

## **Chapter 1      The Importance of Authority**

### Introduction

1. Paul's basis for subjection to authority; Romans 13:1-7
2. Jesus, our greatest example; Heb. 1:3
3. Satan, our worst example; Isaiah 14:12-14

### God's Throne Established on Authority

1. The acts of God issue from His throne and His throne is established on His Authority.
2. God's authority represents God Himself whereas His Power represents His act.
3. Sin against power is more easily forgiven than sin against authority, because the latter is a sin against God Himself.

### The Origin of Satan

1. The cause of Satan's, the archangel, fall was rebellion, pride
2. The rise and fall of Satan are listed in Isaiah 14: 12-15 and Ezekiel 28:13-17
3. He came against God's authority and God's Holiness; the difference between the two. p 11.
  - a. Authority is a principle
  - b. Character is the person

### The Satanic Principle

1. Rebelling against authority, especially against God is out of the heart.

2. Preaching is doing, obeying is being.

### Authority; the Controversy of the Universe

1. Jesus said, "All authority and power has been given to me by My Father, John 17:2
2. Paul's experience; Act. 8-9
3. God chose to manifest His Authority to the world through the Church

### Obedience to God's Will; the greatest demand of the Bible

1. Obedience is better than sacrifice; I Samuel 15:22
2. Even in sacrifice there can be an element of self-will.
3. Obedience alone takes God's will as its center; this is possible only when believers live in the Spirit.

### Our Lord's Prayer in Gethsemane

1. What was really in Jesus' heart and mind? Was it the cross or the will of God?
2. So what was His Death all about?
3. To serve God we are not called to choose self-denial or sacrifice, rather we are called to fulfill God's purpose. I Samuel 15:23

### How Jesus and Paul Acted Under Judgment

1. Matthew 26, Jesus' actions between the religious leader and the political leader.
2. Acts 23, Paul submitted to Ananias, when he discovered he was the high priest of God.
3. Our own acts must be brought face to face with Authority.

### To See Authority Requires a Great Revelation

1. We must learn to trust in God's Salvation and we must learn to obey His authority.
2. Sinning is a matter of conduct but lawlessness is a matter of the heart attitude.
3. Two principles of the world; the principle of God's Authority and the principle of satanic rebellion.

## **Chapter 2 and 3                      Old Testament Instances of Rebellion**

### Man's Fall Due to Disobedience

1. A Review of Adam and Eve
2. All work **must** be done in obedience
3. God's wisdom is our right and wrong, not man's reason

### Let's learn to obey Authority

1. The centurion's statement about authority
2. Our first lesson; obedience to authority
3. As faith is the principle by which we obtain life, so obedience is the principle by which that life is lived out.

### Lessons to learn

1. Have a spirit of obedience
2. Practice Obedience
3. Learn to exercise delegated authority

### The Rebellion of Ham, Noah's youngest son

1. Ham showed no shame or sorrow thus he did not respect authority
2. Shem and Japheth honored their father, even in his shame

### Strange fire offered by Aaron's sons'

1. Nadab and Abihu not authorized to offer incense

2. The meaning of strange fire is to serve without an order
3. True service is initiated by God

#### The Reviling of Aaron and Miriam

1. They were angry with Moses for marrying this woman.
2. Moses did not have to prove authority. He knew it was God's.
3. God's judgment was sure, obvious and quick.

#### The Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; Collective Rebellion

1. Moses answered a wrong spirit with a right spirit.
2. God and His delegated authority are inseparable.
3. Rebellion is a hellish principle.

The Obedient follow faith not reason.

Rebellion is Contagious

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## **Chapters 4     David's Knowledge of Authority**

Not at the Price of Rebellion Did David Take the Throne

1. Samuel anointed Saul and David king of Israel.
2. David was under God's delegated authority.
3. Authority is a matter of extremely deep implications.

Obedience is a Higher Call than Work for God

1. Obedience should transcend our work.
2. Consecration does not cover the sin of rebellion.
3. Subjection to authority is not being subject to a person, but being subject to the anointing which is upon that person given to them by God.

David maintained God's Authority

1. David stood absolutely for God's authority. God desires to recover this trait
2. Only those subject to authority can be authority.
3. We must subject to God's authority in our *HEARTS*.

