

Awesome services! Hope you guys are blessed.

MYESE!

Part 19: Elevate Your Life!

Texts:

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.”

Psalms 78:18-25 (NIV) - “They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. [19] They spoke against God; they said, “Can God really spread a table in the wilderness? [20] True, he struck the rock, and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can he also give us bread? Can he supply meat for his people?” [21] When the Lord heard them, he was furious; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, [22] for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance. [23] Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; [24] he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. [25] Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.”

Psalms 37:18-26 (NIV) - “The blameless spend their days under the Lord’s care, and their inheritance will endure forever. [19] In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty. [20] But the wicked will perish: though the Lord’s enemies are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke. [21] The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; [22] those the Lord blesses will inherit the

land, but those he curses will be destroyed. [23] The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; [24] though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. [25] I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. [26] They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

We have been speaking about the Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority. Today, we shall continue with the sixth dimension:

"Taking Supernatural Authority Over Supernatural Resources"

- A. God's people often misuse and misrepresent this message.
 - 1. It is misused by those who are attempting to exploit God's people. They say, "Sow a seed to fill my greed . . . to meet your need."
 - 2. (See "Just For Laughs You Tube Top Ten Funny Pranks – Jesus Makes Money" - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8DgTnPq2S4>).
 - 3. If you teach supernatural resources or biblical prosperity, people often label you as one of those who seek monetary gain and personal enrichment.
 - 4. They forget that a third way to consider this teaching is to embrace it as biblical truth, accept the teaching by faith, and then experience it yourself.

- B. Since God—not men—owns the resources of the world, He has the right to bless us supernaturally if He chooses.
 - 1. When you think about it, everything God does is, by definition, supernatural.

2. If men owned the earth's resources, they would have the right to do as they wish with what is their own. They could determine who will be blessed and who will not. But that right does not belong to mankind.
 - a. **Psalm 24:1 (KJV)** - "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof!"
 - b. **Haggai 2:8 (NIV)** - "'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty."
 - c. Your employer has no right to refuse a promotion or raise—if God wants to bless you! Neither does the business you own have the right to be unsuccessful or experience growth.
3. Remember: the Lord is your Shepherd and the resources of the world belong to Him. He can direct those resources as He pleases, just as a particular fish was commanded to pick up a gold coin in its mouth and swim to where Peter was fishing.
 - a. **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)** - "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

C. Not only does He have the **right** to do so, but I believe that God **wants** His people to exercise supernatural authority over supernatural resources.

1. **Psalm 23:1 (KJV)** - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."
2. **Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)** - "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over."
3. **Isaiah 60:11-12 (ASV)** - "Thy gates also shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the wealth of the nations, and their kings led captive. [12] For that nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

4. **Isaiah 60:17 (NIV)** - "Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler."
5. The natural state in which God created man to exist is to be blessed, just as He blessed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The psalmist marveled that God could be so generous and kind:
 - a. **Psalms 8:4-8 (NKJV)** - "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, [7] All sheep and oxen, Even the beasts of the field, [8] The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas."
6. On the other hand, the enemy wants the natural state of man to be filled with pain and suffering.
 - a. **John 10:10a (NKJV)** - "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy."
7. Jesus declared His commitment to bless us by saying:
 - a. **John 10:10b (NKJV)** - "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

D. There are several compelling reasons for us to have supernatural authority over supernatural resources.

1. To fulfill the Great Commission of taking the gospel to the world, we must depend upon God's resources.
 - a. Look around you. Everything God created was in perfect order—that is, until man began his destructive habits of polluting lakes and rivers, over-fishing the oceans, and destroying forests and other resources.

- b. God, as the penultimate strategist and logician, has planned everything to perfection, such as: the crown of thorns starfish, the triton, and the ant with its own natural antifreeze.
 - c. **Luke 14:28-32 (NIV)** - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? [29] For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, [30] saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' [31] "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32] If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace."
 - d. Do you really believe God would commission us to take the gospel to the world—and fail to provide the necessary resources? It costs an enormous amount of money to build churches in India, provide for orphans in Mexico, and send Bibles to Africa.
2. A much more credible witness and testimonial of God's care is displayed by those who are blessed than by those with no income. Resources are vital for God to fulfill the commitment He has made to His people.
- a. **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)** - "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."
 - b. He has promised to be our Shepherd and Provider and that in Him, we would not want (**Psalms 23:1- NKJV**). In the Hebrew, "want" means *to lack*.
 - c. Even when surrounded by enemies, He has promised to prepare for us a banquet table.

