

Teacher: John Burton

Teaching Title: Supernatural Authority

- I. The Journey
 - a. This is a message about the authority we have as followers of Jesus.
 - i. We are authorized and instructed to govern, to rule and reign in the earth.
 - ii. "...by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." (Ephesians 2:5–6, ESV)
 - iii. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son," (Colossians 1:13, ESV)
 - b. Four distinct points in our journey will result in four distinct outcomes.
 - i. The way we relate to Jesus and the expectations we have of him vary greatly depending on how we are progressing through these points.
 - c. As we journey through these four points, it's important that none of their importance is diminished.
 - i. The truth about each remains.
 - ii. We grow from the truths, we stand on the truths, we don't abandon the truths.
 - iii. We will find ourselves leaning on them often.
 - iv. However, we must not camp out there.
 - v. "'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth..." (John 16:12–13, ESV)
 - d. That scripture leads us into the first of the four points or seasons of our journey.
- II. The Walk
 - a. This is where both fans and followers of Jesus are born.
 - i. Fans are everywhere.
 1. They name the name of Jesus and are spiritually interested.
 2. This group is large and includes seekers, the lukewarm, false movements and others who are not fully devoted.
 3. Curious people, Carnal Christians, Universalists, affirming churches, progressive movements and others appreciate Jesus and exhibit an interest in his teachings.
 - ii. Followers are rarer.
 1. These are desperate people who have decided to surrender all.
 2. The focus in this realm is "following."
 3. We learn from Jesus, we watch him move, we desire to be with him, we wait for him to intervene.
 4. We lay down our own passions, fleshly desires and dreams in favor of being with Jesus and growing as a disciple.

5. “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24–25, ESV)
 6. Every journey with God must start here, with Jesus.
 7. “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”” (John 8:12, ESV)
 8. “Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.” (1 Corinthians 11:2, ESV)
- iii. Walking with Jesus is critical and powerful.
1. It’s how we learn to hear God’s voice, for example.
 - a. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27, ESV)
 2. You’re ministry will take form as we follow Jesus.
 - a. “And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”” (Matthew 4:19, ESV)
 3. The way to friendship with Jesus is revealed.
 - a. “You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:14, ESV)
 4. Our dependance on Jesus is made clear.
 - a. “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5, ESV)
- iv. Take note of how the walk with Jesus must be learned, remembered and continued.
- v. The walk is critical, however we’ll see in a moment that it’s not the end of our journey.
1. We can’t simply walk with Jesus, learn from Jesus, hang back and wait.
- b. The risk: the rich young ruler.
- i. “And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” (Mark 10:20–22, ESV)
 - ii. We can only follow Jesus on his terms, not ours.
- III. The Cross
- a. Our walk must lead us to the cross.

- i. This is a deeply troubling, fearful reality for all true followers of Jesus.
 - ii. When Jesus went to the cross, most every disciple scattered, hid, denied that they even knew Jesus.
 - 1. Many followers of Jesus, many fans of Jesus, scatter.
 - 2. The threat of the cross is too much.
 - iii. “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24, ESV)
 - 1. Note, the walk, following Jesus, doesn’t end at the cross. It continues.
 - 2. We must take up our cross and follow.
 - iv. The cross is a place of death.
 - 1. It’s the price that was necessary to set us free from sin, sickness and hell.
 - 2. However, the cross alone was not enough. Our journey can’t end there, we cannot stay there, we cannot camp there.
- b. Understand, I’m a preacher of the cross. I’m a hellfire preacher.
- i. Repentance must grip us.
 - ii. Baptist pastor preaching hellfire salvations messages each week, however, isn’t where we should camp.
 - iii. There is power and victory ahead!
- c. The risk: Lack of victory
- i. If the cross would have been the end for Jesus, there would be no victory. Satan would have won.
 - ii. Communion is a clear picture of the need to remember the cross while advancing on our journey. It’s a call to surrender and remember.
 - iii. Kenneth Hagin: The cross is actually a place of defeat, where the resurrection is a place of triumph!
 - iv. Many advance from the cross to the resurrection and to the upper room, and then retreat back to the cross due to sin and defeat in their lives.
 - 1. The cross is meant to open the door to resurrection power!
- IV. The Resurrection
- a. The cross leads us to the next stop on our journey. The resurrection.
 - i. The power of the resurrection changed everything.
 - b. Acts 1 “sent ones”
 - i. “So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when

he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:6–9, ESV)