## **Chapter 5                      The Obedience of the Son**

### The Lord Initiates Obedience

1. The Father and the Son exist equally and are equal in power and possession. Only in Person is there a difference between Father and Son.
2. The Lord had so emptied himself of glory, power, status and form that no one recognized him except by revelation
3. God becomes the emblem of authority and Christ assumes the symbol of obedience.
4. God has highly exalted Him. God exalts whoever humbles himself. This is a divine principle.

### ***To Be Filled with Christ is to be Filled with Obedience***

1. It is natural for those who know Christ to obey
2. Christ is the principle of obedience.
3. Some claim to know authority and yet obedience is missing.

### The Way of the Lord

1. The Lord Jesus was made Lord after He emptied Himself.
2. God came as man to show man obedience is the way back to Him.
3. Two choices presented themselves; live a life of intimate obedience even unto death, or exert His authority and power and glory to regain His position because it is impossible to be obedient in human form.

4. No sin is more serious than rebellion because it is a principle of satan and works directly against obedience to Christ.

### Learning Obedience through Suffering

1. Christ learned obedience through suffering
2. God saves us so we can obey His will.
3. If we have met God's authority we will find it easy to obey

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## **Chapter 6                      How God Establishes His Kingdom**

*Look at Scriptures*

The Lord Learned Obedience through Suffering

1. The Lord came to the world empty-handed, He did not bring obedience.
2. No suffering stirred Him to murmuring or fretfulness.
3. The aim of redemption is to further the kingdom of God.

God Will Establish His Kingdom

1. Both angels and man did not accept God's authority.
2. God established His authority through Jesus' obedience.
3. ***Now, today, the church must obey in order to establish the Kingdom.***

God Ordains the Church to be the Vanguard of His Kingdom

1. A walk through Bible History tells us God's plan.
2. The Gospel is two-fold; both personal and corporate.
3. ***The Lord, Himself, is actually the kingdom of God.***

Gospel Calls People Not Only to Believe but to Obey

1. Faith is obedience. Faith without works is dead.
2. It is vain to obey man; it is authority that we must obey.

3. Those who have not seen authority have no idea how rebellious they are.

### Through the Church the Nations to Become God's Kingdom

1. God's way of establishing the kingdom; first in Christ, then in the church, then in the nations.
2. Through our obedience, the kingdom shall be extended to the whole earth.
3. Men ought to have a sense for authority as well as a sense of sin.

### The Church Must Obey God's Authority

1. When the will and command of God find free passage in the church, His kingdom shall surely come.
2. We have greatly delayed the coming of the kingdom.
3. The responsibility on the church is immense.

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## **Chapter 7      Men Should Obey Delegated Authority**

### Authorities Instituted by God

1. In the World:
  - a. Mark 12:1-9; God's presence is in his authority
  - b. We must be subject to both to God's direct authority as well as delegated authority because all authority is from God.
  - c. The Principle of Authority; all powers are still following-at least in principle- the rule of rewarding the good and punishing the bad.
  - d. Look at the earthly subjections to authority; taxes to who taxes are due, revenue to which revenue is due, respect to which respect is due, and honor to who honor is due.
  
2. In The Family; *Scriptures*
  - a. Husband is direct authority, as Christ is the head of the church
  - b. Wife obeys husband, representing the body of Christ, the church
  - c. Children obey their parents
  - d. Once the family members see God's authority many difficulties will disappear in the home
  - e. If we honor the authority of the Lord in our own lives, others will honor the authority in us.
  
3. In the Church; *Scriptures*
  - a. The Elders
  - b. Those who labor in preaching and teaching
  - c. Authorities in the spiritual world; Michael the archangel

d. A Christian should have two senses; one of sin and one of Authority

e. After we are all on the course of obedience God will come to judge the world

4. Delegated Authorities

a. God has taken a risk, in our eyes, and has set up authorities with mankind

b. Even as God has boldly established authorities, let us obey them

c. If they go amiss the fault lies within the authority

5. To Reject Delegated Authority is an Affront to God

a. Luke 20:9-16 / Acts 9:4-15

b. Those that reject his servants reject him

c. It may be said that He has given almost all authority to mankind

d. It does require humbleness and brokenness to be subject to God's delegated authority

6. God Respects His Delegated Authority

a. Numbers 30

b. We cannot bypass delegated authority to obey God

c. Exception in Acts 5:29

d. We can never bring in obedience through rebellion

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## **Chapter 8      The Authority of the Body**

### *Read Scriptures*

Authority Finds its Fullest Expression in the Body

1. The church's obedience should be from the heart.
2. Only the relationship between Christ and the church can fully express both authority and obedience.
3. Now the difference between God's command and God's will.

