



UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY AND POWER

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Luke 4:1-9 NKJV - 5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

- **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.

- Tonight, we will further review the transference of mankind's authority to his enemy, satan and the restoration of mankind's authority through Jesus Christ.
- **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. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, when you eat from it you will certainly die.”** (*Willful intent - Adam and Eve knowingly and deliberately acted in a manner to eat from the tree God commanded them not to eat from.*) **for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**
- In **Genesis 2:17**, the phrase "**you shall certainly die**" is interpreted in Hebrew as "**dying you shall die**," which indicates the beginning of dying rather than a definitive statement about death.
(*In the grammatical structure of the Hebrew language, the verb die is repeated to convey certainty. Thus, it does not imply that death is the end of life but rather the initiation of the process of dying.*)
- Satan subverted God's order and protocol by going to Eve rather than speaking to Adam. When the devil tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:1–7**), he caused her to question what God had said through a clever line of reasoning.
 1. **He questioned God's Word**
(**Genesis 3:1b NIV - ...He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”**). He did not deny that God had spoken; he simply questioned whether God really meant what Eve thought He had said. This is a part of satan's plan to derail us as Christians by having us question God given authority or command - has God really said?
 2. **He questioned God's love for Eve (Genesis 3:1)**. The way that satan asked the question implied he was questioning God's love. “If God really loved you, He wouldn't keep something from you, would He?”
(*Never allow God's love for you to be put into question.*) (*Alfred Tennyson, author and poet, “A lie that is all of a lie can be met with and fought outright. But a lie that is partly the truth is a harder matter to fight.”*)



3. He denied God's Word (Genesis 3:4a NIV - "You will not certainly die,").

Satan dismissed God's warning to Adam altogether, telling Eve, "You will not surely die." It is a short step from questioning God's Word to denying it. If Eve had not listened to Satan questioning God's Word, she would never have fallen into Satan's trap when he denied God's Word. Eve was at the wrong place, at the wrong time, listening to the wrong person, which ultimately led to her doing the wrong thing.

4. He substituted God's truth with his lie (Genesis 3:5b - "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."). Satan told Eve that if she eats from the tree, she "will be like God, knowing good and evil." She was already in the image and likeness of God. Satan will try to commit identity theft. (*satan will try to steal your identity (the recognition of who you are in Christ, what you have in Christ, and what you can do through Christ) by causing you to forget the information you've received concerning your spiritual identity.*) Interestingly, this was Satan's own sin when he attempted to take God's place.

- Satan knew that disobedience to God would cause man to sin and separate himself from God. (*Sin always pays with some type of a process of death. Romans 6:23 - normally when we are paid, we profit, but when sin pays, it creates a deficit.*)
- We must understand that one of the reasons for Satan causing the fall of Adam and Eve was to regain authority or right to use his power in the Earth and beyond. (*His fallen nature was driving him to believe that he could still take authority over God.*)
- By believing what Satan said, Adam and Eve subordinated themselves to him and therefore Satan gained access to the authority mankind had in the Earth. Jesus confirmed Satan's acquisition of authority from mankind.

Luke 4:1-7 NJKV - Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, (*Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*) **2 being tempted for forty days by the devil.** (*40 is associated with testing, trials, and spiritual growth*)

And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. (*The devil will often want to tempt you when you're dealing with times of physical, mental, financial, or emotional stress or weakness*)

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." (*If the thought is not unctioned by the Holy Spirit from your reborn spirit, it is either prompted by your flesh or Satan.*)

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " (*God has supreme authority (Romans 13:1) and His word is final authority - talk back to the enemy and defeat his lies with the Word*)

(Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV - As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.)

(It will fulfill its purpose and be productive - now and in the future)



5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; (Authority is associated with kingdoms of this world.) for this has been delivered to me, (Gr. paradidōmi - to give over into one's power or use) and I give it to whomever I wish. (Gr. didōmi - to give something to someone)(God gives for our benefit - satan gives with an ulterior motive - refers to additional reasons for doing something, often concealed or hidden.) (Adam and Eve fell for satan's scam - false pretenses, where the individual lies or makes misrepresentations to obtain what belongs to someone else. By falling for the scam, they gave their authority to satan.)

7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

*(Worship involves submission, recognizing the greatness of the one being worshipped. **Submission** - accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another. If Jesus had worshipped satan, the authority that satan would have granted to Jesus would still have been under satan's control because by worshipping satan, Jesus would have submitted Himself to satan and would therefore be under the authority of the one He worshipped - satan.)*

- Even though mankind fell and lost their authority, God promised mankind victory over his enemy and his authority restored. The Father declared satan's defeat and mankind's deliverance.

Genesis 3:15 - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel".

The head symbolizes authority, among other things. To crush means to violently subdue or put to an end. So, God let satan know that his authority over the Earth and mankind would be coming to an end. God, being omniscient (all-knowing), already knew that man could fall, so He had a plan in place to redeem mankind and restore their position of right standing with Him, relinquishing satan's authority over them. God promised and provided a redeemer. Jesus was chosen before the foundation of the world, before sin entered into the picture, to crush the head of satan. Satan is just operating on the earth on borrowed time.

I Peter 1:19-20 AMPCE - 19 But [you were purchased] with the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot. 20 It is true that He was chosen and foreordained (destined and foreknown for it) before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view (made manifest) in these last days (at the end of the times) for the sake of you.

- **Hebrews 10:5-7 NKJV - 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’ ”** *(The sacrifices and offerings of animals can only sustain mankind in fellowship with You, but they can't remove the stain of sin that prevents mankind from having a relationship with You.)*

I Corinthians 15:45 NLT - 45 The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

- Jesus' obedience to do the will of the Father by becoming the willing sacrifice for the sin of all mankind countered Adam's disobedience that brought mankind into sin and death.



Romans 5:18-19 MSG - 18-19 Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person (*Adam*) did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person (*Jesus*) did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man (*Adam*) said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man (*Jesus*) said yes to God and put many in the right.