Thursday Session: 6pm-9pm
Friday AM Session: 9am-1pm
Friday PM Session: 6pm Prophetic Ministry Service 7pm-10pm
Saturday AM Session: 9am-1pm

A Fast Track presented by the Ministry Training College
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Fast Track Course Syllabus - Full Time Students, On and Off Campus
Understanding Spiritual Authority (Sept. 4-6, 2014)

Course Description:

God has designed spiritual blessings to flow when you are properly positioned under spiritual authority! In this course, we examine important keys for advancement and blessing in your spiritual walk, how to relate to those God positions in our lives for accountability and how to communicate to those we are positioned to lead. When these things are aligned, power and authority are released!

Instructor: Apostles Tom and Jane Hamon

Assignments

1. **5 page book reports on:**
   - Write a 5 page, double spaced, 12pt font paper on the required reading material specified for this course

2. **Seminar Notes:**
   - Off Campus Students: Your notes from attending the seminar
   - On Campus Students: Your notes from any sessions you viewed online and did not attend in person

**Book Report Guidelines**

Overall length approximately five pages, typed, double space, computer font 12. Paragraph should be 4 – 6 sentences in length.

Start each section of the report with the bolded titles below

1. **Title:** Complete book title
2. **Author:** Name and information about the author
3. **Summary:** One to two paragraph summary of the book
4. **Three outstanding themes:** List and explain 3 themes that you found especially interesting and valuable:
   - One paragraph each
   - List theme or topic (may be chapter or section title)
   - Give short description or summary of the theme
   - Explain why it is valuable to you
5. **Two critical themes:** List 2 critical themes, themes that in your understanding were weak or with which you disagree
   - One paragraph each
   - List the theme or topic
   - Give short description or summary of the theme
   - Explain your position on the theme
6. **Learning and reflection:** Write two paragraphs describing what you have learned from reading this book. How has this book ministered to you? How do you feel it has impacted your life?
Defining Spiritual Authority

**Definition of Authority:**
1. the power to determine, adjudicate or otherwise settle issues; the right to control, command or determine
2. a power or right delegated or given; authorization.
3. a person or body of persons in whom authority is vested, as a governmental agency.
4. a person or persons having the legal power to make and enforce the law; government.
5. a statute, court rule, or judicial decision that establishes a rule or principle of law; ruling.

**Greek Definition (exousia):** (in the sense of ability), privilege; ie. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery, (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control) delegated influence.

KJV: authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength

**Authority is not a side-line issue with God - It is the Issue!! - Lordship!!**

1) THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IS GOD!

God is the ultimate Authority Figure!

If we do not relate to authority correctly then we will not relate to God correctly.

If you don’t understand authority you won’t understand God and His Kingdom.

Spoiled Children are the hardest thing that God has to deal with.
That is why the devil is fighting true authority and discipline in the home so hard.
That is why the devil is trying to destroy the home and family so bad.

One Day --- “Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!”
Jesus is Lord!

Some willingly now in this life -by his love and commandment and commitment
Some forcibly in the world to come -by his judgment and decree
If we have a problem with authority then ultimately we are saying that we have a problem with God.

God's authority represents God Himself whereas His power stands only for His acts.

That is why sins against power have less consequences than sins against authority because the latter is a sin against God himself.

Before Saul - Sons of Eli were abusing power and misrepresenting God.
But just because someone misrepresents God doesn’t give us the right to reject God or His godly delegated authority.

God told Samuel that Saul and the people were not rejecting his authority and word but they were rejecting God’s word and authority.
God tore the kingdom from Saul at that moment and rejected him.

When the people rebelled against Moses at the mount, they were not just rebelling against Moses’s authority but against God, so God allowed the earth to swallow them up alive into the pit.

Authority was and is God’s idea.
There was order and authority in heaven before man was ever created.
And there was those who rebelled against it in heaven also.

God is the originator and authenticator of the very concept and institution of authority in the earth.

