

# Gaining Authority

## I. Intro

- A. Many people believe that the work on the cross automatically gave all believers all authority. I believe in looking in the Word and believers throughout history that the cross won all authority that believers have access to, however there are ways shown in scripture of how we actually access it.
- B. I believe knowing your identity and what happened on the cross is *part* of that, but scripturally does not seem to be the whole picture
- C. Power vs authority: ability vs right/gun verses badge. Authority is more than just having access to power - it's accessing power in the right way.
- D. A "finished work of the cross" doctrine that goes overboard is one that seeks to fully allow the believer to operate outside of dependence on God. It is not the doctrine of Jesus.

## II. Authority from dependency

- A. Authority comes from *dependency*, even with Jesus

**"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13**

**"Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." John 5:19**

**"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." John 5:30**

- B. Dependency:

**"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Cor 12:9-10**

(Flip side: **"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Phil 4:13)**

**"O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you: Do not arouse or awaken love until the time is right. Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?" SOS 8:4-5**

C. Creating dependency: Weakening ourselves to learn it by His strength

1. Prayer
2. Fasting
3. Going through hard time (“wilderness”) – overcoming

III. Fasting: literal loss of strength

- A. See teaching on fasting and “voluntary weakness”.
- B. Matt 17:21 (this kind does not come out but by prayer and fasting) shows that this is a way of building authority

IV. Going through hard times: loss of control

**“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Cor 12:9**

A. Going through hard times is meant to do two things:

1. Crush our natural strength that stops us from leaning on our own natural ability in an area **to trade it in** for dependance on Him which in turn releases His supernatural power.
2. To learn the enemy’s devices in the specific area so that they lose power, so that we gain authority over them in that area, and strategy can be created for others in the kingdom to overcome

B. Going through hard times can be a hugely successful tool for gaining authority, however it’s not automatic. The purpose of going through a hard time is to eventually coming out overcoming, not to get stuck in victimhood. We come out leaning, but the idea of leaning is that His supernatural power is greater than our natural strength, so our natural strength is crushed for the purpose of His supernatural power. Therefore power is going to look different when we are leaning, but it should still be *greater*.

C. There is a twisted wilderness syndrome where people believe that God wants us habitually weak and stay that way from struggle. The Lord wants us weak to our own strength and *dependent* to where He is the source, but this gives us greater authority against the enemy than we’ve ever had.

D. Perpetual victimhood is a twisted interpretation of scripture and does not bring Him glory. Just like Rees Howels, we must be *pulled through*, not stuck.

E. **“Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved....Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it.” SOS 8:5-7**

The wilderness was come up from, and the leaning (dependency) produced the greatest power described about love that is unable to be overcome. This is the picture of the overcoming, power, and authority that is able to be produced from hard times.

V. Prayer: loss of your own ability

**“In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.” Daniel 9:2-3**

- A. Authority comes to those who have learned to *primarily* wrestle in prayer and *secondarily* release words.
- B. Some widely known but least understood and practiced verses connected to prayer:

**“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the Lord of hosts.” Zech 4:6**

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph 6:12**

**“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” 2 Cor 10:3-4** (“Flesh” - “mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God”... “although the nature in which we live is earthly and therefore weak, yet we do not carry on our warfare according its law” - Greek Lexicon)

- 1. We primarily speak to others about topics and rarely actually war for authority in prayer.
  - 2. Operating against a spirit in the same spirit sets us up for the enemy gaining territory rather than the Kingdom.
  - 3. We typically never really step into the Spirit and speak accordingly and we therefore we rarely have authority. Both Jesus and Satan quoted the Bible - but Jesus only spoke what the Father was saying according to the Spirit.
- C. Rees Howells – pull me through/gain position. In “building prayer” we are given an assignment and overcome it in the spirit step by step until we have “gained position” in the place of prayer. We are fighting from victory, but we are also fighting to gain the territory back/apply the victory in the spirit realm that will allow it to manifest in the natural.