



UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY AND POWER

Assoc. Pastor Ken Norman

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Luke 10:18-19 NKJV - 18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- **Power and authority - definition and function**

Power (*Greek - dunamis*) is the strength or force needed to rule.

Authority (*Greek - exousia*) is the right to rule.

1. Being granted power and authority allows us to have dominion, the right and the ability to rule.

2. Power exercised without authority, without the right to use it, is using power illegally and is morally wrong - this is usurping authority.

3. God is all-powerful, and all power originates from God. Psalm 62:11, I Chronicles 29:11, II Chronicles 20:6

4. All authority is delegated by God because He is the source of all authority. Romans 13:1-5

5. Governing authorities have a God-ordained purpose and we, as Christians, are required to submit to their authority with one exception, when those authorities contradict the will of God. (I Peter 2:13–17, I Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 3:1, Ezra 7:26 Contradicting the will of God - Acts 4:13-20, Acts 5:26-29, Daniel 1:8-15)

6. As believers, we need not fear submitting to governing authorities since it is God who appoints them and directs them. (Proverbs 21:1, Psalm 75:6-7, Daniel 2:21, Cyrus - Isaiah 45:13)

7. Exercising dominion in God’s image is not about domination or abuse. Instead, it is about faithfully representing God’s character as the ultimate example in our work and actions.

8. To operate properly in authority, one is required to recognize they have responsibility.

- In our last session, we discussed satan's plan to cause the fall of mankind and the effect it had on mankind's authority in the Earth. The plan satan instigated was initiated by subverting the order that God had established. *Subvert - to "undermine the power and authority of an established system or institution."*

9. God sets order through His Word and when order is set through His Word, authority is established.

10. Authority must be exercised so that order can be maintained. (Don't allow what's inferior (what you have authority over) to become superior (have authority over you).)

- God permitted satan entrance into the Garden for the purpose of the temptation of Adam and Eve. However, this did not mean that God wished Adam and Eve to sin, that He forced them to sin, or that He kept them unprotected from sin. Ultimately, as with every temptation, it is the person's own decision that determines whether they will sin. Scripture teaches that with every temptation, God always provides a means to escape. **I Corinthians 10:13 AMPCE - 13 For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man**

[that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently.

I couldn't control myself...it was too overwhelming; no, the truth is we chose not to control ourselves and we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the temptation by not exercising authority.

- Why did God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted?

God allowed them to be tempted in order to determine Adam and Eve's genuine love for Him. In order to have it proven, God gave them, as well as all of future mankind, the freedom of choice. The freedom of choice gives us the right to love or not to love God, to obey God or not to obey Him, to do good or to do evil.

John 14:23-24 AMPC - 23 Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him. 24 Anyone who does not [really] love Me does not observe and obey My teaching. And the teaching which you hear and heed is not Mine, but [comes] from the Father Who sent Me.

I John 5:3 AMPC - 3 For the [true] love of God is this: that we do His commands [keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching]. And these orders of His are not irksome (burdensome, oppressive, or grievous).

If mankind's will had never been allowed to be tested and proven, mankind would be nothing more than robots. God could have created us to love and obey Him automatically. He could have put a fence around the Garden of Eden and never allowed humanity to be tempted. But God's desire was and is for people to love Him sincerely, obey Him willingly, and worship Him wholeheartedly.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 and Joshua 24:15 relating the importance of making the right choice in life and the effect our choices can have on us and generations to follow.

Genesis 2:15-17 NIV - 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Man is supposed to work. If a man is not working, he is not fulfilling his purpose, and when someone or something is not fulfilling their purpose, they are out of position to walk in the authority they were given, and are prone to be a problem.