



Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





# Strength Through Authority

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

**Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.**

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.



# Strength Through Authority

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Luke 7:1-10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1944

The Lord did not create us to live crushed and defeated lives, but to reign and live victoriously. The centurion's faith in Luke 7 is an example of strength through kingdom authority.

"When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick" (Luke 7:9-10).

In this passage, we first see the source of kingdom authority: it comes from a higher power. Adrian Rogers says, "Authority comes from above; therefore, any authority that you may hold is no better or stronger than the one who is over you."

The reason God's children have authority is that God is over them. It is the doctrine of identification. When He died, He died for us, so we died with Him and when He rose, we rose with Him, bearing resurrection life. When Jesus ascended, we ascended with Him; therefore, Jesus' victory is our victory.

Second, we see the secret of kingdom authority: God does not give it to rebels. Adrian Rogers says, "You cannot be over until you are under; if you do not know the restraint of the Spirit, you will never know the release of the Spirit. If you cannot operate the spiritual brakes, God'll never show you the spiritual accelerator."

Jesus lives as an example of how we are to subject ourselves to authority. Though He was God, He lived as a man, under the authority of God, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, His earthly parents, and the government.

Third, we see the scope of our authority: we cannot refuse, confuse or abuse it. In Genesis, Adam was given authority over the forces of nature, but in Christ, we are given spiritual authority over the power of the enemy.

Finally, we see the strength of kingdom authority, which comes from surrender. The centurion in Luke 7 was a man who had many people working under him; yet, he humbled himself, surrendering to the authority of Jesus as he pleaded for his servant's life. True surrender takes incredible strength.

## LIFE APPLICATION

Do you understand the source, secret and scope of your kingdom authority? Have you surrendered to the Holy Spirit and been strengthened by His power?



# Strength Through Authority

SERMON REFERENCE: Luke 7:1-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1944

- 1) INTRODUCTION
  - a) Many Christians are living defeated lives today.
    - i) But that need not be you, if you will discover the wonderful truth of kingdom authority.
  - b) Luke 7:1-9
    - i) The Lord Jesus marveled at this man.
    - ii) The Lord Jesus said that this man had more faith than all of the sons of Abraham.
    - iii) This is significant, and we need to pay attention to it.
      - (1) Luke 7:9-10
  - c) Satan will do all that he can do to keep us from learning the truth about the kingdom authority we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) God did not create us to be victims of Satan, to live crushed and defeated lives.
    - ii) To the contrary, our Lord expects us to reign.
      - (1) We are to have victory over Satan in this day and in this age.
  - d) When God created Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden, He told them to have dominion.
    - i) Genesis 1:28
    - ii) "Dominion" means that they are to reign and to rule.
  - e) But Adam and Eve disobeyed God and yielded everything to Satan.
    - i) They lost their dominion.
    - ii) Rather than having their dominion, they became slaves to Satan.
  - f) When Adam rebelled against Heaven, he lost his authority on Earth.
    - i) Adam became a slave to Satan, and a child of a slave is a slave, also.
      - (1) Therefore, all of those who are in Adam became slaves of Satan.
  - g) The Lord Jesus Christ, the last Adam, came to this Earth and won back for us the victory that the first Adam lost.
    - i) If we don't understand this, then no matter how true it is, it will do us no good.
      - (1) There are some who have not yet learned of our emancipation in the Lord Jesus and of our kingdom authority, and there are others who think it sounds too good to be true.
      - (2) The truth does not set us free if we don't know the truth.
        - (a) John 8:31-32
    - ii) Knowing the truth about kingdom authority, which we lost in Adam but got back in Christ, helps us overcome Satan now in this life (not in the world to come).
      - (1) Romans 5:17
        - (a) We shall reign in life right now; not just in the sweet by and by.
  - h) Luke 7:8
    - i) This centurion was a very important man in the Roman army.