The very controversy of the universe is centered on the question of who will have the authority and our conflict with Satan is the direct result of our attributing authority to God.

2) AUTHORITIES ARE ORDAINED BY GOD IN THE EARTH

Romans 13:1-7
1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.
3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:
4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Daniel 4:17 God rules in the affairs of men

17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

3) GOD’S AUTHORITY RELEASES HIS RULE IN THE EARTH

God’s rule is where His kingdom is.

God’s rule is where the Government of God is evidenced.

1) There is structure and levels in God’s government
2) There are laws in God’s government
3) There are truths that are the founding principles of God’s government
4) There are delegated authorities and sanctioned governmental representatives in God’s government
5) There are benefits and blessings bestowed by being under and in line with God’s government.
6) There are judgments adjudicated by God’s government
7) There is honor given to whom honor is due in God’s government
8) There are governing bodies and a constitution for God’s government

Kingdom of God The Realm of the rule of the King!

The king rules by his authority executed through the power of his kingdom.
Matt. 7:29

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:
29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus taught as one who had authority.
Authority was the mark of authenticity upon Jesus life
and it should be the mark of authenticity of every true believer of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus released power because he operated under authority and with authority.

True authority requires true submission and subjection

An Overcoming Kingdom needs Faithful and loyal subjects
(those in subjection and submission to the King and the government of the Kingdom)

4) GOD’S AUTHORITY REQUIRES A RESPONSE OF EITHER OBEDIENCE OR REBELLION

God is sovereign - He does that which he feels is best
We don’t tell God what he should do or how he should do it He tells us!

His ways and thoughts are above ours.

The acts of God issue from His throne and His throne is established on His authority.

All things were created by God’s authority and all physical and spiritual laws are upheld by his authority.

God’s rule is not based on a Democracy (People rule).

God’s rule is based on a Theocracy (God Rules)

We do not have a vote on what God’s will should be
We only have a vote as to whether we are going to obey His will or not.

Jesus modeled submission to the Father - He did nothing but what he saw the father doing
He prayed “Not my will but thine be done”
He knew who sent him and what was required of him - complete obedience to the Father.

5) GOD DELEGATES SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY TO MEN

God’s rule is administered through his Church.

His church is made up of people.

All people are created equally and God is no respecter of persons yet not all men are positioned equally.

God calls and God chooses.
- We do not call or choose ourselves or position ourselves.

God administers his affairs upon the earth through godly men and women.

God has invested his authority in his leaders and his people.

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Mark 13:34
34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

6) THERE IS A ILLEGITIMATE KINGDOM OF POWER IN THE EARTH INITIATED BY SATAN’S REBELLION

Our job is to bring everything under the dominion of God’s Authority.

Isaiah 61/Luke 2
- Loose by the good news those that have been held captive by the devils tormenting lies.

Luke 9:1
- Jesus sent his disciples out with power and authority.

(Luke 10: 18-19)
- Behold - Satan falling - I give you power.

vs. 38-44
- He expected them to use their authority.
Luke 10:9
And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

We must demonstrate that the devil’s kingdom is illegitimate and his oppressive power has been overcome by the true authority of the rightful king.

Luke 10:16-19
16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.
17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.
18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Exousia over all the dunamis of the enemy

Original command -Be fruitful and multiply, subdue all things and have dominon

Until the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.

The Devil’s kingdom is based on rebellion to true authority.

God’s kingdom is based on obedience to His will.

Our Prayer must be:
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...
...For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever, amen!
Rebellion vs. Obedience & Submission

I. Isaiah 1:18 - 20 - “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord, Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Matthew 7:21 - 23
21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Willingness and desire is not enough - we must actually do the will of the Father

Matthew 21:23 - 32
23 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John__where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. 28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

Not just a matter of good intentions but of actually doing what God says with a right heart

James 1:22 - “Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only - deceiving yourself.”
Watchman Nee in his book, *Spiritual Authority* says that rather than calling ourselves believers we should call ourselves “obeyers” instead.

