

The Believer and Delegated Authority Part 5

(Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Hello everyone,

I hope you're doing well! I wanted to share some thoughts from a recent message about "The Believer and Delegated Authority."

It's Part 5 in a series, and it really got me reflecting on the importance of understanding and using the authority God has given us.

To start, we talked about Paul's determination in **Acts 21:10-14**.

Even when people tried to stop him from going to Jerusalem because of the danger, Paul was so focused on God's will that he was ready to face imprisonment or even death.

Why? Because he valued God's plan for his life above everything else. That's powerful, right? It made me think—how much do we value God's will in our own lives?

Paul reminds us in **Romans 12:2** not to conform to the world but to renew our minds so we can understand God's will.

That renewal comes from feeding on God's Word. But let's be real—there are so many distractions in our lives (social media, you name it).

If we spend more time on those things than on prayer, studying the Word, and exercising our authority in Christ, our priorities might need a little adjustment.

Here's the thing: when we truly value prayer, studying Scripture, and understanding our delegated authority, we'll be determined to grow in those areas.

It's like fueling up for a long journey. The more we feed on God's Word, the stronger and more motivated we become to fulfill His purpose.

Jesus is a perfect example of this. In **John 4:34**, He says His "food" is to do the will of God and accomplish His work.

To do that, He had to exercise authority in the spiritual realm to set people free from darkness. And guess what? We're called to do the same.

In our last session (Part 4), we talked about three essentials for using delegated authority:

1. Faith – Being fully convinced of God’s promises (**Romans 4:20-21**).

2. Prayer – Staying connected with God (**John 16:23-24**).

3. Forgiveness – Keeping our hearts clean (**Ecclesiastes 9:8**).

We also discussed three levels of learning: understanding, developing, and utilizing what we’ve learned.

It’s like baking bread—you start by understanding the recipe, then practice making it, and finally, you share it with others.

Similarly, we need to take what we learn about God’s authority and apply it everywhere—at home, work, school, or even on a plane or train.

A key point from this session was that when we keep the value of something high enough, we’ll have the determination to follow through.

For believers, that “something” is our delegated authority in Christ.

Now, I want to share a heartbreaking example that shows why this is so important. There was a recent tragedy involving a 10-year-old boy who stabbed a 12-year-old boy to death.

It’s devastating to think about the pain this caused—the victim’s family, the boy who committed the act, their classmates, teachers, and the entire community are all suffering.

This tragedy hit close to home because the victim was in my daughter Julie’s class at her school.

Hearing about this reminded me of **John 10:10**, where Jesus says the thief (Satan) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.

It’s a stark reminder that we’re in a spiritual battle. We need to resist the enemy by standing firm in our faith and using the authority God has given us (**James 4:7**).

But here’s the catch: we must rightly understand and apply God’s Word when exercising that authority.

In **Acts 19:11-16**, there’s a story about some Jewish exorcists who tried to cast out demons using Jesus’ name without truly knowing Him. It didn’t end well—they were overpowered by the evil spirit because they lacked the relationship and understanding needed to wield such authority.

This whole message really drove home how important it is for us to stay grounded in prayer and Scripture. Life isn't perfect, and neither are people.

But we're not alone—God promises to be our rear guard (**Isaiah 52:12**). Still, we have a role to play.

Like Jesus, we need to stand against darkness and bring light into the world by using the authority He's entrusted to us.

So, here's my takeaway let's keep raising the value of prayer, study, and exercising our delegated authority in our lives.

When we do, we'll have the determination and strength to face anything that comes our way—and make a real difference in the world around us.

Thanks for reading! Let's keep growing together.

Perspective #2

The Believer and Delegated Authority: A Call to Action

In our spiritual journey, the concept of delegated authority is both profound and essential. It is a gift from God, entrusted to believers, empowering us to fulfill His will and resist the forces of darkness in the world.

This teaching explores the importance of valuing this authority, the necessity of spiritual discipline, and the practical steps to exercise it effectively in our lives.

Understanding Determination Through Paul's Example

The Apostle Paul serves as an exemplary model of determination in fulfilling God's will. In **Acts 21:10-14**, we see **Paul's** unwavering commitment to his mission, even in the face of dire warnings.

When the prophet **Agabus** foretold that **Paul** would be bound and handed over to the Gentiles in Jerusalem, many pleaded with him not to go.