- ii) Even though he was an officer, there was a general over him and an emperor over the general.
    - iii) He understood that he was under authority; therefore, he had authority.
      - (1) Because he was under authority, he was over those who were under him.
  - i) Luke 7:9
    - i) The Lord Jesus marveled.
    - ii) This centurion understood kingdom authority.
  - j) We need to understand this same kingdom authority.
    - i) Authority means the official, legal right to act.
  - k) In today's message, we will learn four things about kingdom authority from this passage in the book of Luke.
- 2) THE SOURCE OF KINGDOM AUTHORITY (Luke 7:8)
- a) All authority comes from above.
    - i) We have to be under authority to have authority.
  - b) Luke 7:8
  - c) Since authority comes from above, any authority that we may hold is no better or stronger than the one who is over us.
    - i) We must have someone to back up the authority that we hold.
      - (1) For instance, in a disturbance, a police officer comes in the name of the law.
        - (a) We are to pray in the name of Jesus.
        - (2) The police officer gets his authority because he has been commissioned.
        - (3) Behind that badge is the police department of the city.
        - (4) Behind the police department of the city is the state militia.
        - (5) Behind the state militia is the National Guard and the forces of the United States.
          - (a) That one police officer is backed up by incredible authority.
  - d) The reason God's children have authority is because of the Lord who is over them.
  - e) 1 John 4:17
    - i) As Jesus is, so are we because we are in Him and He is in us.
      - (1) This is the doctrine of identification.
        - (a) When He died, we died with Him.
          - (i) When He died, He died for us; so, we died with Him.
        - (b) When He rose, we rose with Him.
          - (i) We are identified, united with Him in resurrection.
          - (ii) Romans 6:5
            - (iii) When He died, He gave Himself for us; and then He rose to give Himself to us.
              - 1. We have resurrection life.
        - (c) When Jesus ascended, we ascended with Him.
          - (i) The Bible teaches that we are seated with the Lord Jesus.
            - 1. Ephesians 1:17-21, 2:6
          - (ii) Jesus' victory is our victory.
  - f) The authority comes from Jesus, and we are united with Jesus in His death, burial,



resurrection, ascension and enthronement.

- i) Jesus has dominion over Satan.
- ii) Jesus has authority over demons.
- iii) As believers, we are in Jesus.
- iv) If Satan and demons are subject to Jesus, then they must be subject to us.
  - (1) This is not about us and our importance; it's about Jesus.
    - (a) 1 John 4:17
- v) Because of what Jesus has done and because of His victory, we have victory in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- g) We need to understand what the relationship of Jesus Christ to the church truly is.
  - i) The church is not a business with Jesus as the president.
  - ii) The church is a body with Jesus as the head.
    - (1) We are organically related to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (a) His life is in us.
  - iii) Matthew 28:18-20
    - (1) Jesus has the authority, and He has given us the power of attorney to act for Him.
- h) 1 Peter 3:22

### 3) THE SECRET OF KINGDOM AUTHORITY (Luke 7:8)

- a) Luke 7:8
  - i) The centurion was under authority, so he had people under him.
- b) The secret of kingdom authority is that we cannot be over until we are under.
  - i) We cannot have authority until we get under the authority that is over us.
- c) All authority is linked to obedience.
  - i) Why would someone give us authority to act for him if we are disobedient to him?
    - (1) This is why Satan endeavored to get Adam to disobey.
      - (a) When Adam disobeyed, he forfeited his authority.
- d) Our generation today doesn't like to be under authority.
  - i) Pop culture and music have a defiant message to resist authority.
  - ii) Entertainment makes fun of authority figures, including fathers.
- e) We don't want anyone to be over us, but God does not give kingdom authority to rebels.
  - i) As an illustration, when teaching someone to drive, the first thing you show them is the brake.
    - (1) If they are not interested in learning how to make the vehicle stop, then you certainly aren't interested in teaching them how to make it go.
  - ii) If we do not know the restraint of the Holy Spirit, then we will never know the release of the Spirit.
  - iii) The reason many people don't have kingdom authority is because they have not learned how to be under; therefore, they will not be over.
- f) God has authority everywhere.
  - i) There is the authority of the Word of God.
    - (1) Are you under it?