**Two principles in the universe:**
1) The Principle of God’s Authority  
2) The Principle of Satan’s Rebellion

The controversy of the universe is who is going to be in control?

**II. God’s Principle of Authority**

The Godhead is the ultimate authority in the universe.

The Father needed a point of obedience on earth to establish His throne of authority.  
Authority must be enforceable through required obedience (laws)  
In the absence of laws there is lawlessness.

Rom. 5:19 “For by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one, many were made righteous.”

**Definition of Obedience** - the act or practice of obeying  
**Obey** - To comply with the wished, instructions or commands of; to comply with or to follow; to respond readily to, to submit or conform to  
**Submit** - to give over or yield to the power or authority of another, to defer to another’s judgment, opinion or decision

God is looking for us to be both willing and obedient but ultimately he will judge us on our obedience.

**Why does He want us willing?**
1. He doesn’t want us to be robots, but rather have willing hearts.  
2. He is looking more at our availability than our ability.  
3. He is looking for a total commitment  
4. He is looking at the attitude of our hearts.

**What we need to know in order to obey God:**

1. **Know God’s Heart**
   - Unbelief led to disobedience – unwillingness to accept God’s ways  
   - God sent them to obedience school in the desert for 40 years!
2. Knowing God’s Heart Leads to a Love Relationship
- Easy to submit your will when you are in love with the person
- Love makes us willing to sacrifice for what the other person wants.

3. Love Relationship Results in Trust
- Trust that God has our best interest at heart.
- Trust that God will use delegated authorities to bring forth his purposes in our lives
- Romans 8:28 - Believe that God will cause all things to work together for our good.

George Truett “to know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God is the greatest discovery, to do the will of God is the greatest achievement.”

III. The Principle of Satan’s Rebellion
 Definition of Rebellion - open, organized and armed resistance to a government or ruler, resistance to or defiance of any authority, control or tradition.
 Rebel - a person who refuses allegiance to, resists, or rises in arms against a government or ruler, defiant, rebellious,

1 Sam 15:23 -“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

Sinning is a matter of conduct, rebellion is a matter of violating principle. It is judged more severely than sin.

Examples of Rebellion:

1) The Fall of Lucifer - Ezekiel 28:12-17/ Isaiah 14:12-15
His sin was directly against God’s authority.

The Five “I wills” of Lucifer:

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Satan’s Principle: Self Exaltation which says “I am better than you – I will give the orders.”
2) The Fall of Adam and Eve - Genesis 3:6

Eve didn’t consider the word of authority of God, nor that of her husband, but saw the fruit and made up her own mind to taste of it.

When we decide to do what we want rather than what God wants = rebellion
Birth of Humanism = man is God

Satan’s Principle: Self Will which says “I know what is best for me”

Obedience starts with God’s Will while rebellion starts with Self Will.

Excerpts from - Spiritual Authority by Watchman Nee page 21 - 23
The fall of man is due to disobedience to God’s authority.....to rebel against God’s represented authority is to rebel against God Himself. Eve was not only under God’s authority, but in God’s ordering also under Adam’s authority. She had a double authority to obey.....Eve’s actions were not governed by obedience, but by her own self will. She was not subject to God’s order nor did she obey God’s authority. She instead made up her own mind. Any action which lacks in obedience is a fall. Any act of disobedience is rebellion.

The work of redemption is to bring us back to where we now find our right and wrong in God.

Since the fall of Adam disorder has prevailed in the universe. Everyone thinks he is able to distinguish good from evil and to judge what is right or wrong. He seems to know better than God. This is the folly of the fall. We need to be delivered from such a deception, because this is nothing other than rebellion.

