

## Authority and Maturity



### Spiritual Maturity is Essential to Spiritual Authority

The proper exercise of 'spiritual authority' is dependent on 'spiritual maturity' which comes

from a deepened and committed walk with Christ.

#### A. What is Maturity? *1 Cor 14:20; Eph 4:13; Ro 12:2*

1. Gk: Teleios—finished; lacking nothing; perfect; full grown; mature.
2. Spiritual maturity is growing in Christ each day—a life long process of becoming more and more like Him!

#### B. Maturity and Authority—The Connection *Gal 4:1; 1 Cor 4:16*

1. Example: A teenager may own or have the use of a car and the ability **power** (dunamis) to drive it, but his driver's license gives him the **authority** (exousia) to drive. He can get into a lot of trouble if attempts to use the power before he has reached the legal age of maturity and received the authority (driver's license).
2. In Gal 4:1 Paul is saying that an heir owns the whole estate, but the heir cannot walk in the fullness of his authority until he grows up.

#### C. Growing in Maturity and Power *James 4:7*

##### 1. Denying self *Mat 6:24; Ro 8:7-8; Gal 5:24; Col 3:5-10*

Are we being led by the Holy Spirit or by our feelings and desires? Habitual submission to God is essential to the exercise of spiritual authority.

##### 2. Conquer the tongue *1 Cor 10:10-11; Jam 5:9; 1 Tim 5:13*

Jesus was oppressed and afflicted but did not open his mouth! (Isa 53:7). The story of Israel and her problems is the story of a people who complained. If we want to move in the power of God we must get control of our tongue.

See also: *Jer 9:1-3; 7-9; Jam 1:26; 3:4*

##### 3. Learn to submit to authority

*Ro 13:1-2; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 2:13-17*

To minister with 'authority' I must be under authority. (See side bar.)

##### 4. Be thankful *1 Thes 5:16-18; Jam 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6-7; Phi 4:4*

A mark of maturity is giving thanks (praise) in all circumstances—not because of circumstances but in spite of them. (See 'Perfecting Praise' [VillageAlive.com](http://VillageAlive.com)).

##### 5. Sow seed *Luk 6:38; 1 Cor 9:11; 2 Cor 9:6; 2 Cor 9:10-11*

Every farmer knows that he must sow some seed if he wants to reap a harvest. God is the One who invented the principle of seed-time and harvest-time. This is a principle which affects every area of our life.

##### 6. Spend time with Jesus *Prov 13:20; Luk 10:38-42*

The more time we spend with Jesus the more we become like Him.

### To Minister Authority you Must be Under Authority!

Luke 7:1-7

In order to have authority, you must be under 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*

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*

#### B. Sons of Sceva 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.

#### 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.

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.