- ii) There is the authority of the Lordship of Christ.
    - (1) Have you submitted to it?
  - iii) There is the authority of the direction of the Holy Spirit.
    - (1) Do you know it?
  - iv) There is to be authority in the home.
  - v) There is authority in the church.
  - vi) There is authority in the government.
  - vii) When we go to a restaurant, there is authority in that restaurant.
  - g) The Lord Jesus Christ was under authority.
    - i) Luke 7:8
    - ii) The Lord Jesus showed us not what God was to be like on Earth but what man was to be like on Earth.
      - (1) He was God, but He lived a life on this Earth as man.
    - iii) The Lord Jesus was subject to His Father.
      - (1) John 17:4
    - iv) The Lord Jesus was in subjection to the Holy Spirit.
      - (1) Luke 4:1
    - v) He was subject to the Word of God.
      - (1) John 10:35
        - (a) He said that the Scriptures cannot be broken.
    - vi) He was subject to His earthly parents.
      - (1) Luke 2:51
    - vii) The Lord Jesus was subject to earthly government.
      - (1) Matthew 17:27
        - (a) Jesus, the King of Glory, paid His taxes.
  - h) If the Lord Jesus was subject to authority, then who are we to say that no one will tell us what to do?
  - i) Because authority flows from above, we must get under that authority that is over us so we can be over those things that that authority has set over us.
- 4) THE SCOPE OF KINGDOM AUTHORITY (Luke 10:18-19)
- a) Luke 10:18-19
    - i) In the King James translation, the word “power” is used twice in this passage.
      - (1) But these are two different words and may be translated as, “Behold, I give you authority over all the power of the enemy.”
    - b) The scope of our authority is over all the power of the enemy.
    - c) Kingdom authority does not need to be refused, it does not need to be confused, and it does not need to be abused.
      - i) God gave Adam authority over the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air and the fish of the sea, but that authority has not yet been given to us.
        - (1) We do not live in the Garden of Eden.
      - ii) Potentially, we gain more in Christ than we ever lost in Adam.



- (1) But our full inheritance is waiting until Jesus Christ comes again.
  - iii) Adam was given authority over the forces of nature; we are given authority over the power of the enemy.
  - iv) The dominion over the forces of nature will come in the millennium.
    - (1) Hebrews 2:8
      - (a) There is potentiality that is yet to be fulfilled.
      - (b) There is a “not yet.”
    - (2) Romans 8:22
      - (a) We are not living in the Garden of Eden.
      - (b) There is disease, destruction and depravity all over the globe.
        - (i) Children of God are not isolated nor insulated from these.
    - (3) Romans 8:23
      - (a) The restoration of nature and the redemption of the body are yet to come.
  - d) When our Lord says that He gives us authority, He is referring to spiritual authority.
    - i) If the devil cannot keep us from learning this truth, he will try to corrupt it and pervert it so that we will have the idea that we can make it rain or influence nature or empty hospital rooms if we have spiritual authority.
  - e) 2 Peter 1:3
    - i) This is where our authority is.
  - f) One day, the lion and the lamb will lie down together, but not yet.
    - i) Hebrews 2:8
  - g) Meanwhile, we are not slaves of sin.
    - i) Satan has no authority, sin has no allurements, and temptation has no power that the child of God cannot overcome with kingdom authority.
- 5) THE STRENGTH OF KINGDOM AUTHORITY (Luke 7:7-8)
- a) Luke 7:7-8
    - i) This centurion was a man of strength.
    - ii) If we need spiritual soldiers, spiritual servants and this strength, then we will have to surrender.
      - (1) Strength, in the Christian life, comes from surrender.
  - b) If we are going to understand this tremendous strength, then we must surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) We must be His to command.
  - c) There is a difference between authority and power.
    - i) Authority comes from the office.
    - ii) Power is residual in the person.
      - (1) On the football field, there are large, strong men dressed in armor; and there are much smaller men with nothing but a whistle.
        - (a) The smaller men with the whistles can send the strong men off the field.
        - (b) The man in the striped shirt with the whistle has the authority.
  - d) Just knowing the strength of spiritual authority is not enough.





i) We need to learn how to pray with authority.

6) CONCLUSION

a) Have you given your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ?

i) Are you saved?

b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

i) Romans 3:23

ii) Romans 10:9-10

iii) Romans 10:13

iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16



# Strength Through Authority

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Luke 7:1-10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1944

Would you be finding Luke Chapter 7? Luke chapter 7. And may I tell you that you could discover no greater truth than the marvelous, wonderful truth of kingdom authority. You could enjoy no greater blessing than to enter into the truth of kingdom authority. But having said that, we have many, and some of them in churches today, who are living defeated lives. Somebody has described our generation this way: "We are a needy generation, sick of our conditions, unable to create better, too ignorant to explain life, too shallow to endure it, too bitter to enjoy it, and too weak to overcome it." I hope that's not you, but it could be you. But it need not be you if you will discover a wonderful truth called kingdom authority.

Now let's look in Luke chapter 7 verse 1 through verse 9, "And when He had ended all these sayings in the audience of the people, He entered into Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto Him the elders of the Jews, beseeching Him that He would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought Him instantly, saying, 'That he was worthy for whom He should do this: for he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.' Then Jesus went with them. And when He was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him saying unto Him, 'Lord, trouble not thyself: for I'm not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof: wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under authority.'" Now I want you to understand this verse is the key verse, "'For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, 'Go', and he goeth; and to another, 'Come', and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he doeth it.' When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, 'I say unto you, that I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.'"

