

This message is for all the "Josephs" whom God wants to elevate.
Blessings to everyone and MYESE!

Pastor Heard

Part 10: Elevate Your Life!

Text:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *"and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 9:1 (NIV) - "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases."

A. We have been focusing on the Word that God is speaking to us this year, "Elevate Your Life!"

1. God wants to bless every part of your life this year!
2. When we exercise our spiritual authority as believers, we are sure to experience elevation!
3. Just as there are various dimensions of faith, prayer, glory, giving, worship, anointing, and many other aspects of God's Kingdom, so are there different levels of authority.
4. This is important to know since the degree of elevation you'll experience is a direct result of the level of spiritual authority that is operating in your life. For this reason, I've been speaking from the subject:

"The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority"

B. For several weeks, we have taught on the first two levels of spiritual authority, which are foundational to all the others. The first two levels are:

1. Authority over self.
2. Authority within a family structure.
3. Today, we shall begin examining the next level. Remember, the more you understand and begin to master the remaining levels, the greater the breakthrough you will experience.

C. **Level 3 – Authority over Secular Affairs**

1. The most severe problem the church faces today is the fact that leaders of world affairs are taking the opposite direction of scriptural teaching.
2. **Joke:** "Boudreaux, the Air Traffic Control Operator"

Two airplanes were arriving at a Louisiana airport where Boudreaux was the air traffic controller. One of the pilots radioed, "Tower, this is Flight No. 1234, and I'm requesting clearance to land."

Boudreaux replied, "Yeah, Flight No.1234. Sha, you done be cleared to land on dat runway East."

The second pilot radioed with a similar message: "Tower, this is Flight No. 5678, and I'm also requesting clearance to land."

Again, Boudreaux replied, "Yeah, Flight No. 5678, you done be cleared to land on dat runway West."

The second pilot immediately answered, "Did you say that I was cleared to land on runway West?"

Boudreaux said, "Dat's right, sha. You done cleared to land on dat runway West."

Confused, the pilot questioned, "But didn't I just hear you tell Flight No.1234 to land on runway East? And now you're telling me to land on runway West?"

Boudreaux answered, "Yeah, dat's right, sha. Y'all be careful, hear?"

3. Leaders of this world and God's church are traveling in opposite directions, but both are trying to land the world on the same runway. Inevitably, there will be a collision of conflicting values and agendas.
4. **Genesis 41:37-44 (NIV)** - "The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. [38] So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" [39] Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. [40] You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." [41] So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." [42] Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. [43] He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. [44] Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."
5. God intends to elevate many in the church with such a kingly anointing, they will assume positions of leadership, both in society and globally.
6. Joseph is a type of the church, just as Egypt is a type of this world. God inspired Pharaoh, representing world leadership, to promote Joseph—the only person with a strategy for solving Egypt's mammoth problems.
7. **Proverbs 11:10-11 (NIV)** - "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the

blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.”

8. Though God has always intended for the righteous to control secular affairs, we have allowed the enemy to convince us that our focus should strictly be upon spiritual issues.
 - a. Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, Esther, Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah are all examples of godly people who were given authority over secular matters.
 - b. The world's strategies have not worked. In fact, they've only made things worse! God wants to transfer the authority for handling secular matters into the hands of His church.

D. What is God's purpose for the righteous ruling? He knows that secular issues dramatically impact our spiritual lives and those around us.

1. Laws passed by secular governments will affect our freedom of worship.
2. Decisions made by leaders of secular institutions affect our economic standards.
3. Secular educators definitely impact the moral values of our children.
4. **Proverbs 29:2-3 (NKJV)** - “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”
5. The cause for so much pain and groaning in our world has nothing to do with a lack of resources. It's because our resources are controlled by unrighteous lawmakers who favor themselves rather than humanity. God's will is for righteous leaders to govern secular matters.
6. **Deuteronomy 28:1 (NIV)** - “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.”
7. **Deuteronomy 28:13 (NIV)** - “The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I

give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.”

8. The church has incorrectly taught its members to avoid any involvement in secular matters that could endanger the soul. Instead, we're told to seek employment that we do not enjoy. Just pray that God will not allow us to be tempted or fall in love with a worldly system that could cause us to lose our souls.
9. Another teaching is to refrain from anything that may be considered “fun,” lest our faith should be weakened. Consequently, God's people have become so detached from the world, we forfeited every shred of influence we could have ever hoped for.
10. When members of the church were no longer “salt,” we lost our ability to change the world, for fear it would change us!

