

Awesome time today!

## Part 6: 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.

A. Our theme for 2013 is "Elevate Your Life!"

1. God wants you to experience supernatural elevation this year. But to do so, you must exercise spiritual authority over your own future rather than allow the enemy to fulfill the plans he has designed for you.
2. We must understand this principle, since a problem cannot be fixed if you don't know what is broken.

3. **Joke:** “Wild Living”

Shortly after a priest boarded a subway train, the passenger opposite him lowered his newspaper, revealing a haggard, unshaven man reeking with the smell of alcohol, blotches of lipstick on his collar, and dirty, rumpled clothes, indicating he had been out all night.

With a weary expression, the man asks the priest, “Father, what causes dyspepsia, chest pains, gout, cirrhosis, hypertension, headaches, back pain and chronic fatigue?”

The priest quickly replies, "My son, they are caused by a wild lifestyle, gluttony, alcohol abuse, and the company of wicked women."

The man gasps, "Amazing."

Using this as an opportunity to help, the priest says, "But I can help you, my son. Would you like to be free of these ailments?"

The man replies, "Oh no, I don't have them. The newspaper says the Pope does."

4. Jesus constantly demonstrated incredible authority—but not according to the volume or sound of His voice. Every miracle was proof of His authority. It was evident when a few fish and bread were multiplied to feed thousands. Today, I am speaking from the subject:

## **"The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority"**

B. As pointed out last week, the Kingdom of God has many levels and dimensions.

1. For example, there are different levels of faith.
  - a. **Romans 1:17 (NKJV)** - "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
2. There are different levels of glory.
  - a. **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)** - "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."
3. In addition to levels of prayer, Paul refers to dimensions of giving, revelation, anointing—even different levels of suffering.
4. Like the Kingdom of God, the spiritual realm also has various dimensions. This is how a person's rank is established. Not according to title or length

of service in a certain position, the enemy identifies and recognizes you according to your level of authority.

5. Paul refers to authority as a "metron," or measure of rule; the limits of our authority.
    - a. **2 Corinthians 10:13-15 (NKJV)** - "We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere."
    - b. Paul isn't referring to geography in this passage. There is a certain metron in prayer; a metron in resources, in relationships, etc.
  6. Last week we identified the twelve dimensions of spiritual authority. Now let's examine each one more closely.
    - a. Remember that these levels are interconnected and progressive. In most cases, you must have a breakthrough in one level before you can move to the next.
- C. The first dimension, **authority over self**, includes your emotions, thoughts and the flesh.
1. **Galatians 5:16 (NIV)** - "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."
  2. **Galatians 5:24 (NIV)** - "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
  3. Before you can successfully exercise authority in higher dimensions, you must first have authority over yourself. If not, you are sure to encounter huge problems and enormous dysfunction.

4. Three things determine what your progress will be three years from now:
  - a. the friends you keep.
  - b. the thoughts you think.
  - c. the decisions you make.
5. To have this type authority, at times you'll be forced to change friends.

Many lives have been destroyed by pursuing wrong friendships.

  - a. Because he listened to bad advice from a friend, Amnon, the son of King David, raped his sister—which became the sentence for his own execution.
  - b. The prodigal son's friends persuaded him to make so many wrong decisions, not only did he become bankrupt, he was forced to eat refuse intended only for swine.
  - c. Paul wrote that Demas, a young man who could possibly have become the great apostle's replacement, had forsaken him by loving the wrong friends! By abandoning Paul, Demas forfeited his own destiny as well.
7. On the other hand, imagine the times we have been spared from tragic mistakes that could have demolished our future by listening to a "right" person speak words of wisdom into our lives!
  - a. At the time, we may have resented their advice. But by listening, we avoided a pitfall that would have caused regret the remainder of our lives.
8. Having been made in the image of God, just as His thoughts determine the future, so do thoughts affect our future.
  - a. **Proverbs 23:7-8 (NKJV)** - "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."
  - b. That's why we must never allow the luxury of dwelling on negative thoughts.

- c. Replace the negative with thoughts from God's Word that reflect His knowledge.
  - d. **2 Corinthians 10:5-6 (NIV)** - "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
  - e. Henry David Thoreau wrote, "As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives."
9. Another big problem that must be overcome—(play Destiny's Child: "It's Just Emotion Taking Me Over!").
- a. Psychologists say that up to 85% of our decisions are based upon emotion rather than logic or understanding. So, what are you doing to master your emotions? If you don't master emotions, they will master you!
  - b. This is how to STOP being destiny's child!
  - c. **Proverbs 29:11 (God's Word 1995)** - "A fool expresses all his emotions, but a wise person controls them."
  - d. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)** - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
  - e. **Proverbs 16:32 (NKJV)** - "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."
10. ***Drop the rage and turn a page!***
- a. **Proverbs 25:28 (NKJV)** - "Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls."

- b. Do not allow insecurity to make you incorrectly judge others.
- c. Regardless of where you have come from, what you have been through, or what you have faced, you can still have God's peace in your heart!