Our knowledge of obedience is woefully inadequate.....The subjection taught in the Bible is concerned with being subject to the authorities established by God. Obedience is a foundational principle. If this matter of authority remains unsolved, nothing can be solved. As faith is the principle by which we obtain life, so obedience is the principle by which that life is lived out. The divisions and disruptions currently within the church stem from rebellion. In order to recover authority, obedience must first be restored. Many have cultivated the habit of being the head, yet without ever having known obedience. We must therefore learn a lesson. Let obedience be our first reaction. God has not withheld anything from us concerning authority. He has shown us how to be subject to direct and indirect authority. Most profess that they know how to obey God but they know nothing as to obeying delegated authorities. The problems facing us in our day are due to men living outside the authority of God.
3) Story of Nadab, Abihu, the sons of Aaron offering strange fire....Leviticus 9:23-10:2

Aaron’s sons were meant to serve God in co-ordination with God’s delegated authority, Aaron. Instead, they decided they could do just as good of a job doing it themselves on their own.

They used the exact same actions as they had in working with Aaron (looked the same in service) but it was rebellion because it was not in God’s order.

Term “strange fire” in Hebrew = same as to commit adultery - illegitimate - out of order
Rebellion change the nature of a fire.

Satan’s Principle: Independence which says “I can do it myself.”

4) Aaron and Miriam rebuke Moses Numbers 12: 1-10
The Lord heard it when the people complained.
Has God only spoken with Moses? He speaks to us too!

They reviled God’s authority, not recognizing that authority is God’s choice not man’s.

When we look at delegated authority through only natural eyes we will conceive a rebellious heart.

Satan’s Principle: Familiarity which says “Who do you think you are?”

5) Korah, Dathan and Abiram (collective rebellion Numbers 16)

Korah and his company the Levites = “the spiritual ones” – the priests
Dathan and Abiram - Ruebenites = “ the leaders”
250 princes of the congregation
“They took men and rebelled.”

They thought they were opposing Moses when actually they were opposing God. God and His delegated authorities are inseparable.

10 times Israel tempted God and 5 times they disbelieved Him and God put up with it. But Rebellion He harshly judged - the ground opened and swallowed them up!!

Rebellion is contagious!
Satan’s Principle: **Accusation and Criticism** which says “you are just controlling, power hungry and full of pride

V. **Divine Principles of Authority and Obedience** - Kingdom of opposites

1. To obey is better than sacrifice (doing some religious duty)

2. God’s authority on earth is secured through obedience
   Taking dominion comes through obedience

3. Authority cannot be established without obedience.
   Delegated authority must be under authority

4. Obedience is learned - sometimes through suffering
   Jesus didn’t bring obedience with him - he learned it!

5. God will exalt and promote the humble.

6. True faith is obedience
   Faith without works is dead - we must be obeyers!

7. Only the obedient will eat the good of the land.

Instead of……………………………
Satan’s Principle of Self Exaltation          God’s Principle of Humility
Satan’s Principle of Self Will             God’s Principle of Obedience
Satan’s Principle of Independence       God’s Principle of Interdependence
Satan’s Principle of Familiarity          God’s Principle of Submission
Satan’s Principle of Accusation          God’s Principle of Forgiveness

Ps 89:14  Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.
Delegated Authority

Intro.: Definition of “delegate”: 1) a person designated to act for or represent another or others
2) to send or appoint as deputy or representative
3) to commit (powers, functions, etc.) to another as agent

I. ACCOUNTABILITY

1. THOSE IN AUTHORITY ARE NOT CALLED TO BE MEDIATORS

Rom 14:11-12
11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.
12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

1 Pet 1:17
17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work,
    pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

1 Tim 2:5
5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

There are no grandchildren in the kingdom of God

No one else can stand for you before God

Each person must face God individually concerning the works they have done in the flesh.

A large part of the ministry of leadership has to do with causing each member of the body to come forth in faith to understand their place of ministry and individual authority in Christ.

We are all individually accountable to God for our calling, our faith and our works.

Individuals must learn to take on a personal responsibility before the Lord for their lives and conduct.
Spiritual Authority should never replace an individual’s personal relationship with God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

2. LEADERS HAVE A GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY BEFORE GOD

James 3:1

1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (NIV)

Leaders are first of all accountable to God not the people.

Being accountable to the people first leads to an ungodly spirit of people pleasing.

