

6 | AUTHORITY



God gives man authority to rule over creation. God appoints people as leaders and gives them the corresponding authority. It is clear from the beginning that people are given an area of responsibility and they automatically receive authority over it.

"Authority is a divine principle. The original intent of authority is about protecting and helping people as authority bearers so that they come into their full potential."

Authority is meant to create a safe environment. A place where people can come into their own by learning, developing, multiplying and being redirected. God has given authority to communicate the principles of the Kingdom.

Authorities have the free choice of how they use their power. They can use power to serve and bring others to their destiny. But they can also use it to benefit themselves.

It's amazing the way God the Father chooses people to lead the people of Israel. These are not always the types you or I might choose.

Abraham and Noah were chosen on the basis of righteous living because they listened to God's instructions. Being righteous I translate as 'doing what God says'.

Both men had learned to trust the voice of God.

David

David was a man after God's heart. Despite his adultery and the murder of Uriah, God appeared to be looking right at his heart. David was the youngest of a large family and had to look after the sheep. There he learned to know God and to understand His voice. You would think that after defeating the giant Goliath, the road was paved to the throne and authority over God's people. He received prophecies, was anointed king by Samuel, but Saul became jealous of David, his son-in-law. David finally had to flee and lived in desolate places. The men who followed him wanted to follow him because of who he was, not because he had been given a position.

Rahab

Prostitute Rahab chose to hide the Israelite men who came to spy on her land from the men from her town. Through this act, she became a savior for her family. She chose the God of Israel and not her own gods. Because of her trust in the God of Israel and her authority, the family was spared.

In the New Testament, we see how Jesus chose twelve men. Oddly, not spiritual leaders or priests, but fishermen, a tax collector and a

resistance fighter. We read how Jesus first gave examples about the new Kingdom. He demonstrated the power of God's Kingdom through the many miracles He displayed. Then He gave His twelve followers the authority He Himself had.

From Old and New Testament examples, we see that training is an important factor in multiplication. Jesus did this in a very deliberate way. He was together a lot with His disciples. There was especially a lot of eating together. His great example is not that He was a leader who dominated His followers, but rather someone who was there for them and served them.

"Authority is the authority God gives you for the position and role in your area of responsibility that goes with your identity. Power is the exercise of that authority to protect those under your authority, care for them and develop them into fruitfulness."

Satan is an impersonator trying to gain power over the area God has entrusted to you. This area can be your family, your business, school or factory, and so on. Satan is always trying to bring you as the authority figure under his control to gain power over the family, business or school, etc. Satan is trying to get you as the authority figure to open the door for him.

When you live as a leader under the authority of Jesus your King, you have authority over Satan and his demonic realm.

EXERCISE:

-Share what you think about authority (and possibly how this lesson has changed that).

Are there unpleasant experiences in your life caused by your leaders or authority figures? It is helpful to share these and pray about them together so that wounds and deep pains receive healing.

-Look back for a moment at the lesson on DNA. As we have seen in this lesson, with your DNA always comes authority. So what areas do you see as the areas that God entrusts to you and over which He gives you His spiritual authority?

-Try to see in what areas you are already standing in that authority and in what areas you are not. Can you discover what is holding you back from walking in healthy authority in those areas?

-What steps would you like to take to grow in healthy authority?

PRINCIPLE 6

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