

Hey everyone. I pray that you have had a great worship day. May you experience supernatural elevation!

Pastor Heard

## **Part 3: Elevate Your Life!**

### **Text:**

**Ephesians 2:6-7 (NIV)** - "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

**Luke 9:1-2 (NIV)** - "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

**Mark 11:27-28 (NIV)** - "They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

A. Our theme for this year is "Elevate Your Life!"

1. To do so, we must exercise spiritual authority over our own future, rather than allowing the enemy to choose what he wants us to do.
2. "HEAVENLY REWARDS." A minister died and joined the line standing at the Pearly Gate. Just ahead was a guy wearing sunglasses, a brightly colored shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

When his turn came, St. Peter began to question this guy. "Tell me who you are so I will know whether or not to admit you into the Kingdom of Heaven."

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City."

St. Peter checks his list, smiles, and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silk robe and golden staff and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

The taxi-driver marches into Heaven with his robe and staff, and then it's the minister's turn. Standing erect, he confidently shouts his name. "I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last 43 years."

St. Peter consults his list and then informs the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi-driver, and he gets a silk robe and golden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "When you preached, people slept; when he drove, people prayed."

3. **Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)** - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
4. God has incredible plans for us! Unlike other living creatures, man has been given a free will. We can choose to participate in the plan for our lives or reject it. Unless we cooperate, nothing happens. Of course, the enemy actively seeks to prevent us from doing our part. This is why we can't just sit around and wait for something to happen.
5. We must learn to steer our lives in the direction God has chosen, rather than the direction the enemy wants us to take.

## "Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority!"

- B. We have defined "spiritual authority" as the legitimate right to make decisions that will affect our lives and the Kingdom and to implement strategies that will fulfill the vision and plan for our destiny. He has even included the right to become successful by utilizing Heaven's resources.
1. Spiritual authority also gives us the legitimate right to challenge any form of resistance the enemy may choose—and the spiritual power to withstand his advances.
  2. Seven reasons have also been given for the lack of spiritual authority among believers.
  3. The enemy opposes EVERY purpose of God—including His plan to bless us. And because the enemy seeks to exalt his own agenda, elevation and global revival can only come when God's people begin to demonstrate the spiritual authority He has provided for us.
  4. **Matthew 12:29 (NKJV)** - "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."
  5. What's amazing is that Jesus has already bound the strong man! He accomplished that when He arose from the dead. So when a believer fails—for any reason—to exercise his authority, he has just empowered the enemy!
  6. As believers, we must take authority over our lives, our finances, our families and our destinies!
- C. Apart from God and the influence of His Holy Spirit, these three ways of thinking can become a prophetic force to determine your future:
1. How you see yourself.
  2. The level of truth you know.

3. How you apply what you have learned.
4. Each of these thought processes has a direct impact upon the level of spiritual authority in which you will function.
5. Knowing that **how you see yourself** can directly affect your level of spiritual authority, the enemy does his best to destroy your self image or to build your self-esteem by connecting you with the wrong people.
6. Because **the level of truth you know** and how you apply that truth can affect your spiritual authority, the enemy seeks to get you bogged down in religion and legalistic traditions. But, why would he do this?
  - a. Religion closes your mind to discovering new truths. Suppose Martin Luther had rejected the divine revelation that "the just shall live by faith?"
  - b. Tradition demands that you reject new ideas, methods or technologies. This is why a denomination known as the Methodist Church exists today. Traditional churches rejected John Wesley's idea (or "method") of preaching to the masses—wherever they may be—and insisted that the Gospel could only be preached in sacred houses called churches!

D. The level of spiritual authority in which individual believers function will affect the level of authority manifested by the entire congregation—which also affects this church's impact upon the community.

1. In turn, the collective spiritual authority of numerous congregations in a city or a nation will determine their ability to impact a city or nation.
2. Worldwide impact is actually an expression of the spiritual authority of local churches—which is based upon individual members.
3. This is true because the "church" is Christ's body on earth—just as individual believers are members of His body.

4. **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)** - "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."
  5. Because spiritual authority is a personal thing, we often judge how well we are doing by comparing ourselves with some other believers.
  6. "I'm doing about as good as the others here....maybe a little better than some and a little worse than others." Thus, we accept the status quo.
- E. Eventually, something will occur which makes you realize that the status quo is no longer acceptable!
1. Notice the testimony from India of Grace Matthews' son, Davis, who was afflicted with polio. After being ridiculed by a Hindu neighbor who hated Christianity, Grace removed the braces from her son's legs and told God to either heal him—or take his life. And God healed him!
  2. Some may incorrectly assume that Grace was trying to persuade God to heal Davis. Not so! Jesus had ALREADY paid for Davis' healing 2,000 years ago when stripes were placed upon His back. God didn't suddenly decide to heal this boy; Grace suddenly began to exercise her spiritual authority as a believer! And the result? .....a mighty revival!
  3. The corporate level of Christian Tabernacle's spiritual authority is based upon:
    - a. whether our members understand and walk in the revelation of this truth;
    - b. whether we have submitted to spiritual authority;
    - c. whether we are mature reflections of Christ;
    - d. whether we are faithful stewards of all God has committed to us.
  4. A breakthrough for one person or family often results in multiple breakthroughs for others. A breakthrough in one church often produces a breakthrough for other churches in the area.

5. We cannot help but affect one another! This is the very reason God killed Ananias and Sapphira in the early church.

- a. Some believe their deaths were for the sin of lying. Not so! If that were true, every church congregation would be much smaller!
- b. Because the early church was so totally committed, faithful, and mature, they functioned in an incredible authority.
- c. God chose to take the lives of Ananias and Sapphira because their lack of faithfulness would have diluted the **authority practiced by the early church.**

F. When the level of authority rises among individual members of a church, it is sure to affect others!

1. The same is true with miracles, whether for healing or financial elevation. When one miracle occurs, it often unleashes a number of others.
2. One breakthrough not only inspires the faith of many, it also unveils the authority in which God expects believers to function in.
3. In the Old Testament, people thought it was impossible to defeat giants, that is, until David killed Goliath. Afterward, several ordinary warriors were empowered to become giant-killers!