

Sermon Outline Notes for Preaching Lab (Delivered 05/19/2009)

Introduction

Too few believers today really understand the authority they have in Christ. As a result they are living far below the supernatural quality of life that God desires for them which Christ purchased on the cross. Today I want to examine the subject of our authority in Christ, and share 4 reasons why every believer should *actively* exercise that authority in their own lives.

Lay foundation of what it includes:

- Power over spiritual death
 - *Luke 9:1-2 (Amplified Version):*
“Then Jesus called together the twelve apostles, and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to announce and preach the kingdom of God and to bring healing.”
- Power over sickness and disease
 - *Matthew 8:16-17 (New King James Version):*
“When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.’”
- Power over poverty & lack
 - *Matthew 6:33 (Amplified Version gives much richer understanding of the original language than other translations):*
“But seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom, and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right], and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.” (EXPLAIN WHAT CAME BEFORE... worrying about food, clothes, shelter)
- Power over broken relationships
 - *Psalms 37:4 (Amplified Version):*
Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.

Transition...

4 reasons why every believer should *actively* wield their authority in Christ

1. Because Jesus told us to

- *Matthew 10:8 (New King James Version):*
“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”
 - Worded as command, *not* suggestion
 - Jesus said *freely* give... We should be generous
- Passage clearly shows the Lord commanded his disciples – and us – to exercise our authority
- Other references: *Luke 9:2, Matthew 28:19*

2. Because we should be concerned for the lost & hurting

- We have an obligation to share our faith with others
- The problem = Separation from God due to our sinful nature:
 - *Romans 3:23 (New King James Version):*
“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - *Romans 6:23 (New King James Version):*
“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”
- The solution:
 - *II Corinthians 5:18-19 (New King James Version):*
“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation”
 - Strong’s Greek definition for **reconciliation**: *katallagē*, (pronounced kat-al-lag-ay’) = “exchange, i.e. restoration to divine favor; atonement”
- Application – salvation, physical healing, financial aid, emotional comfort

3. Because Satan and his forces are subject to us

- In Luke 10:17 – Jesus’ disciples excited about fact that demons subject to them in His name
- 4th chapter of John – Jesus’ temptation by Satan in the wilderness... He resisted, the devil left
- James 4:7 – “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
 - Strong’s Greek definition for **resist**: *anthistimiē*, (pronounced anth-is’-tay-mee) = “to stand against, i.e. oppose, withstand”
 - Language suggest proactive, offensive stance; not passive one

4. Because we won’t experience God’s best unless we do

- *Having* authority in Christ not = to automatic manifestation of its fruit
- We must cooperate with Holy Spirit & wield authority to see results
- Personal testimony & illustration:
 - Financial difficulty
 - Health problems (acid reflux, allergies)
 - Got victory in both areas over time

Conclusion

Today I have shared with you about our authority in Christ and what that includes. I presented four reasons why every Christian should *actively* exercise that authority. To recap, they were because Jesus told us to, because we should be concerned for the lost & hurting, because Satan and his forces are subject to us, and because we won’t experience God’s best unless we do. It is my hope that this teaching has shown you how to walk in victory and power so you can overcome the enemy. If you take this to heart you will enjoy the benefits that come from *actively* using your authority in Christ, and have a great testimony to share with others.