

Be blessed and enjoy this insightful series which can forever change your life!  
MYESE! (My new acronym--**May You Experience Supernatural Elevation**).

Pastor Heard

## Part 4: 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. This year, God wants you to experience supernatural elevation!

1. **Psalm 113:5-8 (NIV)** - “Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.”
2. **Psalm 113:4 (MSG)** - “Who can compare with God, our God, so majestically enthroned, Surveying his magnificent heavens and earth? He

picks up the poor from out of the dirt, rescues the wretched who've been thrown out with the trash, Seats them among the honored guests, a place of honor among the brightest and best.”

3. Can you imagine? God is calling Himself a ***dumpster diver***! He picks up those who have been thrown into the trash heap—and then elevates them!

#### B. Elevation is coming your way—to stay!

1. Our text says that we are "seated with Him (Christ) in the heavenly realms!" People fear two things: either they will never experience elevation, or if they do, it will only be temporary. But scripture says—we are SEATED with Him! That means we will NOT revert back to where we once were.
2. Why is this? Once you learn a kingdom principle, you cannot “unlearn” it. Once you find a key, God will not change the lock.
3. Our duty is to maintain that same passion for God that first compelled us to search for the key!
4. Many do not understand that God does not remove the key of spiritual anointing from a person who backslides or lowers their level of commitment. He will not take that key from them! This is why He continues to anoint people long after their lives have become chaotic.
  - a. Samson had just left a prostitute's bed when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him so mightily, he escaped the enemy by ripping off the city gates and carrying them to the top of a hill.
  - b. An Old Testament prophet lied to the man God had sent to cry out against a pagan altar. God had told the visiting prophet not to eat or drink in this city that was horribly infected by evil. But the lying prophet convinced the man that God had changed His mind and he was supposed to go home with him. When the visiting prophet

obeyed, the Spirit of God came upon the lying prophet and he correctly predicted that on the way home, the visitor would be killed by a lion for his disobedience. And it happened!

5. Why would God continue to use these men? They had found a key, and God would not change the lock—even though they had committed sinful deeds.
6. Once you experience a spiritual breakthrough, remember that you have a responsibility to keep your act together and conduct your life in a righteous manner.
7. To be elevated, you must exercise spiritual authority over your own future, rather than allowing the enemy to fulfill his plans for your life.

## **Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority!**

C. Spiritual authority is one of those terms that every believer thinks they understand, but few comprehend its meaning.

1. For this lesson to be really effective, we must understand the true definition of “spiritual authority.” Communication is very important!
2. **Joke:** As a judge was interviewing a woman about her pending divorce he asked, “What are the grounds for your divorce?”  
She replied, “About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property, with a stream running nearby.”  
“No,” he said, “I mean what is the foundation of this case?”  
“It's made of concrete, brick and mortar,” she responded.  
“I mean,” he continued, “what are your relations like?”  
“I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and my husband’s parents live here, too.”  
“Okay,” he said, “do you have a real grudge?”

"No," she replied. "We have a two-car carport and have never really needed one."

"Please," he tried again, "does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes," she responded, "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Ma'am, why do you want a divorce?"

"It's because of my husband," she replied. "He is impossible to communicate with!"

So to be sure that what I'm saying makes sense, let's carefully define the term "spiritual authority."

C. We have defined "spiritual authority" as: the legitimate right to make decisions that will affect our lives and God's Kingdom, and to implement strategies that will fulfill the vision and plan for our destiny. God has even included in this authority 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. To better understand spiritual authority, let's first examine the meaning of secular, or earthly authority.
  - a. **1 Corinthians 15:46 (NKJV)** - "However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual."
3. Note also that our text in Mark says that the chief priests questioned Jesus about the type authority He had used. Why did they do this? In Mark, chapter 11, three incredible events had shaken Jerusalem to the core:
  - a. Jesus had demonstrated His authority over resources by instructing the disciples to bring a colt upon which no man had ever sat.

- b. His authority over seasons was demonstrated by cursing the fig tree—though it was not the time for ripened figs.
      - c. Then, He used His authority over religious and demonic systems—which are closely linked—by driving the money changers out of the Temple. Ever wonder why no one dared to stand against Him? They recognized His authority!
  - 6. The priests, teachers and elders of Israel boasted about their titles, but clearly, Jesus demonstrated the mighty works.
  - 7. The religious leaders were so moved by His powerful deeds, they asked two questions: where did His authority come from and what type authority had He used?
    - a. You see, their problem was the same as ours: they assumed that authority was associated with a title or position. But, it is not!
    - b. Jesus had no title; yet the priests, teachers and elders did. He had divine authority—which they sadly lacked.
  - 8. People continue to relate authority with positions. Who is El Numero Uno? Who is the El Hombre? They say things like, "I'm the Boss! I'm the Chairman! I'm Head Honcho around here!" The problem is, if you have to remind others that you **are**....you aren't!
- D. Did Paul understand spiritual authority? Ask the demoniac from Acts 19 or the seven sons of Sceva!
- 1. The best example of Paul's spiritual authority was demonstrated in Acts, chapter 15, when he submitted to the other apostles at Jerusalem.
  - 2. Here is a man with incredible authority, yet he had not gained the trust of early church members. The apostles highly recommended that Gentile Christians be converted to Jewish Christians.
  - 3. Yes, he could have responded, "And who are you to question my authority? Who is the author of half of the New Testament? How many