Those in true spiritual authority must be willing to obey God and please him even if it is unpopular or displeases the people.

True leaders are also willing to be accountable to those God calls them to be under.

Leaders must be willing to take on greater responsibility and accountability.

Leaders are given a list of prerequisite qualifications in order to serve in the capacity of leadership.

Because what a leader says and does influences the whole body, God says they are held to a higher standard. (to whom much is given, much is required)

The very definition of a leader communicates that he is to be an example and rightly represent God’s heart and waysto the people.

3. AUTHORITY IS POSITIONED TO HOLD OTHERS ACCOUNTABLE

Heb 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
Heb 13:17  (NIV)
17  Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

“rule over you” (hegeomai) a strengthened form of ‘to lead,’ ‘to command’ (with official authority)

“submit” (hipeiko) (to yield, be weak) ‘to surrender’

According to Scripture, we must be willing to obey and submit to the rule of those positioned over us in the Lord.

God says that if this is a joyful process, then it is profitable.

The Apostle Paul asked the Corinthians whether he would have to come to them in love and gentleness or with a rod, because of their pride.

1 Cor 4:21
21  What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness? (NAS)

The Apostle Paul felt that he had a place with the Corinthians to speak and deal with them directly and strongly concerning their spiritual condition.

Scripture suggests that the very act of submission can actually bring deliverance.

Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil and he must flee. (James 4:7)

Sometimes the key thing we need to do in order to be free is to be willing to submit.

1 Pet 2:13  14
13  Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
14  Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

If we are to submit to earthly rulers, how much more spiritual rulers.

1 Pet 5:2
2  Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
“Oversee” (episkopeo) ‘to look upon, to inspect, to oversee, to look after, to care for’ (bishop)

Those who would have spiritual authority must be of the attitude that they are ready and willing to serve.

You cannot minister for money or just because you get paid for it.

In the same token, you cannot obey only because of money or because your pay is at stake.

Some people are more ready to respond and obey their natural (sometimes ungodly) boss, because money is at stake, before they are willing to respond and obey spiritual authority.

4. AUTHORITY IS APPOINTED AND AUTHORIZED BY GOD

True spiritual authority cannot just be appointed by man or voted in by the people. You cannot view your spiritual position of leadership as a job.

Otherwise you will give way to a HirelingMentality (John 10:12,13)

A Hireling does not have the best interest of the people at heart, he has his own self-interest at heart.

Mainly concerned about protecting himself and preserving his prosperity.

Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him - then He said that if you really do then you will - feed my sheep.

A true leader must have God’s heart birthed within him.

A true shepherd is one who is willing to lay down his life for the sheep.

A spiritual leader must be called and chosen of God.

1 Cor 12:28 29 (Eph. 4:11 - fivefold ministers for perfecting of saints)

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ------no!

Authority is not something to be striven for or covetous of.
Godly authority must be given not grasped for or usurped.

Godly authority is not just something to be attained or earned

True authority is delegated by the Father and administered by faith and grace.

God’s government is structured and legislated through the delegation of authority to those He chooses.

5) SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IS NOT BASED ON THE WORLD’S STANDARD

Spiritual Authority is not meant to be dominating or controlling but edifying.

1 Pet 5:1-6

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

“lords over” (katakurieou) ‘to lord against’ i.e. control, subjugate (exercise dominion over)

Spiritual authority is not called to operate as an overpowering, abusive exertion of power to just prove who is in charge and dominate someone’s life.

Jer 10:21

21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

Ezekiel 34:1-15 A prophecy against bad shepherds
God will deal with unrighteous leaders in his own ways and in his time.

2 Cor 10:8
8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath **given us for edification**, and **not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:**

Paul said that he should not have to be ashamed of rightly using the authority God gave him to build.

There is such a thing as legitimate control and illegitimate control.

Someone is always in control. The question is, who?
(Those delegated or those usurping or presuming?)

There is self-control, and there is legitimate control exerted through godly leadership.

If there is no rightful control (governing force), then there is chaos and anarchy (lawlessness).

