

Under Authority - 1 **Why we need to be under authority**

You have authority over the devil, demons, sickness, disease, any signs of the curse. But in order for us to walk in authority, we have to be under authority.

Often our understanding and our response to authority and the leadership God has placed in our lives will determine the outcome of our future and the direction we go.

Being under authority refers to protection and freedom. God's protection and freedom.

Authority is not a bad thing; it provides great protection and benefits to our lives.

Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV - *Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'*

Dominion - to rule, to dominate, to reign

Adam and Eve had authority here on the earth over everything. Where did that authority come from? It was given to them by God. And they were under God's authority.

Everyone who is in a place of authority has to be under authority.

Do you think this was a burdensome thing for them to be under God's authority?

Genesis 2:15-17 NKJV - *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Adam wasn't telling God how to do things, telling God he had a better way, he was taking direction and instruction from God, he was under His authority.

Genesis 3:1-11 NKJV - *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of*

the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. 'Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, **'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?***

Now they are taking orders from someone else. They were now under Satan's authority. That's a big problem because Satan is not like our God, not loving, kind, or gentle. Nor does he want the best for you. Being under his authority was not good for Adam and Eve.

Life got hard. No longer could they live in the garden, no longer was everything provided for. Being their own boss wasn't so wonderful after all like the devil had made them believe.

It's a good thing to be under the right authority.

We can choose to submit to God's authority in our lives, or not!

Not submitting to authority caused Adam and Eve to suffer consequences.

Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV - *How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.*

The angel Lucifer, whom we know now as the devil or Satan, decided one day that he was no longer going to be under God's authority.

When we rebel against the representative authority in our lives, it's the same as rebelling against God.

God had given them a command, not to eat the fruit. And someone else is now tempting them to violate that command and giving different commands.

Rebellion- opposition to one in authority or dominance; an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler.

1 Samuel 15:23 NLT- *Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.*

We cannot walk in God-given authority if we refuse to live under God-established authority.

Luke 10:18 NKJV - *And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

Ezekiel 28:14-17 NKJV - *You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 'By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 'Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.*

Pride- a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction that you get because you or people connected with you have done or gotten something good:

The devil was puffed up with pride. That is why he didn't want to be under God's authority any longer. And the same thing happens to us when we get into pride.

Why is it so important that we understand how authority works and make sure that we are under authority? Because when you rebel against authority you are acting just like the devil!!!

It's vitally important that you and I remain under God's authority.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV - *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Even though we have a free will to choose, we are NOT our own. We belong to the Lord.

Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV - *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

Its saying YOUR Kingdom come, YOUR will be done. And our hearts desire should be that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. When we are under authority that will be our desire.

Matthew 6:33 AMPC - *But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.*

Here Jesus is talking about the provisions needed for life. When you are under His authority, you put the Kingdom first, and under His authority now the blessings are coming your way.

If we are going to live in prosperity, live in the fullness of the blessings God has for us, we must be under His authority.

James 4:1-7 NLT - *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.*

⁴ *You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

⁷ *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Submitting to His Word, His will, and His leadership is directly connected to fulfilling your God-given calling. **You cannot walk in divine destiny while rejecting divine authority.**

Humility- freedom from pride or arrogance

God must hold 1st place in our lives. That is what it means to live under His authority. His Word becomes the final authority. If God said it, I believe it, and I act on it — not because I have to, but because I trust Him. That's where protection is. That's where provision is. That's where power is.