

5 | AUTHORITY, DOMAIN AND POWER



Power

2 Chron 26:15

2 Chron 19:6

John 19 10,11

In these three texts we read that power that has been given comes from God.

Tree

If you want to live in the power of the Kingdom of God, you cannot start from your own strength. It's like a tree. The roots extract water and minerals from the soil. The leaves get their nutrients from the air. This creates growth. You know that the tree will die if it cannot absorb water or if the leaves can no longer breathe the air and the sunlight is gone.

Just as the tree depends on the water and the sun, so anyone who wants to grow in the Kingdom of God must be connected with God the Father. His word and Spirit bring life.

Choice

The Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness operate by choice. You open and close doors through choices. Your mind and your feelings are important, but if you want to live in the power of the Kingdom of God, you will have to let your mind and feelings be led by the Spirit of God. You will have to tune in to the waves of the Kingdom of God. Just as the force of gravity on the earth applies in the natural, so in the Kingdom of God there are laws. In the Kingdom of God different rules apply than in the kingdom of Satan. The first law is acknowledgement of God and the second, reliance on Him. It all starts with recognizing that God has all authority. He is the creator of authority.

Authority

Authority is given by God. He is the source of all power. Let's go back to the garden of Eden.

Gen 2: 16.17

We see two speaking to the man and woman in the garden. God and the serpent.

1. God

God says trust Me. In other words, depend on Me. He knows something you don't know. He has knowledge that will give you life. Then you will produce fruit that is good. If you don't do what He says, you will learn about the fruit of that other tree. You will gain knowledge of good and evil. You, instead of God, will judge by eating that forbidden fruit. You will decide what is right and what is wrong! This gives you human power.

Why then does God want all power? He wants to use power to set us free. To be free to love each other from a voluntary choice to give

and receive love.

How did Jesus do that? He lived from the choice to give God the right to rule in His life and have authority in His life. He does He hears the Father speak!

Gen 3: 1-7

2. Satan

Satan speaks through the serpent.

Here we see a completely different interpretation of power. God uses his power to protect and give what is good for man. God gives abundance.

Satan comes in an animal, the serpent.

But there in the garden he was 'the shining one.' Eze 28:13

Satan seduces Eve and later Adam by a trick. Satan does not yet have power over the earth, but he is after power. He's using half-truths. He uses lies to get what he wants: access to the domain of man and his control over it.

Here we see two completely different rulers.

God, who has made everything good for man. Satan, who wants to bind people to himself, because he doesn't have what God has - worship, relationship, goodness and above all love.

John 19: 10,11 Jesus tells Pilate that he got his power from God, but that it is limited.

Authority that God gives

Matt 8: 6-9

The Roman centurion understands very well that he himself has been given authority by the emperor to protect and subdue a particular area. But he also realizes that Jesus has another authority, not from Himself but from God.

He recognizes the destination and assignment that Jesus received from God. You cannot create this authority yourself; you get it. It multiplies if you handle it properly.

Human authority

Human authority is based on popularity, words people speak, leadership qualities, and achievements (words, education, actions).

Domain, area of responsibility

Domain is the area that God gives us to nurture and protect. For example, your family, your job, everything you bought, your money, your house, your car. Everything for which you have worked. But also your knowledge, talents, ideas and your experiences from life.

Authority is given by God to multiply, nurture, and protect your domain.

God gives you authority over the area so that the domain is yours.

God's domain is heaven. There He has authority; God has given the heavenly places to the angels and the domain of the earth God has given to man.

Destiny

John 12:27

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

1 Sam 16:12

So he sent for David and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one.

Luke 9: 1

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,

Every person has been given a domain and destiny from God. Authority belongs to this domain and destiny. The authority can be used to reign in this domain of the destiny. Man has the choice to deal with this authority for good or bad. God will respect the area of authority for angels as well as humans. Even God recognizes satan's realm, even though satan got it by trickery.

Power

Power is the means to get something done. Think of persuasion, information, wisdom, knowledge, status, money, weapons, charisma, threats, occult powers, strategy, etc.

Authority is the permission you have received from a higher authority to use power tools. You need insight to discern whether power is being used properly or not. Where power is used, the question is, "by what authority has this power been given?"

Plane

The plane is the pilot's domain. He will ensure that the plane arrives at the right place, as agreed. He also takes responsibility for ensuring that passengers arrive properly. The pilot has been given the power to do this.

A hijacker however uses his power to direct the plane by force. He takes something that has not been given to him. The hijacker may have learned to fly the plane, yet he is abusing his power to direct the plane by his use of his weapon, which gives him unauthorized power. The passengers go to another location against their will.

God has given you all the tools you need to reach a certain destination. However, this is always with respect of choice for the domain of the other person or people.

Authority and words

Creating words. They give direction and life. When we speak the words of God, the source of all authority, the Divine life comes through us into the domain that God has given us.

Matt 5: 21-43 especially 34 and 41

Jesus' domain was the territory of Israel. In that domain lived the Jews, the people who belonged to the people of God. Jesus' destiny was to show them the Kingdom of God. Jesus spoke words of life. What He said happened because He used the power that God the Father had given Him.

Acts 10: 44-46

Peter understood through the Holy Spirit that he must go to another area. He goes to the house of the Italian Cornelius. Peter was given authority long before that, but now through his obedience, he can use the power to proclaim the Kingdom of God through his words. As a result, many are coming to faith.

Acts 27: 9-26

Paul foresees that the ship's voyage will not go well, but the centurion is not listening. Paul respects the authority of the centurion. This man has the power to take God's word seriously, but he doesn't. The ship was in the storm and started to sink. Again Paul speaks and says clearly that he has warned, but that they need not be afraid, because Paul's commission is not finished yet. He must go to Rome and appear before the emperor. The other crew members will therefore also be spared. God said so.

This is a great example of two areas for which someone can be responsible. One listens to God and receives protection. The other does not listen to the words and loses everything except his life.



EXERCISE:

What domain has God entrusted to you? Think about your private life, your community and your work.

Are there certain words that God has spoken to you? What authority have you received for this. Do you walk in it?