E. Our priorities can also become so inverted, we wish to be successful for the wrong reasons.

1. If we want success for its rewards, rather than the influence it will provide, we automatically lose a “voice” that society will listen to.
2. Never seek for positions, titles or rewards that will edify self, rather than exalt the Kingdom of God.
3. When the righteous fail to lead—in business, government, education, finances, the arts and media, science, technology, or any other secular arena—we are courting God's *disfavor*.
4. **Deuteronomy 28:43-44 (NIV)** - “The foreigners who reside among you will RISE ABOVE you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. They will lend to you, but you will not lend to them. They will be the head, but you will be the tail.”
5. **Joel 2:17 (KJV)** - “Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 'Spare thy people, O

Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should
RULE OVER them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is
their God?"

6. When the ungodly are blessed more than God's people, notice what they say: "Where is their God?"
 7. For God's Kingdom to come, we must pray for elevation. If the "Kingdom" refers to government, government cannot exist without *rule*! God's plan has never embraced an unrighteous government ruling over His people.
- F. Where did this idea come from that the godly should never link with leaders of the many facets of industry, science, entertainment, education, finance, technology, etc.?
1. The word *secular* from the Latin "saecularus" means: "of the age;" "worldly;" "temporal" or the state of being separate from religion.
 2. God never intended for the church and state to be totally separated. Neither did our founding fathers!
 3. When God created the first man, he was equipped to both rule and worship. Adam worshiped in the same venue where he ruled and worked, which was the Garden of Eden.
 4. When our forefathers wrote about the separation of church and state, their purpose was to prevent the state from adopting laws that would **control** our faith.
 5. They had experienced so much persecution from a government and society controlled by the church, they were fiercely opposed to being ruled by the unrighteous. To prevent this from ever happening again, they wanted to create a nation where people enjoyed religious freedom.
 6. How far America has drifted from the original premise of its founders! Even those who oppose the church will acknowledge this. Their problem is

assuming that we have become so enlightened, the government knows what is better for us than the God who created us!

G. Before tempting the first woman and man to disobey God, the enemy had a strategy. He wanted them to lose their authority and right to rule so that by default, he (satan) could become ruler of the earth.

1. The New Testament—not the Old—refers to satan as the *god* of this world (little "g"). In the beginning, this was not so. Satan's exalted position occurred **after** he had caused man to fall.
2. When man sinned, he not only lost his right to worship, but also his right to rule! This is why the enemy fights so hard to separate the church from the government, finance, education, media, etc.!
3. Why should he voluntarily give the power to govern back to the church when **he** was the one who first plotted to steal it from us?
4. Who could better direct financial institutions than God's people? Because we have not been in authority, we have had to deal with men like Bernie Madoff, whose decisions, based on greed, have brought our world to the brink of financial collapse.
5. Look at what is happening all across Europe (including the UK), with America following in their footsteps. Greece, Portugal, Italy, Spain, France, and entire nations are dealing with bankruptcy!

H. Guess who else has been affected? The church—just like everyone else!

1. Financial support for missions has been greatly hindered. World evangelism has been hampered. The growth of the Kingdom of God has been sadly reduced.
2. In other words, when the church fails to lead the world's major institutions, the kingdom of darkness wins!
3. As an example, think of the media. Because of the church's lack of involvement, every lifestyle (except the godly) can be freely promoted.

Meanwhile, Christians are portrayed as insensitive, judgmental, unbalanced, crazy people.

4. **Ecclesiastes 10:5-7 (NIV)** - "There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves."
 - a. Notice what happens when wrong leaders or rulers are empowered.
 - b. The Hebrew word for *rich* can be either literal or figurative.
 - c. Who is richer than the person who has been entrusted with heavenly riches, such as grace, forgiveness and a close relationship with God?
5. The enemy tells us that we're supposed to be quiet and accept life as it is—on the bottom of the heap. But it's **our** side that won. We should demand a recount!

I. It's time for God's people to realize **who we are!**

1. We are sons and daughters of the great Sovereign of the universe! We are princes and princesses of the King of kings!
2. We were meant to ride—not walk. Why should the godless occupy the positions we were meant to fill?
3. This should be our daily prayer: "Lord, I thank You that in all I do, I am meant to be the head and not the tail. I rejoice that You are elevating me, my family, and Your people to the top—never the bottom. When Your people are at the top, You will receive glory and honor! I am being elevated because I love and honor You, and because I love to study the principles of life contained in Your Word. Thank You for the power of Your Word that is transforming my thinking and my life!"

J. **Life Application Points** – How to exercise spiritual authority in secular matters:

1. Know who you are in Christ.
2. Never forget the 'God component.'
3. Develop a life plan for your "ministry."
4. Learn everything you can about that particular field.
5. Become the very best in all God has called you to do.
6. Expect promotion to come.