For the Body to Obey the Head is Most Natural and Agreeable

1. Obedience includes both the conscious and the automatic.
2. Harmony among believers is a manifestation of authority.

Resisting the Authority of the Members is Resisting the Head

1. It is the head of the body that moves every member of the body
2. By way of fellowship all other members can be my authority

The Riches of Christ Is Authority

1. We are not each a whole body, but a member
2. To reject the body will bring poverty
3. Authority replenishes our lack
4. Within the body lies a wealth for others

## Distribution of Functions is Also a Delegation of Authority

1. To resist the help of others is rebellious behavior
2. We are individually members
3. We receive spiritual supply from other members

## Life Makes Obedience Easy

1. Our life link to the Spirit of God makes it hard to disobey
2. The Church is where we should begin to learn obedience
3. Authority is an inward thing, a living thing

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## **Chapter 9 & 10      The Manifestations of Man's Rebellion**

- **In Words**
- **In Reason**
- **In Thoughts**

*Read Scriptures*

### ***WORDS:***

Words are the Outlet of the Heart

1. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
2. It is easier to utter rebellious words than to commit rebellious acts.
3. Our heart and our mouth must line up with God's heart.

Eve Carelessly Added to God's Word

1. Adding to God's Words is error and opens the door to rebellion
2. God never said "touch not".

Ham Broadcast His Father's Failure

1. He told what he saw.
2. His words and actions proved he was not subjected to his father's authority.
3. He had neither love nor subjection, just rebellion.

## Miriam and Aaron Reviled Moses

1. She uttered words, with restraint, and God saw it as slanderous.
2. Rebellion usually manifests itself in words.

## Korah and His Company Attacked Moses

1. He and 250 others railed against Moses, with no restraint.
2. They acknowledged God's direct authority but refused and railed God's delegated authority.

## Rebellion is Linked with Fleshly Indulgence

1. The rebellious and the fleshly dine together.
2. It is the lust of the mouth to speak reviling words.
3. Two things that cause Christians to lose their power:
  - a. Sin
  - b. Reviling authority
4. Thoughts can still be covered but words bare all.
5. Those that cannot control themselves cannot control their mouth.

## God Strongly Rebukes the Rebellious

1. Look at the insensitivity of the revilers
2. This is one of the strongest rebukes in the Bible against man.

## Difficulties in the Church Often Derive from Slanderous Words

1. Eliminating slander in the church will eliminate a major problem.
2. Does the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet water and bitter? James 3:11

## ***REASON:***

### *Read Scriptures*

#### Slander Comes From Reason

1. Slander has its basis in reason.
2. We are not to live in reason but under God's authority and his delegated authority.

#### Following the Lord Demands Deliverance from Reason

1. One must be delivered from reason to give honor to authority.
2. To cease means to die to the flesh.
3. Two levels of lifestyle; reason or the flesh, authority or the spirit.

#### God Never Argues

1. God is God and has the authority to do what He likes.
2. God has no need to consult with me for approval.
3. To reason or argue with God is living under the principle of the knowledge of good and evil.

#### God's Glory Delivers from Reason

1. No one can truly see himself with the light of his own burning.
2. But when the light of God, Jesus himself, shines in our lives....

#### "I Am the Lord You God" – This is The Reason

1. Once you know God, you will put all reason aside.
2. His glory is far above any reason.

3. To argue with God means we think He needs to get our consent for what He does; this is of utmost folly.

## ***THOUGHTS:***

### *Read Scriptures*

#### The Link between Reason and Thought

1. Thought is the central factor in rebellion.
2. Man's habit of reasoning is so serious it cannot be resolved without a battle.
3. The authority of God destroys the strongholds of reason.

#### Recapturing the Captive Mind

1. *Noema*, "thought" in the Greek, listed six times in the New Testament; the devise of the mind.
2. Only after man's thoughts are recaptured can he be truly obedient to Christ.
3. Once we are **captured** by Christ we can be ready to accept God's thoughts.