Now, ladies and gentlemen, look up here just parenthetically before I go one step further. If Jesus Christ marveled at this man, I mean absolutely marveled at him, if Jesus Christ was astounded by what this man said, then you ought to take note of it. And if Jesus Christ said of all of the sons of Abraham that He knew, that this man had more faith than any He'd met, don't you think you ought to pay attention? Hmm?

Now, folks, we're dealing with something that is significant. Don't miss that. Don't miss what the Lord Jesus said. He said, I'll read Luke 7 verses 9 and 10 again, "When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned him about, and said to the people that followed Him, 'I say unto you,



I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.' And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick."

Now, again I want to say that Satan, that sinister minister of misinformation, will do all that he can do to keep you from learning the truth of your kingdom authority in the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to pull the veil of darkness over this truth.

Now the Lord did not create you, bring you into this world, to be a victim of Satan, for you to live a crushed and defeated life. To the contrary, our Lord expects you to reign, as we're going to see, not someday in the sweet by and by, but right now in the nasty now and now. You are to have victory over Satan in this day and in this age.

Now let's back up again. We're talking about the principles of kingdom authority. And remember that when God created Adam and Eve, God created Adam and Eve and put them on Earth, and the Bible says in the book of Genesis chapter 1 and verse 28, that, "God told them to have dominion." Dominion, that means they're to reign! They're to rule! They were the king and queen of this Earth! But they disobeyed God. They yielded everything to Satan. They lost their dominion. They lost their crown. Rather than having dominion, they became slaves of Satan. They became servants to Satan. And when Adam rebelled against Heaven, Adam lost his authority on Earth. And Adam became a slave to Satan; and a child of a slave is a slave also, and therefore all of those who are in Adam became slaves of Satan. But the Lord Jesus Christ came to this Earth, the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, won back for us the victory that the first Adam lost, and we were able to sing together as a congregation, "Oh, victory in Jesus!" Now we need to understand this, because if we don't understand it, no matter how true it may be, it'll do us no good whatsoever.

There was an Emancipation Proclamation when Abraham Lincoln set the slaves free in the South. They were free, set free! And thank God for that. But did you know that many slaves continued on the plantation? Many continued to serve their old master. Why? Two reasons: one, some of them didn't get the news. Secondly, some of them couldn't believe it. It seemed too good to be true. And I tell you, there're some people in this world today who have not yet gotten the news of our emancipation in the Lord Jesus Christ and of our kingdom authority. And to others, and some in this place right now, it will seem too good to be true. Now we often hear people say, "Oh, the truth will set you free." Well, be careful. The truth doesn't set you free if you don't know the truth, if you don't know it. What did our Lord Jesus say about that? In John 8 verse 31 and 32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, 'If you continue in My Word, then are ye disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

Now what I'm trying to do in this, in this series of messages is to help you to know the truth. Now we're not talking about overcoming Satan in the world to come. We're talking about now, where you work this afternoon and tomorrow morning. You see, we lost it in Adam; we got it back in Christ.

Here's a key verse. Put this one in your margin, Romans chapter 5 and verse 17. It sums up everything that I'm trying to say, "For by one man's offense death reigned by one." Who was that one man who offended? Adam! Who took over then? Death! Death reigned because of Adam's offense and because of Adam's sin. "Much more," and thank God for that much more, now, "they which



receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one Jesus Christ." "Shall reign in life!" Not reigning somewhere, but right now! As I say, not just in the sweet by and by.

Now here's the story. There's a man, a centurion. That means he was an army officer. He had one hundred men under his command, at his post. He was a very important man in the Roman army; he was a Gentile. And he had a servant that was sick, and he was concerned about his servant, his servant's about to die. People came to Jesus and said, "This is a good man. You ought to go over there and help him! Heal his servant!" So Jesus is going to this man's house, and the man sends out a message. He says, "Listen, I didn't feel that I was worthy to come to You. I'm not worthy that You should come under my roof." But he said, "All You have to do is to give the command, and my servant will be healed." And then he explained why he said that. He said, "For I too, I also am a man set under authority." That is, "I have officers over me. I'm a centurion, but there's a general over me, and over that general is the emperor. I understand that I am under authority; therefore, I have authority. Therefore, I can say to this servant, 'Go,' and he goes. I can say to this soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. Why? Because I am under authority, and because I am under authority, I am over these who are under me." Simple, that's the way it works. He was a military man. He understood the way things worked in the military. And when he said that, Jesus marveled. He said, "He's got it! He has seen it! He understands it! Why can't even the children of Israel understand this? I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel! He understands kingdom authority." And Jesus marveled.