- d. "Enemy" in the Hebrew is: *adversary, distress, oppressor, trouble*.
 - e. So, when the economy is in an upheaval, He will **still** bless us.
Should the enemy attack our health, family, business, or ministry,
God will still prepare us a feast in the time of trouble.
3. People of integrity could certainly accomplish much more with their resources than those who are now in control.
- a. **Proverbs 29:7 (NKJV)** - "The righteous considers the cause of the poor but the wicked does not understand such knowledge."
 - b. For example, Saudi Sheik Alwaleed Bin Talal al-Saud has purchased a double-decker Boeing A-380 as a personal jet. Including the cargo area, the plane has three levels. At a cost of \$500,000,000, it features: a movie theater, bedroom suites, parking for his Rolls Royce, a Turkish spa, etc.
 - c. And what did he do to merit such an extravagant lifestyle?
Nothing—except to be born into a royal family of Saudi Arabia.
 - d. With that kind of money, surely God's people could provide so much more than a luxury airplane!
4. Since people readily listen to a successful person's advice, our testimony could be very impacting!
- a. **Ecclesiastes 9:16 (KJV)** - "Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard."
5. Our Heavenly Father would be pleased for His children to prosper and be blessed just as any human parent.
- a. **Psalms 35:27 (NKJV)** - "Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."
6. As the second Adam, Christ came to restore all that the first Adam had lost.

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:22, 45 (NIV)** - "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (45) So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being" the last Adam, a life-giving spirit."
 - b. What had Adam been given in the garden? He had authority over all resources!
 7. Because He is a supernatural God, supernatural resources call attention to His supernatural nature.
- E. Obviously, we will not all have the same supernatural authority or supernatural resources. The more resources God gives, the greater the authority will be needed to manage it. So, why do some lack the resources that have been given to others?
1. Wrong thinking and beliefs.
 - a. For example, we may have wrong thoughts about God, that He is harsh and uncaring.
 - b. Or we may have erroneous beliefs about ourselves, that we are undeserving or that we could never possess the extraordinary gifts that are required to handle huge resources.
 - c. Another attitude that prevents us from having greater authority over resources is a *poverty mentality*.
 2. Our assignments differ.
 - a. More resources will be required to fund an orphanage than to rear your own two children.
 - b. Regardless of the assignment, you can rest, assured that God has already released the necessary resources to fulfill it.
 3. We have differing skill sets.
 - a. Those who spend time developing a higher level of skills and expertise can create and manage a greater abundance of resources than others.
 4. Our levels of ability are not the same.

- a. **Matthew 25:15 (NKJV)** - "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey."
 - b. Note the different levels of ability each man possessed.
 - 5. Desires of the heart are different.
 - a. Some are willing to work harder than others.
 - b. Some desire resources only for personal gain.
 - c. God is never obligated to abundantly provide for those who aren't willing to work or who just want to brag.
 - 6. Rather than using authority wisely, some squander what God gives them.
 - a. **Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)** - "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"
 - b. **Luke 16:10-11 (NKJV)** - "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?"
 - c. Don't spend what you don't have, to buy things you don't need, to impress people you don't like!
 - 7. What belongs to God is not handled with integrity.
 - a. **Luke 16: 12 (NKJV)** - "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, how will you give you what is your own?"
 - b. In the Book of Malachi, God said that we are cursed when we fail to give what belongs to Him.
- F. Having just stated that all will not receive the same authority over resources, I still firmly believe that it is God's desire to bless us all with supernatural authority over supernatural resources.
- 1. I believe in this for reasons given earlier.

2. I also believe this because **every** member of the nation of Israel was supernaturally sustained in the wilderness—not just the elite or a privileged few!
 - a. **All** were supernaturally protected from the Egyptian plagues.
 - b. **All** were blessed with an abundance of resources and wealth as they escaped from Egypt.
 - c. **All** ate and enjoyed the manna—which was like angel's food.
 - d. **All** drank from the supernatural fountain that flowed from the rock.
 - e. **All** were protected by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
 - f. **All** moved into houses they did not build, wells they did not dig and vineyards they did not plant or cultivate!

G. How to have authority over supernatural resources:

1. Believe that God wants to bless you and your family.
2. "Keep your mind going in the right direction, and your life will catch up with it" (author unknown).
3. Ask!
4. Seek to understand your assignment.
5. Seek to develop your skill sets to a higher degree.
6. Ask—for the right reasons; be willing to work hard; do your best; and pay your dues!
7. Use wisely what you have already been given.
8. Do everything with integrity.
9. Honor God with what belongs to Him.