#### Warnings to the Opinionated

1. Paul: The primary evidence that one has met God is in the disappearing of one's opinions and cleverness.
2. King Saul: Men have absolutely not right to offer counsel to God.
3. Nadab and Abihu: Erring on the side of good is bad and against God.

#### Testimony of the Kingdom Brought In Through Obedience

1. God is not impressed by our works, He watches our obedience.

2. This means- no voicing opinions, no presenting of reasoning, no murmuring, no reviling.

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## **Chapter 11            The Measure of Obeying Authority**

Submission is Absolute, but Obedience is Relative

1. Submission is a matter of attitude, while obedience is a matter of conduct.
2. Even when making a suggestion, we should maintain an attitude of submission.

The Measure of Obeying Delegated Authorities

1. Obedience is related to conduct, it is relative. Submission is related to the heart attitude; it is absolute
2. God alone receives unqualified obedience without measure.
3. Should the delegated authority issue an order clearly contradicting God's command, he will be given submission but not obedience.

*Look at the examples in the Bible: page 109*

Indispensable Signs Accompanying the Obedient

***Look for these signs:***

1. They look for authority wherever they go
2. The person is soft and tender, afraid of being wrong
3. Does not wish to be in authority
4. Keeps his mouth closed, uses restraint
5. Sensitive to acts of lawlessness and rebellion

## Maintenance of Order is in the Knowing of Authority

1. To show one his error without that one knowing authority is futile.
2. Lead them to authority and then point out their rebellion.
3. The organized denominations of today are an affront to the glory of God.

## Life and Authority

1. The indwelling life we have received is one of submission.
2. This life enables us to obey authority.
3. Eph. 4:13 is not that far off....

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## **Chapter 12 Those Whom God Apprehends as Delegated Authority**

### Obeying and Being a Delegated Authority

- We are joined together with God through His Authority; it allows us to fulfill the work of God on the earth.
- It is essential that we learn to be subject to one another and subject to delegated authorities.

### Three requirements for a Delegated Authority

1. One must know that all authority comes from God
  - a. A delegated authority is to represent God's authority, not to assume that he too has authority.
  - b. The measure of one's knowledge of God's will is the measure of is delegated authority; knowing God's will and His way is imperative.
2. One must deny himself
  - a. Persons with many opinions, ideas, and subjective thoughts are to be feared.
  - b. In our much talking we will soon forget ourselves and expose the real self
3. One must constantly keep in fellowship with the Lord
  - a. There must not only be communication but communion

- b. Unless I have seen something there with God I have nothing to say here to men.

Never try to establish one's own authority

- Do not insist that others listen to you. A delegated authority ought not to strive with men. Give people their liberty
- If God chooses you receive it in humility, if God does not call you, why strive?
- When delegated authority entrusted to you is being tested, do nothing

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## **Chapter 13 Primary Credential for Delegated Authorities: Revelation**

*Moses; our Old Testament example*

### Do Not Listen to Slanderous Words

- *And Jehovah heard it. Nothing is said without God hearing it.*
- All who desire to be God's spokesmen and desire to help the brothers and sisters must learn not to listen to slanders.

### Make No Self Defense

- Vindication should come from God
- Your works, your fruit, will prove you out
- The one to whom you defend yourself to becomes your judge
- In your defense you look guilty

### Very Meek

- Numbers 12:1-3
- It was only after God had dealt with Moses in the wilderness for 40 years that God could use Moses as an Authority

### Revelation: The One Credential of Authority

- God called out Miriam and Aaron and spoke to them, for the first time, and it was with reproof, not revelation
- Revelation was given to Moses, one who would listen and not move unless God said to move
- A man's value before God is not decided by others' judgment nor by his own judgment. He is measured by the revelation he receives from God.
- Authority is built on God's revelation, and His estimation of a person is according to that revelation.
- If God gives revelation, authority is established but when His revelation is withdrawn, the person is rejected.

### No Personal Feeling

- Moses opened not his mouth. He did not personally judge or punish
- Authority is set up to execute God's order, not to uplift oneself
- The important thing is to help people to be subject to God's authority
- Moses pleaded for Miriam's recovery, instead of ...

Definition of Slander; insult, slur, smear, defame

The opposite is compliment

