how hard you try, you can't seem to get victory? The conflict that rages with your spirit is more than you can bear and the thoughts of your mind, which you might never repeat to anyone else, scare you and lead you to despair. There is no peace in your mind. You want to be free, but you don't know how. I'm here to let you know that Jesus has the authority and power to set you free.