Now you need to understand today this same kingdom authority. What do we mean by authority? It means the official, legal right to act.

Now we're going to learn four things today about kingdom authority that come out of this text, okay? And I don't want this to be academic. I want to go beyond academics into your life.

Now first of all, the source of kingdom authority. All authority comes from a higher power. It comes down. Authority comes from above. You have to be under authority to have authority. "I also am a man set under authority." That's what he says there in Luke 7 verse 8, "For I also am a man set under." Authority comes from above; therefore, any authority that you may hold is no better or stronger than the one who is over you. Because, you see, you have to have someone to back up the authority that you hold.

When a policeman comes and knocks on the door, there's been a disturbance, he knocks on the door, and the person behind the door may say, "Who's there?" And the policeman will say, "Open the door in the name of the law." In the name of the law. Know that we're to pray what? In the name of Jesus. "Open the door in the name of the law." Now what this man is doing is just appealing to a higher authority. Now he doesn't just come and say, "This is John Jones. Would you please open the door?" "Open the door in the name of the law." Well, where does he get this authority? Well, he's a policeman; he's been commissioned. So behind that badge is the police department of the city. Well, suppose the man doesn't want the police department of the city to interfere with him. Well, behind the police department of the city is the state militia. Well, suppose he won't obey that. Behind that is the National Guard and the forces of the United States, if there comes to be an insurrection. That



one man is backed up by incredible authority, and that's what we need to understand; that authority comes from above.

Now the reason that God's children have authority is because of the Lord that is over them. Now let me give you another great verse that'll help you understand this. First John chapter 4 and verse 17; I'm going to take just a phrase out of that verse. Don't turn to it, but jot it down. "As He is," talking about Jesus, "As He is, so are we," now here's the key phrase, "in this world." As Jesus is, so are we, because we are in Him, and He is in us. This is the doctrine of identification. When He died, He died for us, and so we died with Him, right? His death had your name on it. He died for you. You died with Him. Are you identified with Him in His death? Say, "Amen." Okay.

Now, secondly, when He rose, you rose with Him. You are identified, united with Him, in resurrection. The Bible says in Romans chapter 6 verses 4 and 5, "If we've been buried in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection." Jesus died for us, and then Jesus rose for us. He, He died for us. He gave Himself for us, and then He rose to give Himself to us, and so we have resurrection life.

Now when Jesus ascended, we ascended with Him, and the Bible teaches in Ephesians that we're seated with the Lord Jesus, "In the heavenlies, far above all principalities and powers," and so, therefore, Jesus' victory is our victory.

Understand this, that the authority comes from Jesus, and we are united with Jesus in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension, enthronement, and therefore we sing, "Victory in Jesus." Does Jesus have dominion over Satan? Yes! Does Jesus have authority over demons? Yes! Are you in Jesus? Yes! That's the point. It flows from above. If they're subject to Him, they must be subject to us. Now that doesn't mean that you're somebody important; it's Him. "As He is, so are we in this world."

I heard about a man one time who was boasting about taking his pocketknife and cutting the tail off a monstrous lion. Somebody said, "Wow! You are brave! If you cut his tail off, why didn't you just go ahead and cut his head off, too?" "Oh," he said, "somebody had already done that." You see, friend, Jesus is the One who has cut the head off that lion of Hell. And because of what He has done, because of His victory, then we have victory in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now what we need to understand is this, what the relationship of Jesus Christ to the church truly is. Don't think of the church as a business with Jesus as the president. The church is a body with Jesus as the Head. Do you see the difference? That is, we are organically related to the Lord Jesus Christ. His life is in us. Our authority comes from the Lord Jesus. And that's the reason when Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28 verses 18 through 20, and sent us out to spread the Gospel, He said, "All authority is given unto Me! Go ye, therefore!" Therefore, because I have this authority, and now I am giving you the power of attorney to act for Me.

Here's a great verse, First Peter chapter 3 and verse 22. It speaks of Jesus, "Who is gone into Heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject



unto Him." First point, first truth, the source of kingdom authority. It flows from above. It comes from a higher power.

