



## UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY AND POWER

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**Luke 4:1-9 NKJV - Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. 3 And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” 4 But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ” 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.” 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”**

- **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're going to view the transference of mankind's authority to his enemy, satan. In our last session, we discussed God permitting satan entrance into the Garden for the purpose of tempting Adam and Eve. We stated that although God allowed them to be tempted, it did not mean that God wished Adam and Eve to sin, or that He forced them to sin, or that He kept them unprotected from sin.

**James 1:13-15 NLT - 13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong;[c] and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.**

We shared that it is each person's own decision that determines whether they will succumb to the temptation and give in to sin. We were reminded of **1 Corinthians 10:13**, which teaches that every temptation is not beyond our means to overcome it and that God always provides a means to escape it.

- (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 their love for God 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.

We shared **John 14:23-24** and **1 John 5:3**, letting us know that our love for God should motivate us to obey Him and that our love for Him will provide the strength that we need to overcome the temptation that we face. (*Lord, help me to love You more, like You should be loved.*)



- God's desire was and is for people to love Him sincerely (free from pretense or deceit; genuinely; not dishonest or hypocritical), obey Him willingly (you are happy or pleased to do something or that you do not object to doing something), and worship Him wholeheartedly. *(Completely and sincerely devoted, determined, or enthusiastic. It describes a commitment that is free from all reserve or hesitation.)* Remember **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**, **Joshua 24:15**, and **Genesis 18:17-19** relating the importance of making the right choice in life and the effect our choices can have on us and generations to follow.
- God told Adam what the consequences would be if he disobeyed. **James 4:17 NLT - 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.**
- **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."** God will place us where we need to be in order to fulfill His purpose. Man is supposed to work. If a man is not working, he is not fulfilling his purpose, and when someone 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 - They will either get in trouble or cause trouble. Out of position Ex. - **King David II Samuel 11-12** - *(David should have been out at battle, but he remained behind. Both through custom and experience God revealed to David, "You need to be at the battle.")*  
**Numbers 32:23** - **"Be sure your sin will find you out"** - doesn't mean, "Everyone will find out about your sin" but that we will face the consequences of our actions.
- **What Happened As A Result Of David Being Out Of Place** **1.**  
**Knowingly Commits Adultery:** *He has an affair with Bathsheba, knowing she is married to one of his most devoted soldiers who was at that very time out fighting the king's war.*  
**2. Lie and Deception:** *Bathsheba became pregnant from their affair. David called Uriah in from the battle, hoping to have him go home to his wife, and then he could pass off the pregnancy as being Uriah's.*  
**3. Plotted the Murder of an Innocent Man: David sends a letter by Uriah to Joab, the leader of his army, directing them to put Uriah at the front of the battle in the area of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him so that he will be killed.**
- **What were some of the consequences of David's sin**  
**1. Death of the Child:** *The child born to David and Bathsheba fell ill and died, despite David's prayers and fasting.*  
**2. Turmoil in David's House:** *Nathan the prophet foretold that the sword would never depart from David's house, indicating ongoing conflict and strife within his family. II Samuel 12:10*
- When we are not in line with the will of God, we are more likely to succumb to the schemes and devices of the devil, the ways of the world, or the lust and desires of the flesh and give in to temptation. *(These three aforementioned areas are our enemies, but they are also used by God for our spiritual*



development.)

**Romans 5:3-4 AMPCE - 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult (*jump for joy, celebrate*) and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patience and unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (*possessing a combination in life experiences that enables us to handle life's challenges with grace and wisdom*) (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.**

- **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,**

*(Willful intent - Adam and Eve knowingly and deliberately acted in a manner to eat from the tree God commanded them not to eat from. There are times God will place things out of your reach that you're not supposed to have just to show your heart.)* **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.

*(This interpretation is based on the grammatical structure of the Hebrew language, where the verb 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.)*

God told Adam the consequences of disobeying His command ahead of time and Adam still choose to disobey God.

- **Genesis 3:4-5 - You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**

A part of satan's plan to derail us as Christians is to have us question God given authority or commands – “Has God really said”. We’re taught to respect authority, but that shouldn’t prevent us from asking questions of those in charge.

**I Thessalonians 5:21 ESV - But test everything; hold fast what is good.** Knowing or understanding why is not a qualification for obedience.