There is no quality (excellence) without quality control.

God, in His wisdom, has appointed leaders to be in control of the activities of His church.

Many times those that complain the loudest about too much control is because they are upset because they are not the ones in control.

Many times these same individuals are the ones who are the most controlling when they are given a realm of authority.

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<td>Using authority to Lord it over</td>
<td>Using authority to Edify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using authority for Selfish ends</td>
<td>Using authority for Kingdom causes</td>
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2 Cor 13:10

10 This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. (NIV)

Authority is an essential ingredient in order to build the Church the way God wants it to be.

We must remember that God will use both his goodness and severity to perfect us.

Godly authority may come across strong or even severe at times but the motivation is to build the church not tear people down.

We should always speak the truth in love and let it be for the use of edifying.

But even Jesus was found on many occasions to have rebuked his disciples for their greater good.
RESPONSIBILITY, CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF TRUE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

1) THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION MUST REST UPON THEM

Revelation is a key ingredient when speaking about true godly authority.

Spiritual Authority must be revealed by God

Ex.: Moses in Egypt, Moses in the desert, Moses at the Burning Bush,
Moses before Pharoah
Moses before God’s people

You must be both Called and Chosen (through God’s processes)

Spiritual Authority must walk in revelation in order to rightly lead and be authorized by God.

Authority does not depend upon us having thoughts or ideas, rather it depends on us knowing the will of God.

People assume such things as the following to be the necessary ingredients for authority:

1) Splendor and Magnificence
2) Strength of Personality
3) Bearing or Appearance
4) Power and Influence
5) A Strong Determination or Will Power
6) Clever Ideas and Creativity
7) Eloquent Communication Skills

However, often God has to divest us of these kinds of ideas in order to make us His kind of authorities.

James 1:5
5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
James 3:13-18

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.
14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.
15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.
16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

We see in this Scripture some of the true attributes of spiritual authority.

Characterized by Meekness, Humity, Integrity and Virtuous Character.

The Wisdom of Man is based on Pride

A Wise Guy, Know-it-all will not stop to ask for wisdom from God because he doesn’t think he needs it.

The Wisdom of God is based on Humility

The World says: Knowledge is Power
God says: Knowledge of Him is Power
(The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom)

Man has tried to build the church through his own wisdom and thoroughly failed, now God wants to build it right through his ordained authorities being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (wisdom and revelation) in the church.

2) THEY MUST HAVE THE FATHER’S HEART OF GOD

The best leaders are great followers of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul said: Follow me as I follow Christ
1 Cor 4:15–16
15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

A true father wants the best for his child and is not threatened by their success.

Mal 4:5–6
5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Their must come a last days apostolic and prophetic work to release the true heart of the Father back to the church.

God is wanting to reveal His true father’s heart in order to release our destinies and Identities and break the curse of shame over the lives of this generation.

Hebrews 11:39, 40–12:1–17

This generation has something to fulfill but it can only be accomplished by receiving the true Father’s heart and Father’s blessing.

The exhortation of sons and fathers has everything to do with us fulfilling destiny.

You may have been used and abused in the past but God is not like that and true godly authority is not like that.

Scripture exhorts us to - Rather by healed!

There is a difference between Positional Authority and Relational Authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relational Authority</th>
<th>Positional Authority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based on our fellowship</td>
<td>Based on God’s choosing</td>
</tr>
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</table>

26
Only valid if I feel good Binding whether I like it or not
about the relationship
Respect comes from intimate knowledge Respect comes from honoring
the position

Both of these are valid but one cannot negate the other.

We do not get to choose the delegated authorities in our lives, God chooses for us.

We must choose to respect the position even if at the time we have a hard time respecting the person.

**Ex.:** Parents/Judge/Policeman
Spiritual authority is not perfect but they are called to represent God.

**2 Cor 5:16**

*Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.*

We need to know who’s authority we are called to walk under and learn to serve and submit there.

