

5 keywords

From the beginning of creation, God tells something about our identity.

In Gen 1:26-28 and Gen 2:14,15 we come across five key words that tell how God looks at man and his identity.

Keyword 3. Authority

God gives man authority to rule over creation.

From the beginning of the Bible, we see that God appoints people everywhere as leaders. In doing so, He gives the authority to lead. It is clear from the outside that people are given an area of responsibility and they automatically receive authority over that. In our time, the word authority is not always seen as a positive thing. We quickly think of abuse of power. Yet authority is a divine principle. Authority that comes from the position people have can be used well or badly depending on the person.

When you consider the original purpose of authority, the point is that as an authority figure, like God the Father and Jesus, you protect and develop people to their full potential. Authority is meant to create a safe environment where people can come into their destiny through learning, correcting, developing and multiplying. God has given authority to transmit the principles of the Kingdom. Following those principles is not about obediently doing what God asks of you, but about following out of love He has for you.

Authority figures are free to choose how to use power. They can use the power to serve and bring others to their destiny. Or they can use it to benefit themselves. As described in the previous chapters, authorities too are made in the image of God. God is love, He is worthy and good. He gives people free choice and gifts and talents to develop. If the character of the authority figures in their 'outer I am' has been shaped by rejection, abuse, domination, humiliation, etc. the "outer I am" will use the power given to the authority figure to oppress, humiliate, and hinder growth.

Authority - Might and Power

Authority is the might that God gives you for the position and role in your area of responsibility that is associated with your identity.

Power is the exercise of that authority to protect, care for, and develop those under your authority to fruitfulness.

Leaders after God's Heart

In the OT you often remain amazed at how God the Father chooses people to lead the people. Not always the types you or I might choose. The question seems to concern the heart of the future leader. When you read about Abraham and Noah, God chooses them on the basis of a righteous life. A life guided by their listening to God's directions. To be righteous, I translate as "do what God says." It's love and grace in action. Both men were committed to following God's directions out of their love for God. God gave them authority to establish a people. Strangely enough, both men are ordinary guys who, just like you and me, go wrong. God does not disqualify them because of that. On the contrary; He continues to talk about the destiny and dream for their family which would grow into a great nation. Both men had learned to trust the voice of God. Their families followed their father, and eventually Abraham and Noah both became fathers of several nations.

David

David was a man after God's own heart. Despite his adultery and murdering Uriah, God was looking at his heart that was in any situation trusting God. God gave him authority and thus power to defeat



the giant Goliath. He was then allowed to reside in King Saul's palace and was appointed to lead the army. Years later, it was God's time to make David king first over the tribe of Judah, then over all the people of Israel.

David was the youngest of a large family, he had to look after the sheep. There he got to know God, to hear His voice. He also learned to overcome bears and lions. After defeating the giant Goliath, David's path to the throne and authority grew. He received prophecies, was anointed king by Samuel, but Saul became jealous of David his son-in-law. David eventually had to flee and lived in deserted places for 7 years. Many strange men came his way. There David became a leader who liked to be followed by these men. His heroes later emerged from this group. Men followed David for who he was, not because he got a position.

Rahab

Rahab, the prostitute, chose to hide the men who came to spy on her land for Israel from the men of her city. Through this act she became a savior to her people. She chose the God of Israel and not her own gods. Her example is known throughout history. The choice Rahab made saved her family. Her people were killed when the wall around Jericho collapsed. Her family was saved because Rahab had gathered the family in her house, where the red thread had been rolled out. This part of the wall remained. Because of her trust in the God of Israel and her authority, the family was spared.

Jesus and the Twelve Disciples

In the NT we see how Jesus chooses 12 men. Strangely enough, they were not "spiritual leaders" or "priests", but fishermen, a tax collector, a resistance fighter, etc. Many women also traveled with Jesus. That was a direct break with culture at the time. In Jewish culture it was mainly about the men.

We see how Jesus first gave examples about the new Kingdom; He told how God actually intended it. He demonstrated the power of the Kingdom through the many miracles He showed. Then He gave his 12 men the authority that He also had. Later that number became 70. Jesus stood next to them and gave more and more orders to go out and preach and demonstrate the Kingdom.

In the examples of the OT and NT, we immediately see how education is an important factor in multiplication. Discipleship is the key to multiplication found in the Bible. Jesus did this in a very intentional way. He was with his disciples very much, sometimes with one of them, sometimes with them among the crowd. They mainly ate together. To me, His great example is not as a leader who dominated His followers, but rather someone who was there for them and served them. Yet Jesus was the master, the man with authority over demons, authority over every situation, even over the authorities. He showed how He walked in the will of the Father. Doing it together was His way of transmission.

Authority and Abuse of Power

A pilot has been given authority by the airline to bring the aircraft safely to its destination. If someone becomes unwell during the trip, he can use his power to make an interim landing so that the person can be admitted to the hospital. Here good use is made of authority and power.

On the same flight, if a hijacker takes his rifle and enters the cockpit, the hijacker has been denied authority, but uses his power through his rifle to force the pilot to change the route. Here we see abuse of power by a person who is not the authority figure.

In fact, satan is an imitator trying to take control of the area that God has entrusted to you.

This area can be your family, your company, school or factory. Satan is always trying to control your authority and thus gain power over the family, business, or school. Satan tries to get you as an authority figure to open the door to satan, just like the pilot flying the plane is forced by a hijacker to change the route.

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