

You could really feel the message catching hold today!

MYESE!

Pastor Heard

## **Part 7: 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."

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

A. This is the year to "Elevate Your Life!"

1. Supernatural elevation is coming, but the first step is to exercise spiritual authority over your own future, rather than allowing the enemy to accomplish his plans for you.
2. As previously stated, the first dimension, "Authority Over Self," is actually the foundation for all the others.

3. The second dimension, "Authority Within the Home," is commonly addressed from the perspective of wives obeying their husbands.
4. However, in God's plan, both husband and wife must exercise authority to prevent the enemy from attacking the family.
5. Speaking of men being the head of the home, did you hear about the time when God gave an astonishing command: "I want all the men to form two lines—one for those who are truly the head of their households and the other for men who are dominated by their wives. And I want all the women to immediately leave and report to St. Peter."

As soon as the women had all departed, the men began to assemble in the line where they rightfully belonged. However, the men who were dominated by their wives stood in a line over 100 miles long, while the line with men who were truly the heads of their household had only a single man.

Frowning, God began to rebuke, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves! I created you to be the head of your household. And look at how many of you have been disobedient and refused to fulfill your purpose. Only one of you has obeyed Me, so, let's learn from him."

Turning to the single man, God asked, "How did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

6. **Nehemiah 4:13-18 (NKJV)** - "Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that

all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me."

## **B. Authority Within a Family Structure**

1. **Genesis 18:19 (KJV)** - "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."
2. At this second level of authority, breakthroughs begin to occur.
3. Because God has always intended for His blessings to be multi-generational, we call Him "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!"
4. When God speaks a word of instruction, He addresses not only that individual, but their house or family, as well.
  - a. **Jeremiah 2:5 (NKJV)** - "Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel."
5. When God saves someone, He intends to also save their house, or family.
  - a. God spared Rahab—plus her family and all who were in the house.
  - b. **Acts 2:39 (NIV)** - "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."
6. When He blesses someone, God intends to bless the entire household.
  - a. **2 Samuel 6:12 (NIV)** - "Now King David was told, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of

God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.”

7. Conversely, the enemy wants to curse you and your whole house!
  - a. The curse for Achan's sin caused his whole family to die with him.
  - b. Rather than being vindictive, God was demonstrating the multi-generational effects of a curse.
8. Understanding this concept of rank within a household, **Joshua 24:15 (NIV)** declares, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!"
  - a. When Joshua spoke those words, he was more than 80 years old, meaning he had children 40 or older—and grown grandchildren! Yet he grasped the concept that authority had been granted for his entire family to serve God!
  - b. That's pretty incredible, considering the fact that parents have come to me saying they are incapable of managing their child. When asked how old the child is, they reply, "He's nine!"
  - c. **1 Timothy 3:1,4-5 (NKJV)** - "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. [4] one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?"
  - d. One of Paul's requirements for becoming a bishop was to first have authority over his family.
9. A parent's rank in the home is so important, members of the family are required to recognize and give them honor—even if the parent is flawed.
  - a. **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."
  - b. We are not required to honor a parent's wrong choices or mistakes, but we are required to honor them as our parent.

- c. Why would God require us to honor an imperfect parent? Because of the importance of this office. We must not lose respect for this position, which is the foundation of ALL government.
  - d. The United States has had to impeach and remove from office more than one president. Yet we are not allowed to disrespect the office they hold. Otherwise, our government would disintegrate and anarchy would rule.
10. Real authority is about being “under” authority. This is especially true in the home.
- a. Paul says of husbands and wives in **Ephesians 5:20-23 (NIV)** - “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
  - b. Notice that even among the married, there is no place for autocratic or coercive authority.

C. The family is so very important to God, it was actually created BEFORE the church! Notice the principles that parents must teach their families:

- 1. A child's understanding of God and His nature are developed in the family. Most of what we will ever believe about God is determined in the home—not the church. Consider:
  - a. You will never be removed from your family. This serves as a model of God's commitment to us.
  - b. A family provides correction and discipline. This is how a child is taught a sense of right and wrong and that poor choices have negative consequences.
  - c. Families forgive—which models how God forgives us.
  - d. Families help one another—which models God's grace.
- 2. The first place for God's Word to be taught is within the family.
  - a. **Proverbs 1:8-9 (NKJV)** - “My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother.”

- b. In the setting of the home, values are formed.
  - c. The church can never remove in 1-1/2 hours on Sunday what the world pumps into our children the other 166 1/2 hours of the week.
  - d. Every day, children need to hear the Word taught in the home.
- 3. The Word must also be modeled before our children by our interaction with one another.
  - a. This is why it's so inappropriate to shout "Amen" and "Hallelujah" at church—then fight and curse at home.
- 4. In the home, a child should discover their personal value and how much they matter to other family members. This awareness helps them better understand God's love and how special they are to Him.
- 5. The family should teach children the importance of worthwhile occupations and help them discover their gifts and destiny.
- 6. The family is where children learn to interact with others and to develop self-esteem and a feeling of belonging. This prepares them to successfully participate both in the business world and the church.
- 7. Worship and prayer should first be taught by example—in the home.
- 8. Once it is modeled in the home, children can easily learn the meaning of servant-hood.
- 9. Children quickly learn that it is more blessed to give than to receive if they can follow a parent's example.
- 10. If parents model forgiveness in the home, children can easily experience and extend forgiveness to others.