Yet, Paul responded with resolve, stating that he was ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Paul's determination stemmed from his understanding of the immense value of God's will.

As he wrote in **Romans 12:2**, believers are called to renew their minds, transforming their lives to discern what is good, acceptable, and perfect in God's sight.

Paul's life was a testament to this renewal, as he prioritized God's word and mission above all else.

Competing Priorities in a Distracted World

In today's world, countless distractions vie for our time and attention—media, electronic devices, and other activities often overshadow our spiritual disciplines.

If we allow these distractions to take precedence over prayer, studying God's word, and exercising our delegated authority, our priorities become misaligned.

The question arises: What value do we place on prayer, study, and the exercise of delegated authority in our lives?

If these spiritual practices are not prioritized, we risk being overcome by the very distractions we feed. As **John 6:27** reminds us, we must labor not for perishable food but for that which endures to eternal life.

Spiritual nourishment must take precedence over temporal pursuits.

The Role of Delegated Authority in Spiritual Warfare

Delegated authority is a critical tool for believers to combat the kingdom of darkness. Jesus Himself demonstrated this authority during His earthly ministry, using it to set people free and accomplish His Father's work (**John 4:34**).

To follow His example, we must feed on God's word, which provides the strength and motivation needed to exercise this authority effectively.

In **Mark 11:12-26**, we learn that three key elements are necessary when using delegated authority:

- 1. Faith:** We must be fully convinced of God's promises (**Romans 4:20-21**).
- 2. Prayer:** Communication with our Heavenly Father is essential (**John 16:23-24**).
- 3. Forgiveness:** Maintaining a clean heart ensures our authority is not hindered (**Ecclesiastes 9:8**).

Additionally, there are three levels of learning to master delegated authority:

- 1. Understanding:** Gaining foundational knowledge (**Proverbs 24:3**).
- 2. Developing:** Cultivating skills through patience and perseverance (**Ecclesiastes 3:1; Romans 8:25; Hebrews 6:12; James 2:22**).
- 3. Utilizing:** Applying this authority in everyday life—at home, work, and within our communities (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

As we deepen our understanding and practice of delegated authority, its value in our lives increases, fueling our determination to operate within it.

The Tragedy That Calls Us to Action

The devastating story of a 10-year-old boy who stabbed a 12-year-old boy to death serves as a stark reminder of the enemy's agenda.

Satan seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (**John 10:10**). This tragedy not only shattered families but also left an indelible mark on classmates, teachers, and an entire community.

Such incidents highlight the urgent need for believers to exercise their delegated authority. **James 4:7** instructs us to resist the devil by standing firm against him.

To do so effectively, we must use the name of Jesus and rightly divide His word (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

Resistance involves actively opposing the pressures and powers of darkness through faith-filled actions.

The account in **Acts 19:11-16** illustrates the dangers of misusing God's name without proper understanding.

The seven sons of Sceva attempted to cast out evil spirits in Jesus' name without truly knowing Him or His authority.

The result was disastrous. This underscores the importance of genuine faith and a deep relationship with Christ when exercising spiritual authority.

Practical Steps for Exercising Delegated Authority

To stand against the kingdom of darkness effectively, believers must:

- 1. Prioritize Spiritual Disciplines:** Prayer, Bible study, and worship must take precedence over worldly distractions.
- 2. Understand Our Authority:** Study scriptures that reveal the believer's authority in Christ and meditate on them.
- 3. Actively Resist Evil:** Use the name of Jesus and declare God's word over situations where darkness seeks to prevail.
- 4. Stay Spiritually Alert:** Be vigilant in recognizing the enemy's tactics and respond promptly with faith and prayer.
- 5. Support Community Healing:** In tragedies like the one mentioned above, believers can play a vital role in bringing comfort and intercession for those affected.

Conclusion

The believer's delegated authority is a powerful gift that must be valued and utilized with determination.

As **Isaiah 52:12** reminds us, God is our rear guard, protecting us as we step out in faith to fulfill His will.

However, it is our responsibility to exercise this authority against the forces of darkness.

Let us renew our commitment to prayer, study, and spiritual discipline. Let us resist the enemy on all fronts and bring light into a world that desperately needs it.

By valuing and exercising our delegated authority, we can make an eternal impact for God's kingdom.

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