

Our Authority in Christ

PURSUING GOD'S PRESENCE - Small Group Resource

The Bible is very clear that there is a spiritual battle taking place and that we need to be prepared to take a stand against the enemy (1 Peter 5:8-9). Knowing who God is, who we are, and having an understanding of the authority we have been given through Jesus are foundational aspects in our battle against darkness. Just like we can grow in our ability to know and experience God, we can also become more effective in dealing with the demonic realm around us. Ephesians 6:10-20 gives us instructions in how to be strong in the Lord. It is vital that we continue to grow spiritually, being rooted and established in truth, so that when the battle comes, we are not deceived or carried away by sin (Colossians 2:6-15).

Small Group Dialogue

- When you think about authority, what comes to mind?
- How is authority portrayed in society?
- What does scripture teach us about authority?
- How would you describe godly authority? What is its purpose?
- What does godly authority look like in your life? How have you grown in both your understanding and experience of walking in the authority of Christ?
- How have you seen God protect you or bring you victory when you have felt attacked?
- Is there anything that is challenging for you in this?

Additional Leader Resources

- "Acts: Empowered with Authority" Sermon, Pastor Al Andrus, May 10, 2015 (<https://heartland.libsyn.com/acts-empowered-with-authority>)
- Spiritual Warfare Quick Reference Guide - Small Group Resource
- "Prayer: Spiritual Warfare" Leader Training Workshop
- *Your Authority in Christ* by Neil T. Anderson

How to Grow in Godly Authority

1. **Know God** – Some of His attributes are: almighty, all-knowing, eternal, unchanging, love, jealous, holy, wise, just, sovereign, self-sufficient, patient, kind, trustworthy and gentle. As you read your Bible, take note of who God says He is and what He does for His people.

2. **Know who are you in Christ** – As believers, we are forgiven, reconciled with God, rescued, redeemed, known by God, chosen, accepted, made alive, set free, secure, sealed and so much more. As you read your Bible, find out what Jesus has done for you. If you find that you are struggling to believe it, write out the verses and pray about them.

3. **Know what authority Jesus has given his followers** – Luke 9:1-2, “... he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick”; Mark 16:17-18, “In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”; Acts 1:8, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ...”; 2 Timothy 1:7, “For the spirit God gave us does not

make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline”; John 20:21, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

4. **Know how we walk in this**

authority – We are instructed to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), in humility (Luke 10:18-20), with boldness (Acts 4:28-30), in submission to God (1 Kings 18:36-37, John 15:5, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 12:28) and not for our own glory (Acts 19:13-15). We stand firm by being alert, by guarding our hearts and our minds (Galatians 5:1-26), by walking in wisdom and love (1 John 4:1-21) and by growing in godly character (2 Peter 1:3-11). We protect ourselves with the armour of God, standing firm against the enemy’s attacks (Ephesians 6:10-18).

We remember that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ, seated with him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:1-10). We are God’s children and are heirs with Christ (Romans 8:14-17). We are to be a part of the church, the body of Christ, living life in community and in submission to Jesus (Colossians 1:18-20, Ephesians 4:14-16). We participate with God in exercising his will on earth (Matthew 6:9-13, 28:18-20; John 20:21-23).

Overcoming the enemy's attacks

Lies, deception, temptation, oppression, intimidation, shame, condemnation, accusations, fear, manifestations, division, and sometimes sickness or disease are some of the things the enemy uses to attack us. If you find yourself in a demonic encounter, here are things YOU can do (whether the attack is immediate or more drawn out):

- Pray: Call out to Jesus, saying His name out loud and asking Him to protect you; praise Him, put on the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18), recite Scripture, etc.
- Bind/Command: “By the authority given to me through the blood of Jesus, I bind anything/everything of the enemy and command you to leave now in Jesus’ name.” Praying with conviction is helpful, but it doesn’t need to be dramatic (Matthew 16:15-19, Acts 16:18).
- Praise, Worship & Thanksgiving: God is present in our praise and moves on our behalf (2 Chronicles 20:21-22; Psalm 59:16, 66:1-4).
- Declare Scripture: The word of God is alive, active, and is our sword in warfare (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, 2 Corinthians 10:4).
- Meditate on truth: Take each thought captive by declaring truth and rejecting the lie (John 8:32, John 14:6).
- Remove objects and confess sin: Get rid of anything that you know is offensive to God in your home and/or in your heart (Acts 19:8-20, Ephesians 4:17-32).
- Filling of the Holy Spirit: Ask God to fill you with more of His presence (Acts 19:1-6, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 5:15-20).
- Other means of warfare include: having communion; praying in tongues; using anointing oil to dedicate an object, place or person to God; fasting; tithing/giving; serving; praying with others; being in unity with other Christians; avoiding sin; walking in peace; perseverance, etc. Ask God to show you what you need to be victorious.

