



## LIFE GROUP LESSON

### “AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY”

July 2023

**Objective:** To understand our authority as a believer that Jesus has given us.

**Life Group Leader Lesson:** "Authority Over the Enemy" - *Luke 10:19 (NKJV)*

#### THE ENEMY *Genesis 3:1 – 14*

1. Subtle (crafty, elusive, clever, devious, tricky, cunning, slick)
  2. Created by God, serpent
  3. Always questions God’s commands and authority
  4. Liar
  5. Tempts with pleasure to the senses
  6. God cursed him
- Deceiver of the whole world – *Revelation 12:9*
  - Accuser of the brethren – *Revelation 12:10*
  - Inflicts disease – *Job 2:7*
  - He has children – (Tares) *Matthew 13:24-30*
  - He is a thief – *John 10:10*

“Behold I give you power and authority over all the power that the enemy possesses, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” – Jesus Christ

#### **WEEK #1 – Believers Authority - Do not be ignorant of Satan’s devices!**

Discussion: What are some of the devices of Satan? (Search the scriptures)

1. Sickness/disease
2. Fear
3. Hatred
4. Unforgiveness
5. Poverty

6. Witchcraft
7. Racial prejudice
8. Pride
9. Lack or ignorance of God's purpose for your life
10. Insecure about who you are in Christ
11. Not understanding "the good fight of faith"
12. God doesn't love you

*2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV*

... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

*2 Corinthians 2:11 NLT*

... so, that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

**Authority** – (Exousia Gk) permission of ability, strength, power: the right to exercise power.

*Luke 10:19 NKJV*

Jesus told his disciples, Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

*Luke 9:1-2 NKJV*

Jesus called His disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

*Acts 3:1-8*

Peter said such as I have, I give to you...in the name of Jesus rise and walk. The lame man was healed. Peter used his spiritual authority to set the man free from bondage, so that he could walk.

**Spiritual warfare is a fight against an invisible enemy.** We do not see him, but we recognize his works. When we recognize the works of the enemy, we cast them down.

*2 Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV*

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war **according to the flesh**. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

## Week #2 – Believer’s Authority Over the Enemy

### Discussion:

Every believer receives this authority when they are born again.

- *2 Peter 1:3* – as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.
- And Satan will do everything he can to keep Christians from learning the truth about their authority.
- We need to know what belongs to us. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). In Hosea God says, "My people [not sinners, not the world] are destroyed for lack of knowledge...." (Hosea 4:6). People perish not having to.
- *Mark 4:15*.... Satan comes immediately to steal the word that was sown in the hearts of the believer.
- *Matthew 28:18* is another verse where the word "authority" is used. It should read, "ALL AUTHORITY is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (NKJV) "now you go in the same authority"
- Jesus said, “. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (*John 14:12*).
- Jesus didn't say that only a select few would do these works; He said those who believe on Him would.
- As we continue to study what the Word of God teaches about the authority of the believer, we will be able to walk in truth more and more.

## Week #3 – Believer’s Authority – Exercise Your Authority

Discussion: Give an example of exercising your spiritual authority.

**Speak to the mountain**.... Jesus expects us to speak to the mountain. He expects us to lay hands on the sick. He expects us to cast out demons.

Jesus is in heaven. If we do not use our authority here on earth it will not be done.

- *Acts 1:8* - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

People are influenced, controlled, and used by the devil every day. It may be the person sitting next to you at work, it may be your neighbor, or maybe your child, your husband, or your wife.

Anyone who is not paying attention or aware of the enemy's tactics can be influenced by Satan towards ungodly actions. When we recognize that, it would make a big difference in the way we respond to people. It doesn't mean they are "possessed" by a demon, but they may be influenced by spiritual wickedness.

- Debt and financial bondage
- Bad habits that can't be broken
- Can't let go of past mistakes or past failed relationship experiences.
- Continuing to make the same mistakes.

*The believer is told to do something about the devil. The reason is because you have the authority to do it. The Church is not to pray to God the Father about the devil; the Church is to exercise the authority over the devil. Mark 16:17-20*

*"The New Testament tells believers themselves to do something about the devil. The least member of the Body of Christ has just as much power over the devil as anyone else, and unless believers do something about the devil, nothing will be done in a lot of areas." ---Kenneth Hagin "The Believer's Authority"*

## **Week #4 – There is a spiritual war going on, and as a believer, you must be aware of it.**

### Group Discussion:

Discuss any spiritual warfare you may be experiencing. How are you using your authority? One of the tactics of the enemy is to have Christians think that some believers have more power than others... THAT IS A LIE.

*James 4:7* says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

*Ephesians 6:10-12* reads, Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Take your authority as a believer personal. God is not a respecter of persons. Meditate on these verses, make them personal to you and experience the Word come alive in your spirit...

- and nothing shall by any means hurt you – *Luke 10:19*
- And no weapon formed against you shall prosper – *Isaiah 54:17*
- You will also declare a thing, and it shall be established – *Job 22:28*

*Ephesians 1:19-23 (NKJV)* .... and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**We are His Body, so all things are under our feet!**