

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Week 2 What is our Authority?

SPIRITUAL HEIRARCHY AT CREATION

I. God

II. Angels and Spiritual world

Ephesians 2:1,2 NIV As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

III. Mankind

Gen 1:28 NLT Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Psalms 8:4-6 NKJ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? (5) For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. (6) You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet.

IV. Creatures

SPIRITUAL HEIRARCHY AT CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

I. Jesus Christ/God

Ephesians 1:22,23 NIV And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

II. Believers

Ephesians 2:6 NIV And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:13 NIV For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Ephesians 1:19-23 NLT I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

III. Spirit World

Hebrews 1:13,14 NIV To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (14) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

IV. Mankind

V. Creatures

WHAT IS MY AUTHORITY AS A BELIEVER?

1. To be a child of God

John 1:12 NLT But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

2. To have access to God

Eph. 2:11-18 NIV Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— (12) remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of

the promise, without hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, (15) by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, (16) and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (17) He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. (18) For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (19) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (21) In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (22) And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

3. To inherit promises and blessings (Eph. 1:3 NIV Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.,

Ephesians 1:18 NIV I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,)

Romans 8:16,17 NLT (16) For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. (17) And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

4. To disciple others (Matt. 28:18-20 NLT 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

5. To build up one another

2 Corinthians 10:8 NLT I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority.

2 Corinthians 3-5 NIV For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. (4) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (5) We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

6. To heal, to cleanse, to drive out evil spirits, i.e. to advance the kingdom of God

Matt. 10:1,7-8 NIV Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.... (7) "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

7. To bind and loose

Matt. 16:18-19 NIV "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (19) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:18-20 NIV "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."