- times have **you** been shipwrecked, beaten, or left for dead?" But he chose not to do that. Paul's authority was demonstrated by his submission!
4. Occasionally I am asked why we do not practice blowing a shofar, wearing a Tallit or yarmulke. My reply is that the early church fathers only required five simple things of Gentile converts. And not one involved their Jewish ceremonies.
  5. Paul actually modeled his authority after the example set by Jesus in Philippians, Chapter 2: Jesus made for Himself no reputation!
- E. While there are various types of secular authority, elements of all but one can be found in spiritual authority.
1. **Functional Authority.** In our society, we give this type authority to one another to keep our lives and homes functioning properly. This authority could be work-related, social or recreational.
    - a. An example of functional authority in the home would be the authority of parents over their children.
    - b. This authority decides whether we go to McDonald's or Burger King.
    - c. **Ephesians 6:2-3 (NIV)** - "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."
    - d. It's difficult for some to see the importance of honoring an office if the person in that position has abused their authority.
    - e. In sports, the quarterback has the authority to call or modify a play that's in motion, according to how he reads the defense.
  2. **Persuasive Authority.** This authority is granted to a person who has inspired, or persuaded others to embrace their leadership.
    - a. It could be something as simple as deciding the best route to take after the game to avoid heavy traffic. Of course, persuasive authority can be either good or bad!

- b. An example of good persuasive authority is found in **Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)** - "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."
  - c. An example of the bad is found in Genesis 3 when the enemy coaxed Eve into eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
3. **Legislated Authority.** This authority is established by legislation.
- a. We pay taxes to the IRS, though most of us would probably prefer not to do so. We obey because legislation requires us to do so—or suffer the consequences.
  - b. When a police officer arrests someone for smuggling drugs or a military officer orders his troops to attack, people obey because of the legislation behind the command.
  - c. From the time Israel became a nation, the people understood this type authority. Their judicial system empowered judges to administer the Law.
4. **Delegated Authority.** This authority is passed from one person to another.
- a. For example, your boss promotes you to oversee a certain division in your company. Or a particular assignment has been "tasked" to you.
  - b. This authority could not be given to another unless it first belonged to them.
  - c. **Luke 10:17-20 (NIV)** - "The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do

not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

5. **Positional or Hierarchical Authority.** The boss of a company or your supervisor functions in positional or hierarchical authority.
  - a. **Ephesians 2:6 (NIV)** - “and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”
  - b. **Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)** - “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”
6. **Technical Authority.** This authority is granted in situations where technical expertise is required.
  - a. We give the pilot on an airplane or a heart surgeon the right to use this authority.
  - b. For our own safety, God has established a special authoritative system in the church known as shepherds, or pastors. Because they must devote more time to studying the Word than others, presumably, they have a better understanding of scripture.
  - c. Always be careful who you choose for spiritual advice.
7. **Negotiated Authority.** This authority is granted after guidelines or parameters are discussed.
  - a. When a husband and wife both have jobs outside the home, to keep everything functioning properly, an agreement will be made for handling household chores and responsibilities.
8. **Traditional Authority.** This type authority is often seen in Africa. Certain roles are assigned according to culture and tradition.
  - a. For example, the elders in both families will negotiate the price for a bride before the wedding ceremony.

- b. This type authority was used by Laban when Jacob was forced to marry Leah instead of Rachel. Laban had agreed to give Rachel to Jacob, but at the last minute, Leah was given instead, citing the tradition of marrying the older daughter first.

9. **Charismatic Authority.** This authority is given to someone for whom we have high regard.

- a. Some positive examples are Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, and Mahatma Gandhi. Negative examples Jim Jones and Adolph Hitler, were both very charismatic, spellbinding orators.

10. **Coercive Authority.** This authority, imposed upon others by force and against their will, is used by the dictator of a nation, a bully at school, or a criminal with a gun.

- a. Famous examples would be Muammar Gaddafi or Saddam Hussein.
- b. Church leaders, who misuse spiritual authority and become coercive, give the church and correct spiritual authority a bad name.
- c. This one type of secular authority is never involved in the spiritual. But strangely, for most, this is the meaning that first comes to mind regarding spiritual authority.

11. **Relational Authority.** This is the authority given to those who are close to you, such as friends or family.

- a. An example would be authority given to friends who have permission to freely speak with you concerning matters that would never be discussed with a stranger.
- b. Because this authority affects the fulfillment of your destiny, it could very well be the most important of the twelve.
- c. While legislative authority encompasses the powers of the law, traditional prevents individuals from breaking away from their expected role in society, and coercive authority can physically

prevent one from attaining their full potential, none possesses the power of relational authority.

e. **Proverbs 22:24-25 (NKJV)** - "Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul."

f. Choose your relationships carefully—and well.

12. **Natural Authority.** This authority, while having no backing by legislative assemblies that enact law, will be supported by the court system—if questioned.

a. For instance, a parent has the legal authority to make decisions for their minor children. The legislature did not give parents that authority, but it has existed since before governments began and is backed and supported by the legal system.

b. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Some truths are self-evident." The authority of a society to stand for the equality of all and to demand fair treatment for orphans and widows is another example of natural authority.

F. What does all of this mean?

1. First, spiritual authority isn't always what we suppose it to be.
2. Second, true spiritual authority is about servant-hood and submission—never about being autocratic or having a title!

G. Next week we will begin the teaching on **The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority.**

1. If you gain authority over just one of those dimensions, it will forever change your life.
2. If you master two or three, people will stop and stare as you pass by!
3. If the church masters all twelve, the Book of Acts will repeat itself all over again!