Jesus did not bring a sense of full obedience with him from heaven, Scripture says that he
learned it through suffering.

Do not suffer in vain, we need to learn something from it - Obedience.

Whenever we encounter God’s authority, either directly or indirectly we should learn obedience.

It is vain to obey man; it is authority we must obey.

Even in the midst of ungodly manifestations we must be careful not to touch God’s anointed or to allow rebellion or dishonoring words or actions to flow from us.
1 Tim 6:1-2
1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

1 Pet 2:18-19
18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.
19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

No one is able to be God’s delegated authority unless he has learned the lesson of obedience, learning to obey God’s authority and understand His will.

3) THEY MUST BE SECURE IN CHRIST AND IN THEIR CALLING

There are some foundational truths that must sink down into the heart of God’s ordained authorities:
- God has my best interest at heart.
- God loves me.
- God wants to help me be all that I am called to be.
- God is for me and not against me.
- God is on my side and wants to help me succeed.
- God has called me out of his love for me and he wants to fulfill me as I pursue his destiny for my life.
- God loves me for who I am to Him not just what I can do for Him.
- God is not out to use me or abuse me, hurt me or abandon me.

Ex.: Jesus baptism  The Father said:
This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased!

Before Jesus had preached one sermon or done one miracle

God’s pleasure with Jesus was based on his relationship with him not performance

The Father’s declaration of acceptance and approval of Jesus brought a sense of security to him.
We see that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The Temptation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Turn Bread into Stones</th>
<th>Self-Protection and Self-Preservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cast Himself Down from the Tower</td>
<td>Self-Promotion, Presumption and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Down to Satan for Worldly Power</td>
<td>Short Cut to Power and Authority (Not the Cross)</td>
</tr>
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Jesus would have succumbed to these temptations if he had been insecure.

God needs those in authority

<table>
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<tr>
<th>who are:</th>
<th>but are:</th>
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<tr>
<td>not insecure</td>
<td>secure in God’s love and calling and abilities in them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not defensive</td>
<td>allow God to be their defense (Moses -Miriam/Aaron)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not easily offended</td>
<td>forgiving and unmoved by criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not ready to take things personally</td>
<td>understand that God has a greater agenda in mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not threatened</td>
<td>preferring others, imparting, equipping and releasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not fearful and doubting</td>
<td>full of faith, courage and encouragement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not prideful in their own abilities</td>
<td>confident in God and totally dependent upon His grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not easily discouraged</td>
<td>persistently enduring hardness and opposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not dominant and intimidating</td>
<td>trusting God to be the right combination of strength and gentleness</td>
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Security in Christ causes us to be able to lay everything down before him and trust him to take care of us.

Authority is given to execute God’s orders, not uplift oneself.

A Godly authority cannot afford to get caught in representing themselves and their agendas, they must always keep to the forefront of their minds and actions that they are called to represent God and His cause whether that’s love, mercy, judgment,
wrath, forgiveness, blessing, sending or rebuking. These all must be done because we are desiring to rightly represent the Lord and not ourselves.

4. GOD’S AUTHORITIES MUST BE FULL OF GRACE AND GRACIOUS

Grace - ‘God’s unmerited abilities released through us’

God’s true authorities must be quick to operate in faith to release the full potential of God’s Abilities within them.

In English - - **GRACE** - God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

They cannot be full of themselves but must understand they can only operate by grace through faith.

Sober minded, not a novice, lifted up in pride.

But more than that there must be a graciousness about their character.

They should be quick repenters, quick forgivers and quick restorers

Their words should always minister grace to the hearers and stir up faith.

They cannot afford to have a judgmental, harsh, unforgiving, critical spirit.

God’s authorities must know how to:
1) Intercede for restoration
2) Impart for equipping
3) Empower ones to be sent under authority and covering.

They must be able to be gracious even in the midst of unjust opposition.