Now that brings us to the secret of kingdom authority. That's the second thing, the secret of kingdom authority. Look again in Luke 7 verse 8, "For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers." I'm under, so I have people under me. Here's the secret; it's very plain, it's very wonderful; you cannot be over until you are under. You cannot have authority until you get under the authority that is over you. Now that's so simple, but it's so wonderful. You see, all authority is linked to obedience. Why would a person give you authority to act for him when you're disobedient to him? That's the reason that Satan endeavored to get Adam to disobey. When Adam disobeyed, he forfeited his authority.

Now our generation doesn't like the word authority. We don't like to be under anybody. I mean, we stick out our chests, we talk about being free-born Americans, and if you're a baby boomer! You know, let me tell you, if you're part of the boomer generation, you are the first television generation. For you the television was a third parent. In your lifetime you've gone through the Hula Hoop, the Barbie Doll, pop psychology, Dr. Spock. Many of you have Spock-marked kids. Donahue, rock and roll, you watched Elvis Presley wear his clothes out from the inside, the Beatles, and all of that music that you boomers listened to, all of it had a defiant message! It was anti-authority! The authority was called, "the man;" you were told to, "Resist the man."

And authority figures were made fun of. Fathers were Archie Bunker; preachers were Flip Wilson. To be laughed at! And the ideals that were in your generation was this, "I gotta be me!" Frankie said, "I did it my way." McDonald's or whomever, says, "Have it your way." "Do your thing." "If it feels good, do it!" And many of us dare not realize the vestiges of rebellion that still lurk down in our hearts. We don't want to submit to authority, and you're looking at a guy, by nature, is the same way.

I was looking for a parking place a while back and I saw a sign; it said, "Don't even think about parking here." I was so full of rebellion, I thought about it! Folks, I mean we all have that thing in us. We don't want anybody to be over us. But God does not give kingdom authority to rebels. God does not give kingdom authority to rebels!

I've often used this illustration. Have you ever tried to teach a child to drive? How many of you have ever tried teach somebody to drive? Child, anybody else? What's the first thing you showed them? Not even the ignition switch, certainly not the accelerator, not how to put it in drive. The very first thing, if you've got an iota, a modicum of intelligence, the brake! "Honey, here's how you make it stop. Here's how you make it stop! There's the brake."

Now, suppose that child that you're teaching, that young teenager says, "Hey, Dad, don't, I'm not interested in the brake. Show me how to make this thing go! I'm not interested in the brake. That is of no importance to me." You just find yourself taking the keys and putting them back in your pocket. Isn't that right? Because you know if that person is not interested in how to make it stop, you're not interested in telling him how to make it go. Isn't that right? I'm going to tell you this about God the Holy Spirit. If you do not know the restraint of the Spirit, you will never know the release of the Spirit. If you cannot operate the spiritual brakes, God'll never show you the spiritual accelerator.



You see, the reason that many people do not have kingdom authority is, they have not learned how to be under, and therefore they will not be over.

Now God has authority everywhere. There's the authority of the Word of God; are you under? There's the authority of the lordship of Christ; have you submitted to it? There's the authority of the direction of the Holy Spirit; do you know it? There is to be authority in the home, as we're going to see later on. There is authority in the church. There is authority in the government. There is authority everywhere. When you go to a restaurant, there is authority in that restaurant.

I was with some preachers, some friends; it was a convention. Well, we went into a restaurant; we want to be together. You know how preachers like to get together and talk and we went into the restaurant, and there was not enough room for us to get around one table. So I said, "Well, let's put these two tables together." A waitress came up, said, "Mister, you can't do that." Now, folks, there was no reason I couldn't have done that. Made perfectly good sense. We were not blocking an aisle. It was good for business. Had I been the manager of the restaurant, I would've certainly acquiesced to that. I knew that waitress didn't understand, and after all, I am the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, and she's a waitress. I want to say this in all seriousness, there are no big shots in the kingdom of Heaven. And my thought was, "Oh yeah, we can do it. That's all right, ma'am. It won't matter," and to start putting those tables together. You know what God said to me? God said, "Adrian, you're a rebel. She's in charge here," and He was right, and I had to just say, "Well, we won't do it. We won't do it." There's authority everywhere, everywhere! And I'm going to tell you this, if you do not learn to be under, you will not be over! And I'll give you the best example of this whole thing, and this humbled me when I found out. Listen, the Lord Jesus Christ was under authority. What did that man say? He looked at Jesus, and he said in Luke 7:8, "I also am a man under authority." He said, "You're under authority."

You say, "Well, to whom was Jesus under authority?" I'm going to show you. Now remember that Jesus came here as a man! He showed us not what God was to be like on Earth; He showed us what man was to be like on Earth. He was God, but He lived a life on this Earth as man. And as a man, He was subject to His Father. John 17 verse 4, "I have glorified Thee on Earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." That's what Jesus said to His Father.

