

# Perfecting Power Authority and Maturity

Sermon Notes: Under Authority Lesson 3-b

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## To Minister Authority you Must be Under Authority!

Luke 7:1-7

In order to *have* authority, you must be *under* authority. If it was necessary for the Son of God, we should not expect to be exceptions. See what Jesus told the disciples right before he ascended into heaven after his resurrection; "**All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.**" (Matthew 28:18) Jesus humbled himself and submitted to the Father's authority and he then possessed ALL authority.

### A. The Centurion's Maturity

Appeal to Authority: The Centurion cites his understanding of authority as the basis for his faith that Jesus not only could, but would, heal his servant. *Lk 7:8*

**Luk 7:8** For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

Under Authority: The Centurion is saying that he and Jesus have something in common — being under authority. As a child Jesus submitted to his earthly parents. In His adult ministry He did ONLY what He saw His Father doing. *Jn 5:19*

**Joh 5:19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**"

### B. Sons of Sceva (see-va) Immaturity

*Acts 19:13-17:* The sons of Sceva attempt to exorcise someone by invoking the name of Jesus (:13). The evil spirit knew they had no authority and overpowered them.

While Paul was preaching and performing miracles, there were certain wandering Jews in Ephesus who were **exorcists**. These men commanded **evil spirits** (using **the name of the Lord Jesus** as a magic formula) to come out of **those who** were possessed.

F.B Meyer: I don't know you, I have never heard about you before; your name has never been talked about down in Hell. No one knows you, nor about you outside of this little bit of a place called Ephesus."

Do the devils know about us? Are they scared about us? Are they frightened by us? Or do they turn upon us? When we preach the Gospel do the demons say, "I don't know you, you are not worth my powder and shot; you can go on doing your work. I am not going to upset Hell to stop you."

—**Centurion** illustrates BOTH '**positional**' and '**command**' authority.

**Position:** For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me.

**Command:** And I say to one, 'Go'...

—**Jesus** also had both

**Position:** The son of God, the Messiah

**Command:** Ultimate Kingdom authority.

The centurion recognized that Jesus had the same kind of authority over diseases that the Roman government had over him, and that he had over his subordinates.

—**Believers:** We now have that same **Command-Kingdom Authority**. To use it properly we must have the centurion's attitude of being under submission to authority.

Believers exercise Great Commis-

### The Result of REAL Authority

**19:17-19** When news of this defeat of the forces of Satan became known in the surrounding area, a deep sense of awe **fell on** the people, **and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**. It was not Paul's name that received the glory, but the name of Paul's Savior.

...a great number turned to Christ, **confessing ... their deeds**. After doing so, they made a public demonstration of their faith by gathering up **their books** that dealt with magic and burning them in a great bonfire. The original cost of the books would have been **fifty thousand pieces of silver**.

### C. Who's In Charge?

*Mat 6:10; Josh 1-9*

Authority has great appeal, both in the natural and supernatural world. Most people want to be 'in charge' so that they can run things their own way.

1. The flow of authority: The source of authority is God. Authority comes from heaven to earth through the believer—we have the responsibility of exercising the authority.

**Mat 6:10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is in heaven*.

**Jos 5:13** And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "*Are* You for us or for our adversaries?"

**Jos 5:14** So He said, "No, but *as* Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

2. The final word: God's Word is the FINAL WORD, just as the Supreme Court is the final authority over lower courts. Likewise we can speak God's Word (His final authority) and expect lesser authorities to come into submission to His Word.

**Act 3:1** Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

**Act 3:2** And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

**Act 3:3** who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

**Act 3:4** And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

**Act 3:5** So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

**Act 3:6** Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

The "**Man**" in verse 13 was the Angel of Jehovah—the Lord Jesus in one of His preincarnate appearances. He introduced Himself **as Commander of the army of the LORD**. Christ does not come merely to help us, and certainly not to harm us; He comes to take full control.

**Jesus WORD—is the final word, the final authority.**