5) TRUE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY MUST BE WILLING TO BE UNDER AUTHORITY

They must be under the authority of God in their lives by:
1) Learning obedience through the things they suffer
2) Living in close communion with the Lord
3) Be willing to deny themselves
4) Understand that all authority comes from God and thus live above reproach

They must recognize that we cannot have the slightest authority in the home, the work or the church.

All we can do is execute God’s authority; we cannot create authority for ourselves.

We must subject ourselves daily to his will which includes knowing who he has called us to submit to and following through with that commitment.

It is easy to say we submit to God or godly authority when it lines up with what we think or want.

But the reality is seen in our commitment of submission when we are in disagreement about what we think is best or what we want.

To be the covering God wants us to be, we must be covered by God and that includes being willing to submit to those who have the rule over us.

Sometimes those in leadership can have rebellion and independence in their heart even in their ministry.

True spiritual leaders with spiritual authority should be the first to example a humble and submitted attitude to the government of God.
A HEART OF EXCELLENCE IN SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT OF DAVID

>Excellence - Websters = outstanding good of its kind, of exceptional merit, to be better or greater than. Greek = throwing beyond others, supereminence, abundant, exceedingly beyond measure.

DAVID’S LIFE EXAMPLES A HEART OF PASSION & EXCELLENCE

CHARACTERISTICS OF HAVING AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT

I. DAVID - AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT - UNDER AUTHORITY

1. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT DOES NOT DESPISE THE DAY OF SMALL BEGINNINGS. (In other words - start where you are!)

>Read I Samuel 16:7 - God looks on the heart

2. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT RISES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE

>Read I Samuel 17:26 - Who is this Philistine/Is there not a cause?

>David needed three things to beat Goliath

a. VISION -

>People of vision see the impossible, hear the inaudible, believe the incredible, Think the unthinkable and do the impossible.

b. COURAGE - courage is not the absence of fear but ability to face & defeat it

c. FOLLOW-THROUGH - David finished what he started

>Read I Samuel 17:44-51 - he RAN to Goliath/cut off his head- many people running in battle, only running wrong way

3. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE FAVOR AND PROMOTION  >Read I Samuel 18:5-7
a. Jealousy
b. Accusation
c. Religious Spirit -

4. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT REMAINS FAITHFUL IN HEART TO THOSE APPOINTED AS SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

5. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT STAYS FOCUSED ON THE CALL IN THE MIDST OF TRYING TIMES.

Read I Samuel 22:1-2 - fled to land of Philistines, feigned madness, Cave experience Adullam = “justice of the people”

7. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WILL RECOGNIZE AND FIGHT THE TRUE ENEMY.

I Samuel 23 David at Keilah

8. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WILL NOT TOUCH GOD’S ANOINTED

I Samuel 24 - David and Saul in the Cave

24:17 - Good for evil/evil for good

I Samuel 26:7-11 David and Abishai’s opportunity to kill Saul

9. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT GIVES HEED TO RIGHTEOUS/WISE COUNSEL.

I Samuel 25 - Story of Abigail and Nabal

10. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WILL EVEN BE BLESSED BY HIS ENEMIES.

26:25 - Saul blesses David
11. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT NEVER GIVES UP.

30: - Fall of Ziglag - encourages himself in the Lord -

12. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAITS FOR GOD'S DAY OF PROMOTION.

   Anointed king at Hebron at age 30 over Judah/37 over all Israel at Jerusalem.

II. DAVID - AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT - IN AUTHORITY

1. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT HONORS HIS PREDECESSOR

   Kills murderer of Saul/ kills murderers of Ishbosheth

2. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT REMEMBERS THAT PROMOTION COMES FROM THE LORD.

   2 Sam 5:12-And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

3. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT HONORS THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

   Il Samuel 6 - David brings the captured ark to Jerusalem

4. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT KNOWS HOW TO REPENT WHEN YOU FAIL.

   >David was a man after God's own heart, but he also broke some of the top 10 list of commandments - the Biggies! Covetousness, Adultery, Murder

5. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WILL BEAR ETERNAL FRUIT.

6. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT DOES NOT SEEK REVENGE

   Story of Absalom