- ii. The journey took the disciples from the walk, to the cross and to the resurrection.
 - 1. In Acts 1, the disciples transitioned from mere followers to “sent ones.”
 - 2. They were now called to heal the sick, cast out demons, plant churches, pray without ceasing, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and advance the Kingdom of God!
 - 3. This is a dramatic shift!
- c. The risk: Failing to walk in power: Not growing beyond surrender to doing the work of the ministry.
 - i. The resurrection is the mightiest, most powerful work of God ever.
 - ii. It was not meant to be a show but to empower the church.

V. The Throne

- a. To obey the call to advance the Kingdom of God, we must not remain at the resurrection.
 - i. Our authority is a result the resurrection and in the declaration of the risen Christ.
- b. We must begin to rule and reign! We are seated with Christ Jesus!
 - i. “...by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...” (Ephesians 2:5–6, ESV)
- c. Kenneth Hagan in “The Believer’s Authority” said: “Before Jesus comes again, there’s going to be a whole company of believers who will rise up with the authority that is theirs. They will know what is theirs, and they will do the work that God intended they should do.”
 - i. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
Colossians 1:11-13
- d. Spiritual authority is the power and privilege given to believers by God to exercise control and influence in the spiritual realm. It’s how we govern. We are the police force.
 - i. God doesn’t fight the devil for us—we are today’s authorized warriors! God won’t put on your armor for you. You must put it on and use your weapons.
 - 1. Kenneth Hagin: Our combat with the devil always should be with the consciousness that we have authority over him because he is a defeated foe. The Lord Jesus defeated him for us.

2. We have this authority the moment we are born again, however we must be awakened to how it works in our lives. We must grow as people who function in great authority. We must act on that knowledge.
- ii. Definition of Authority: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience; a person or organization having power or control in a particular, typically political or administrative, sphere.
 1. “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.” (Luke 10:19, ESV)
 2. The devil has no choice but to acknowledge our authority!
- iii. Paul prayed: ...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might Ephesians 1:18-19
 1. God wants us to understand at a heart level how our authority works.
 - a. Kenneth Hagan: A police officer doesn’t have the physical strength to stop a speeding car in an intersection, but he has the authority to hold up his hand and demand the car stops.
 - iv. ...that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **Ephesians 1:20-22**
- e. Nowhere in the NT is the church told to pray for God to heal someone or to cast out a demon.
 - i. They were authorized.
 - ii. They were empowered.
 - iii. They did it.
 - iv. “But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”” (Acts 3:6, ESV)
 1. What did he have? Authority over sickness.
 2. Why did he have it? He’s seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.
 3. We have authority whether we believe it or not, feel it or not, know it or not. We are called to legislate, to enforce the victory!
 4. “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18, ESV)
 - v. This level of victory cannot come if we stop at following Jesus.

- vi. It can't come if we camp out at the cross and never experience resurrection power.
- vii. It can't come if we are simply amazed by the resurrection but don't shift into "sent ones" who are authorized by God to move in great power.
- f. A much broader teaching on the topic of spiritual authority will reveal:
 - i. Healing the sick requires authority.
 - ii. Casting out demons requires authority.
 - iii. Changing your life circumstances requires authority.
 - iv. Authority requires brokenness.
 - v. Authority requires faith.
 - vi. Authority requires hearing God's voice.
 - vii. Authority is administered verbally.
 - viii. Authority requires that we are under authority.
 - ix. Authority exists for the sake of fulfilling assignments.
 - x. We must understand the jurisdiction of our authority.
- g. The risk: Lucifer
 - i. He was ruling and reigning.
 - ii. Pride, independence overtook him.
 - iii. He fell.
 - iv. We can move through the points in our journey and still ultimately fall away if pride poisons our hearts.