

Hey everybody,

Be sure to watch the video mentioned in my notes. It's one of those "unforgettable" sights that prove the power of God's Word!

Blessings & MYESE

Part 24: Elevate Your Life!

Texts:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *"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 78:12-13 (NKJV) - "Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap."

Today we shall cover Level 12, the final lesson of this series on spiritual authority:

"Authority with God Over Nature!"

- A. It's good to know we serve the God of nature and Creator of the universe!
1. In Genesis chapter one, we read over and over, "and God said, 'Let there be....'" All that scripture refers to as "nature" suddenly appeared as He spoke.
 2. Having been made in the image and likeness of God, we were also designed to be creative, but perhaps not on His same level. Just as He spoke and created universes, we can speak and create *our* world.

3. **Joke:** "Speeding!"

Did you hear about the guy who was pulled over by the police for speeding? Cruising down the highway, far above the posted speed limit, he eventually spotted a flashing red light and quickly came to a halt.

"Sorry, officer! Guess this speedometer got away from me. Happens every time I get hammered and try to drive home."

"What? You're intoxicated?"

"Well, I needed a stiff drink after I shot that guy! But, it's okay. I managed to fit the body in my trunk."

"Sir, keep your hands where I can see them. Give me your license and registration **right now!**"

"Well, I would, but it's in the glovebox where I threw the gun that's still pretty bloody, and I don't want it to fall out until the blood has dried."

"DO....NOT....MOVE! I'm calling for a back-up."

The back-up arrives and the second officer gets out of his car and orders, "Sir, please open your trunk."

The guy pops open the trunk—and it's clean as a whistle.

"Now, please show me your glovebox."

It's also as clean as a whistle with his license and registration in full view.

"Well, . . . I'll need you to take a breathalyzer."

The guy begins to blow and it's .00!

"Okay, ... now what's going on? This officer said you had a dead body in the trunk, a bloody gun in the glovebox and you were drunk."

The guy says, "Hah, and I'll bet he said I was speeding, too."

4. The level of God's creativity is far higher than the guy in this joke! When He speaks, a universe can appear out of nowhere!

- a. **Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)** - "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the WORD OF GOD, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

- b. We know that God created everything visible by merely speaking it into existence. When He spoke, things suddenly appeared!
 - c.. This is so amazing! As the sound of God's Voice resonated throughout eternity, matter suddenly appeared and began to consolidate into what we call the universe!
 - 5. When God spoke, His Voice created vibrations. In fact, all sounds are actually vibrations.
 - 6. Depending upon the object that is vibrating and the cause, a vibration can occur at low, medium, or high frequencies. The higher the frequency, the higher the pitch. Lower frequencies produce deep sounds or bass notes.
 - 7. The word "frequencies" refers to how fast the created vibrations occur. Whether we perceive a note as high or low will determine the "pitch."
 - 8. A piano's deep bass notes are formed by thicker strings that vibrate more slowly at a lower frequency. The higher pitched notes at the opposite end of the keyboard are produced by thinner strings that vibrate much faster at a higher frequency.
- B. When God spoke, the frequencies created mass and shapes. This is how He fashioned geometric objects known as stars, planets, and galaxies and then positioned them in their special place.
- 1. The sound of His Voice speaking into the empty void not only created the existing worlds, but also shaped the mountains, valleys, rivers, oceans, and every other visible object.
 - a. **Psalm 33:6-9 (NKJV)** - "By the WORD OF THE LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. [7] He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. [8] Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. [9] For He SPOKE, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

- b. **Psalm 29:1-11 (NKJV)** - "Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. [2] Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. [3] The VOICE OF THE LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. [4] The VOICE OF THE LORD is powerful; The VOICE OF THE LORD is full of majesty. [5] The VOICE OF THE LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. [6] He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. [7] The VOICE OF THE LORD divides the flames of fire. [8] The VOICE OF THE LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. [9] The VOICE OF THE LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!" [10] The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever. [11] The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace."
- c. In the 29th Psalm alone, seven times the psalmist refers directly to the Voice of the Lord in creation.
- d. In this same chapter are several other indirect references to the Voice of the Lord as: "God thunders" and "God breaks the cedars of Lebanon."
2. Notice the scientific explanation of sound frequencies and the creation of geometric shapes in "Amazing Resonance Experiment" (YouTube) Brusspup 3:38 - <http://youtu.be/wvJAgUBF4w>.
3. Sound created the shapes and images in this video and the same sound holds them in place—which the Bible confirms!
4. When the sound or frequency changes, the shape of what is being created also changes!

5. Science states that no two snowflakes have the same design. Amazing! So, to create snowflakes, God must speak each one into existence with a unique word or sound.
6. This was also His method for creating mankind. With a spoken word, He created each one of us!
7. Because we are His creation, imagine the capacity of such a God who knows each of us personally and completely!
8. The Bible says that God sees each time a sparrow touches the ground and then flies away.
9. This blesses me because it also reveals how He can know the very number of hairs on my head!

C. Not only does each sound create its own design, it also holds it in shape.

1. **Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)** - "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and UPHOLDING all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
 - a. The Amplified Bible says, "Upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power!"
2. God not only spoke the worlds into existence, but His Word holds in place all that was created in nature.
3. Because His precise Word dictates and establishes the laws of nature, God can also decide the laws upon which nature will operate.

D. Now suppose God chooses to speak in a manner different than what we think of as "normal." If a different word is spoken, wouldn't it be reasonable to expect that because of His creative power, something peculiar would occur?

1. As we saw in this experiment conducted with sound, when the frequency is changed, an unusual geometric shape and image is produced.