Jesus was in subjection to the Holy Spirit. Luke 4 verse 1. The Bible says, "He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." Subject to the Holy Spirit.

He was subject to the Word of God. He said the Scriptures cannot be broken.

He was subject to His earthly parents. Put this verse down, Luke chapter 2 verse 51, "He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them." That's to His mother and father, His earthly mother, and Joseph, who was not His true father, but His father on this Earth.

The Lord Jesus was subject to earthly government. When there came time to pay taxes, what did Jesus say in Matthew 17 verse 27? "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money. That take, and give unto them for Me and thee." Jesus, the King of Glory, paid His taxes. Point; if Jesus Christ is subject to God the Father, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, if Jesus Christ was subject to earthly parents, if Jesus Christ were subject to the government



under which He lived and operated, who are we to say nobody's going to tell us what to do? That army officer looked at Jesus Christ, and he said, "I also am a man under authority." Now the secret of kingdom authority is plain and clear. You cannot be over unless you're willing to be under.

Now here's the third thing. We have talked about the source of this authority; authority flows from above. We've talked about the secret of this authority. Because it flows from above, we must get under that authority that is over us so we can be over those things that that authority has set us over. Got it? Got it.

All right, now here's the third thing; the scope of kingdom authority. Into what realms does this authority extend? Well, it is to the things of the Spirit of God. You're in Luke 7, just turn over to Luke chapter 10, and look in verse 19, well, let's start in verse 18, because I like that, "And He said unto them, 'I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven. Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and on scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'" Now if you have a King James, like I'm reading from, the word power is used twice, but they're two different words. And it may be translated this way, "Behold, I give you authority over all the power of the enemy." Now what is the scope, therefore, of our authority? It is over all the power of the enemy.

Now we need to be very careful here, and I want you to listen. Listen carefully now, because kingdom authority does not need to be refused, but it certainly doesn't need to be confused, and it certainly doesn't need to be abused. Now what is the scope of kingdom authority? Learn this; when God gave Adam authority over the beast of the field, the fowls of the air, and the fish of the sea, that authority has not yet been given to us. We do not live in the Garden of Eden. Now potentially, potentially we gain more in Christ than we ever lost in Adam, but our full inheritance is waiting until Jesus Christ comes again. Adam was given authority over the forces of nature. You and I are given authority over the power of the enemy. Have you got that? I hope you understand that, because, you see, the dominion over the forces of nature, that will come in the millennium.

Hebrews 2:8 is a key verse here, "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet," he's talking about man, "For in that He put all in subjection under him," that is, under man, "He left nothing that is not yet put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." That is, there is a potentiality that is yet to be fulfilled. There is a not yet. Romans 8 verse 22, the Bible says there, "We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now." Look around. This is not the Garden of Eden. There's desert, disease, destruction, depravity all over the globe. And if you're a child of God, you're not isolated nor insulated from these. Romans 8 verse 23 says, "And not only they, but ourselves, which also have the firstfruits of the spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of the body." Now the restoration of nature and the redemption of the body, that's out yonder. "We see not yet all things put under Him." But in this day and in this age, He says, "I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy." That is the scope of your kingdom authority.

Now you say, "Adrian, why are you just slowing down here?" I'm just trying to help you to understand how it works. You may be Spirit-filled, but don't throw a rock in a hornets' nest. It won't do you any good to be Spirit-filled when those hornets come out of there. That's what I'm trying to





say. When our Lord says He gives you authority, He's talking about spiritual authority. He's not saying that you have authority over microbes, mosquitoes, mildew, or mudslides. Now, why do you have to understand that? Because if the devil cannot keep you from learning this truth, he'll try to corrupt it and pervert it and have you have the idea that if you have spiritual authority, you can make it rain, or if you have spiritual authority, that you can walk in a hospital room and empty it. No, you can't. We have these joy boys on television who've taken this truth, and they have so distorted this truth, that they would have you to believe that kingdom authority is the key to Fort Knox and the fountain of youth rolled into one! It's the gospel of cash, Cadillacs, and comfort, but it's not the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Behold, I give you authority over all of the power of the enemy." Second Peter 1 verse 3, "According as His divine power," that is, His divine authority, "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." Now that's where your authority is.

