



## LIFE GROUP LESSON

### "OUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

### AUGUST 2024

#### INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

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

**Life Group Leader preparation:**

- *1 John 3:8* – for 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 3:16,17* – All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- *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 over the works of the devil.

*John 8:32* “and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. – NIV

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 does positioning have 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.
- *Ephesians 1:19* and what is the exceeding, greatness of his power toward us who believe.
- *Ephesians 1:20* when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand...
- *Ephesians 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 a 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. Also, 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 are 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, a stranger, your environment?

Jesus taught on the power of asking. There is power and authority in words that are in line with the Bible. *Luke 11:10-13*

- 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 to be so.*
  - ♦ You can speak blessing over your life and family.
  - ♦ I am healed and every need is met.
  - ♦ I am blessed going in and blessed going out.
  - ♦ With long life will He satisfy me and show me His salvation.
  - ♦ 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! *Mark 11:23-24*

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 can be turned into health.
- Hatred can be turned into love.

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

*Proverbs 23:7 – For as a man thinks in his heart so is he.* Be mindful of what you say and what you think about.

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

*Psalms 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:** Think of 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 - Ephesians 6:11-18**

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

- *2 Corinthians 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 a Believer as to whether we win or lose.

- *We wrestle not against flesh and blood – Ephesians 6:12*

**Sometimes we're asking God to do something or change something that he's given 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 ...Deuteronomy 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 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him,*
- We complain that people don't like us – *1 Corinthians 13* tells us to walk in love and how to treat people.
- *Luke 6:31 - Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.*

Remember we wrestle not against flesh and blood. It could be the enemy, not a natural reason. Everything is not natural. Many Christians 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 Goliath. *1 Samuel 17:34-51*

David's confidence in God, that God would deliver him caused him to go up against someone that seemed more powerful than him.

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

*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. Acts 4:13 ESV*

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

- *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

God has empowered us to use the authority He has given us to overcome in life. Boldness comes from a confidence in God and His Word.

**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.