

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (c)

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a teaching series titled **THE ATMOSPHERE FOR KINGDOM MANIFESTATIONS**. So far, we have discovered that in order for the church to create the atmosphere for the kingdom to manifest, the church needs to appreciate what the kingdom is and why it is crucial for the kingdom to be evident to all men.

Last week we started exploring how life is meant to look like for a person living in the Kingdom – the aim for talking about life in the kingdom, is to inspire you to pursue kingdom life. Let's continue exploring **LIFE IN THE KINGDOM (c)**

1. Access to the forgiveness of sin

2. Access to God the Father

- When you have access to the Father, you have access to the unlimited resources of the kingdom. There is abundance in the kingdom – this is the picture you see through some of the names of God.
 - Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
 - Jehovah El Shadaai - (Lord God Almighty) the Lord who is more than enough – more than sufficient)
 - Jehovah Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)
 - Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)
 - Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)
 - Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)
 - Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)
 - Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

- Over and above all these resources, this morning I want to zero in on of the most important resource that is available to every kingdom citizen.

3. Access to kingdom authority

- When you carry authority, you will get a lot of things done along the way. Authority causes people to listen to you, authority gives you access to secret places and secret resources.
- Every kingdom citizen has access to kingdom authority. It has nothing to do with your title, or how long you have been around.

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Matthew 10:1 And when He had called to Him His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease... 7 And as you go, proclaim, saying, The kingdom of Heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. You have received freely, freely give.

- Jesus gave His disciples authority to deal with the powers of darkness – any kingdom without authority is no kingdom at all.
- The presence of the kingdom of God results in the overpowering of the kingdom of darkness.
- When a kingdom person arrives in a place that is charged with the powers of darkness, something is supposed to shift.
- The word authority [exousia] in scripture means “ability, privilege, force, capacity, delegated influence, jurisdiction.”
 - First, authority is the freedom to decide or a right to act without hindrance. All such authority begins with God, for there is no authority except from God
 - Second, the concept of authority refers to the power, ability, or capability to complete an action. Jesus was given the authority to forgive sins (Matt 9:6-8) and to drive out spirits (Mark 6:7). Jesus gave seventy-two disciples the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions
 - Third, the word "authority" is used with reference to delegated authority in the form of a warrant, license, or authorization to perform.
- Paul was dealing with a stubborn situation in the church of Corinth – that church had issues to the extent that they attempted to challenge Paul’s apostolic authority. Listen to what Paul had to say

1 Corinthians 4: 19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only what these arrogant people are saying, but what power they have. 20For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 21Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

- The kingdom of God is not in word - in human eloquence, excellence of speech, or even in doctrines; but in effectual power that gets things done.
- By virtue of being a child of God, you have delegated authority that comes from God the source of all authority. No authority is self-made; you need to start seeing your boss at work in the right view.
- Your position in Christ qualifies you to possess kingdom authority.

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Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- We saw in Matthew 10 that Jesus gave authority to His disciples – that authority gave them capacity to deal with the devil.
- Many believers have been subject to the attacks of the devil but have not stepped out to deal with the dark forces.
- Consider anything that opposes scripture in your life as something that needs to be dealt with using kingdom authority.
 - Sickness in your body, continuous misfortunes such as lack of progress in areas of your life
 - Relational turmoil (a pattern of divorces in your family, family disharmony)
 - Emotional instabilities (depression etc.)
- I am not one who sees demons on every door knob and such like weird things but I know that demons are behind most of the turmoil that people experience in their lives; *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly*¹.
- The Bible says, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world². The Holy Spirit-filled believer has been given power over all demonic forces.
- All authority and power is subject to Jesus and this is the authority that Jesus makes available to every believer.

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, indeed being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; ...22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him.

- Whilst on earth, Jesus demonstrated kingdom authority:
 - He taught with great authority (Mark 1:22).
 - Jesus healed the sick

¹ John 10:10

² 1 John 4:4

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- He commanded evil spirits to leave (Mark 1:27).
- He raised people from the dead (Mat 9:24)
- Every believer has the right to operate in the authority of Jesus

Mark 16:15-18 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- Your involvement in kingdom business, gives you access to kingdom authority.

How to operate in the kingdom authority?

a) Submit yourself to Jesus in order to operate under delegated authority

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

- Submitting to God and Resisting the Devil Go Hand in Hand

As one commentator puts it, "Submission to God is itself an act of resistance to the devil...As people align their lives with God, the result becomes a growing resistance to the temptations of the devil and he loses any foothold and must flee."³

- To think that we can resist Satan without humbly submitting our lives to God is the greatest height of arrogance.

b) Have a full assurance of God's ability to effect change

Mar 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

c) Boldness puts authority into operation

- A naïve kingdom person will not operate in authority – you need to step out and command your environment to obey Jesus.

³ Blomberg, Craig and Mariam J. Karnell, James in the Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Zondervan: 2008

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- One way boldness is shown is by the words that come out of your mouth. Your mouth is one avenue through which authority is asserted by.

Mark 11:22 22“Have faith in God,” Jesus said to them. 23“Truly I tell you that if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and has no doubt in his heart but believes that it will happen, it will be done for him.

Proverbs 18:20From the fruit of his mouth a man’s belly is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. 21Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.