By His divine power He has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness. "I give you authority over all the power of the enemy." One day, yes, one day the lamb and the lion will lie down together. One day, yes, the desert will blossom as a rose. One day, yes, the Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea! But Hebrews tells us not yet. But in the meanwhile, we are not Satan's lackeys. We are not slaves of sin. Satan has no power, no authority, sin has no allurements, temptation has no power that the child of God cannot overcome with kingdom authority! That's the scope of it. We need to understand that, what the scope of this authority is.

Now here's the last thing I want you to notice. We're talking about some principles, and then as we go on in this series, we're going to flesh these out. We're going to see how it works in the church, how it works in the home, how it works in the government, how it works in society.

But the fourth thing we're going to see is the strength of kingdom authority, the strength of it. In Luke 7:7, this man said, "Just speak a word, and my servant will be healed." Now Jesus obviously had power to heal that you and I may not have unless God gives us that very special gift. But the point that I'm emphasizing right now is that this man, who was a centurion, was a man of strength. That is, he said, "I have those who are under me."

Go back again, if you will, and look in Luke 7 verse 8, "For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say to one, 'Go', and he goeth." Would you like some soldiers to fight for you? "And to another, 'Come', and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this', and he doeth it." How would you like some spiritual soldiers and some spiritual servants? All right, if you need spiritual soldiers and spiritual servants, you need this strength, then you are going to have to enter in to a thing called surrender. Do you know where strength comes from in the Christian life? Surrender. Surrender.

Several years ago we had the mayor's prayer breakfast. There was a man named Cary H. Humphries who was the speaker. Now who's Cary Humphries? He was the president of Cargill North America. Well, what is Cargill? At that time, and I don't know, it still may be, it was the largest private holding company in America, perhaps in the world. Now if you're a businessman, you know that this man was not, in the world of business, a five or a six; he's a ten. This was Cary Humphries, and Cary Humphries is a committed Christian. I heard him tell how he gave his life to Jesus Christ, and I heard



him testify of the change that came into his life, and then he said this. He said, "I do not try to set a fashion statement." He said, "I don't emphasize style in the way that I dress. But," he said, "every morning when I go out," he said, "I put a white handkerchief in my pocket." He said, "It's up there right now." He said, "That white handkerchief is not there primarily for style. That white handkerchief is there to say something to me." He said, "That white handkerchief is a sign of surrender." And he said this, and I wrote it down. He said, "In 1961, I surrendered my all to Jesus Christ. This white handkerchief is a reminder each day that I am His to command."

Now, folks, that's a man who has all of these people working under him. I mean, that is a man that is a mogul, a magnate in business, but he is also a man who is a humble man who said, "I am His to command." Have you said that to Jesus Christ? Do you mean it? Then if you do, you're going to understand this tremendous strength. You see, there's a difference in authority and power. Authority comes from the office; power is residual in the person.

Here's an illustration we can all understand, then I'll be finished. Professional football players, they have become monstrous. When I played football in college and high school, I weighed about 185 pounds, and I was one of the bigger men in the backfield. Today they wouldn't let me carry the water. These guys are something. I mean, here's a fellow; he is 6 feet 7, he weighs 285 pounds, and he's quick as a cat, and on top of that, he's got a helmet, a face guard, all of his armor all around him. Good night, they're big. You could get hurt playing that game! And yet there's another lil' fellow out there. This guy may be 155 pounds. He has no helmet, he has no shoulder pads, he's wearing a shirt with stripes on it, and all he's got is a whistle; and he says to that guy, "You get off the field and go to the showers." Power! Authority. See the difference? The guy with the whistle, the guy with the striped shirts, he's the one with the authority, and Jesus says to us, we're the little guy, "I give you authority over all the power of the enemy." He's the big guy, and it's time you and I told him to take a hike. It's time you and I understood the strength of spiritual authority! Now just knowing it is not enough. We need to learn how to pray with authority, and we're going to be talking about that soon and very soon.

But let's go back to Mr. Humphries, who said, "I gave my heart to Jesus Christ in 1961." It was very real to him. Have you given your heart to Jesus Christ? I say, have you? I didn't ask you if you were Baptist. I didn't ask if you were a member of a church. I'm asking this, are you saved and do you know that you're saved?

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Father, I pray in the name of Jesus that many right now will receive Him into their hearts. Holy Spirit of God, open understandings. Draw people to Jesus. Oh, Lord, may people say an everlasting, "Yes" by faith to You. Lord, I know that You've said if anyone would come to You, You would never turn them away.

Now, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, if you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that



You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



PO Box 38300 | Memphis TN 38183-0300 | (901)382-7900