

The Spiritual Life: Authority

KJV 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Paul calls the believers in Corinth carnal and worldly; he says they were living like **common, ordinary men**.

Paul is contrasting and revealing there are (2) two types of people in the world; [natural people and supernatural or spiritual people](#).

There is a natural world and a supernatural world

❖ **And within these two worlds there are levels; levels of rank, power and authority!**

A problem arises when “we don’t properly understand these worlds and their authority”!

ESV Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Every single person on earth is **under somebodies authority!**

God has set the earth up in such a way that [nobody can escape authority!](#)

KJV Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

This statement is one of the most important statements about Christian maturity in the bible

—children don’t understand authority!

—children pretend to be something they’re not!

Paul is saying that every believer must examine themselves looking at how they’ve used their faith to transform their lives and the world around them!

We are to use this as the basis for determining who we are in The Kingdom and the level of authority God has given us.

KJV 1 Timothy 3:5 For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?

Thinking soberly is being honest about the measure of God's grace on our lives and how we've used our faith to impact our families and the lives of others!

When we can do this we will more easily recognize those who are using their faith as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

We'll know the grace God has given us and operate at that level of faith.

Once we can recognize our level of authority it's easier to recognize other people's level of authority!

*KJV Matthew 8:5-10 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

*7 And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.***

8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

*KJV Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.***

Jesus equated this man's faith with his understanding of authority!

Why? Because **all** FAITH must be placed in God who has ALL AUTHORITY and gives it to whomever He pleases!

➤ **In order for our faith to work it must be directed toward the proper authority in our lives at any given time!**

Notice the centurion says "I say to one man go and he goes and to another come and he comes." He had **no doubt** that what he says will be done—why?

Because whatever his superiors tell him to do he does!

The Centurion knew that whoever gave him an order did so because someone with more authority told them!

He wasn't just going around doing whatever he felt like doing—everything he did could be traced back to someone in authority!

➤ Our **Actions** are connected to our **Faith**; and our **faith** is connected to someone's **authority** preferably God's!

NIV Luke 11:20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

Jesus said He cast out devils by **The Finger of God!** He used God's **Finger** not His finger; because it's God Kingdom Jesus was using God's power! **Because everyone on earth must be subject to higher authority!**

ESV Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

Jesus teaching had **authority** because they are the words of God!

John 8:28b... "I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me."

➤ **Faith is all about being under and obeying authority!**

ESV Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

All authority originates from God! Anyone who has it is using it for the glory of God—even when it looks and feels painful; just look at Jesus!

NIV John 19:10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power (authority) either to free you or to crucify you?"
11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

God who is the author of ALL authority gave Pilate the authority to put Jesus on the cross (not kill Jesus).

So every person with **authority** whether good or evil is working out God's sovereign plan, whether they know it or not.

Remember this: "Man has been given the free will to make decisions on his own; but God controls the outcome of every decision."

NAS Psalm 33:10 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

NIV Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

NAS Proverbs 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

NIV Proverbs 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

This is why we walk by faith and not by sight!

Because the authority figure might say one thing—yet God who is sovereign can turn a curse into a blessing!

KJV Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.