

"OUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding the Power and Authority we have in Christ.

Life Group Leader preparation:

- I John 3:8for this purpose Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil
- Luke 10:19 -Behold I give you power [authority] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. – KJV
- Proverbs 18:21 – The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. – NIV
- 2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: - KJV
- 2 Timothy 3:17 – so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – NIV
- James 4:7 – resist the devil, and he will flee from you

Jesus has given the believer authority over the whole earth

We have been given power to use authority – John 8:32 “and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

Living our everyday life by studying and meditating on God’s word is central to understanding the authority that Jesus Christ has given us.

WEEK #1 Our Position in Christ

Discussion Question: What has positioning to do with Authority?

The Believer’s Authority has to do with: “Position in Christ”

• We have a spiritual advantage – because of our position in Christ
Ephesians 2:6...and has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- Eph 1:19 and what is the exceeding, greatness of his power toward us who believe
- Eph 1:20 when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand...
- Eph 1:21 far above.....principality, power, might and dominion

In the World, position means a lot and authority goes with position. The President has more authority in the company than an Office Manager. Parents have more authority than children...

We have been seated with Christ in heavenly places. Our joint-seating with Christ is “far above” all principalities and powers of darkness.

Your present circumstances may say different, but what is your Spiritual position according to the Bible. Circumstances should not dictate your authority as a believer.

Evil spirits will try to influence believers who are seated with Christ in heavenly places!

They can try, but they won’t succeed when we know who we are; where we are positioned; and that we have been given authority over the works of the devil. That the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.

Jesus Christ our example

- Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went about doing good and healing ALL that were oppressed by the devil. – Acts 10:38

Our seating and reigning with Christ is a position of authority, honor, and triumph—not failure, depression, and defeat.

Let’s be honest – Discussion: Jesus said to Go....how can my position in Christ help me to see others through His eyes?

WEEK #2: Authority in our Words

Group Discussion Questions: Can your words change the atmosphere? Change the disposition of a family member, stranger, your environment....

Jesus taught on the power of asking: Luke 11:10-13 we normally use these scriptures to minister the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues...but there is power and authority in words ...as long as it is in line with the Bible.

- Mark 11:23 – 24
 - Whosoever shall say
 - Believe what you say
 - You will have what you say
- James 3:10 – Out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be.
 - You can speak blessing over your life and family (I am healed, every need is met I am blessed going in, blessed going out...with long life will He satisfy me and show me His salvation. I will bless the Lord O’ my soul and all that is within me); Jesus is LORD!! I am more than a conqueror....
- Jesus said we can have what we say! What are we saying about our future, our health, our business, our family, we have authority to turn negative situations around by the words that we speak.
- Sickness into health...hatred into love....

Life and death is in the power of the tongue – Proverbs 18:21

Proverbs 23:7 – *For as a man thinks in his heart so is he: Watch your mouth (take heed to your thoughts) -*

Isa 50:4 – *The Lord has given me the tongue of learned, that I can speak a word in season.... I can speak to myself and others, blessings, encourage, stimulate, excite, cheer up and speak the word.*

Ps 19:14 – *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

Let’s be honest – Discussion: Name at least one person that you need to bless with your words, maybe even ask forgiveness because of negative words that you have spoken to them?

Week #3 – Put on The Whole Armor of God Eph 6:11-18

Discussion Question: How can we know the difference between natural and spiritual problems?

- 2 Cor 10:5 – for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds

Demons are not everywhere, but sometimes they are the problem

We are in a spiritual war and it takes using our authority; as to whether we win or lose.

- We wrestle not against flesh and blood

Sometimes we're asking God to do something or, change something that he gave us authority and power that will change circumstances.

- We ask God to give us money, He said, “you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you **power to get wealth**, that he may confirm his covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is ...Deut 8:18
- We ask God to heal us, Jesus said, they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Mark 16:18.... James 5:14 call for the elders of the church
- We complain people don't like us – I Cor 13 tells us to walk in love, how to treat all people. Eph 6:11 – resisting the devil, we wrestle not against flesh and blood. It could be the enemy not a natural reason.
- We're not wrestling against flesh and blood.
 - Everything is not natural....

Spiritual warfare....Believers authority

God has given us authority over the devil

Many don't know the authority God has given us (which is to Satan's advantage)

WEEK #4: Boldness to Walk in Authority

Group Discussion Questions: Are you willing to take risks for the gospel, to walk in purpose?

Act 4:29 – And now Lord behold their threatening and grant unto thy servants, *that with all boldness they may speak thy word.*

- Walking in authority requires boldness

David was willing to take a risk when he attacked the giant.

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"The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, the righteous are as bold as a lion."
-Proverbs 28:1

David's confidence in God, that God would deliver him... caused him to go up against someone (or something that seems) more powerful than him.

- For though we walk in the flesh, we do no war after the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but might through God to the pulling down of strongholds – 2 Cor 10:3-4

BOLDNESS COMES FROM A CONFIDENCE IN GOD, FAITH THAT YOU ARE WHERE HE WANTS YOU: IN HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE

God has empowered us....to use our authority.

Our Health will spring forth

Our Wealth will spring forth

Our Relationships would be blessed

Jesus rebuked fever in Peter's mother-in-law – Luke 4:39

Acts 4:13 ESV - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Let's be honest – Discussion: Are your feelings keeping you from taking risks? You don't have to be perfect...step out in faith and experience the blessings of God.