2. Authority over nature causes this to happen. To change the predictable outcome of events, God can speak a word that changes the "shape" of things.
3. How could this be? Let's focus again on the basics of natural science.

E. When we speak of nature, we are referring to the physical world.

1. The physical world in which we live is controlled by "laws" that are unchanging and permanent, such as:
 - a. the law of gravity
 - b. Newton's three laws of motion
 - c. Mendel's laws of genetics
 - d. the four laws of thermodynamics, . . . and others.
2. We humans are comforted by the consistency and permanence of these laws. It's important to have this security in our unstable world.
3. The problem is, at times we don't want things to be predictable. A predictable outcome could mean that a loved one will die from cancer or a child born without a pulmonary artery may only live to a certain age.
4. On occasion, God chooses to temporarily suspend the so-called "inviolable" laws of nature—and gives His people authority to do the same.

F. The Bible contains unimaginable stories of what happens when the laws of nature are temporarily suspended.

1. Moses lifted his rod and the Red Sea parted.
2. When Moses struck a particular rock, water gushed forth. As a further departure from reality, that same rock followed Israel throughout their forty year wilderness journey.
2. Joshua commanded the sun to stand still—and it obeyed!
3. Elijah multiplied meal and oil to feed a widow woman, her son, and himself for three years.

4. At Elijah's command, the heavens withheld rain more than three years.
5. At a later command, fire fell on Mount Carmel and consumed a sacrifice drenched by twelve barrels of water.
6. The list would not be complete without mentioning Elisha commanding an iron axe head to swim.
7. Using Elijah's mantle, Elisha parted the Jordan River and walked across
8. A widow's jar of olive oil miraculously filled every container they could find and was then sold to prevent her sons from becoming slaves.
9. On many other occasions in the Old Testament, the physical laws of the universe were altered at the command of God's servants.

G. This same type of authority was also demonstrated in the New Testament.

1. Jesus (and Peter) walked on water.
2. On two occasions, Jesus fed thousands of people with a few loaves and fishes.
3. At Christ's command, the wind and waves became calm.
4. A school of fish swam into the nets of Jesus' weary disciples who had toiled all night and caught nothing.
5. The disciples also performed numerous miracles involving the course of nature.
 - a. Peter raised Dorcus from the dead
 - b. Angels supernaturally transported Philip to another city after his meeting with an Ethiopian eunuch.
 - c. Handkerchiefs that had touched Paul's body and then anointed with oil brought miraculous healing.
 - d. Paul brought the dead back to life.
 - e. Numerous other examples demonstrate spoken words of authority that nature was forced to obey.

6. Can you imagine what would happen today if members of the church would demonstrate undeniable miracles—such as parting the waters of the Red Sea—that could not be denied or explained away?

H. However, some believers are still prone to question this type of authority.

1. While I do not believe that authority over nature will occur frequently, (anything that occurs on a regular basis is no longer a miracle), I do believe that on occasion God will receive glory from these events.
2. This also demonstrates how a situation can dramatically change when God's Word is spoken over your circumstance!

I. On a few rare occasions, I have personally witnessed this type miracle.

1. Not often, but the ones I've seen have caused me to ponder why we aren't seeing more of these supernatural demonstrations.
2. For example, I saw a dead woman restored to life and then continue to live for many years.
 - a. I don't believe this miracle would be classified as a healing.
 - b. After three nurses had declared the woman to be dead, a funeral home was called. But as the people continued to pray, she suddenly came to life.
 - c. As a result of this miracle, the woman's unsaved family came to Christ.
3. I also witnessed a creative miracle when a man who was born without any parts of an inner ear—suddenly began to hear! This instantaneous growth occurred while someone was praying for him.
 - a. In this miracle, the laws of nature seemed to have been momentarily suspended.
 - b. Since he had never had an inner ear, this would not be classified as a healing. Normally, these parts of the ear do not form in the mother's womb until the baby is fully developed.

4. While preaching in El Salvador, rebels disrupted a church service by firing pistols at the worshippers. Bullets passed straight through the worshippers' bodies and left definite holes in the walls of the church, but no one was injured!
 - a. Later, as their garments were carefully examined, you could see holes in their clothing where bullets had entered and should have exited through vital organs. But there were no injuries or death!
 - b. How could this be explained?
 5. I also knew a pilot whose helicopter was shot down over enemy territory. The enemy killed and looted the bodies of everyone on board—except him, even though soldiers walked all around the place where he was laying. As he prayed, the enemy seemed to ignore him as if he was invisible. How can that be explained?
- J. How should this type authority be used and how would it benefit Christ's Kingdom?
1. Admittedly, you may seldom experience the need to halt a hurricane or walk on water. But there **are** times when it would be good to know a predictable outcome of events or to command nature to change its course.
 2. If the steering mechanism on your vehicle suddenly malfunctioned, God may want to prevent a serious injury by sending your car in a different direction.
 3. He may also bring your vehicle to a screeching halt if the brakes fail—or keep a refrigerator operating far past its extended warranty if you don't have the finances to replace it.
 4. What I'm saying is, we serve a God who works miracles!
- K. **Life Application Points:** How then shall we exercise spiritual authority in our personal lives, our families, communities and our world?

1. Obviously, as a believer you must first understand who you are in Christ!
2. You must then recognize and learn to submit to spiritual authorities God has placed in your life.
3. You must become spiritually mature in these ways:
 - a. learn to make right decisions.
 - b. know how to conduct your life.
 - c. discover the purpose for your life.
 - d. learn to control your emotions.
4. Finally, you must become a faithful steward.