

Great services. God is good!

MYESE!

Pastor Heard

## Part 9: 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. This is the year to "Elevate Your Life!"

1. We believe God's plan is for you to experience supernatural elevation this year.
2. (See Jeff Gordon's "Test Drive" prank:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ivCxgZZQM0>)
3. As we've been teaching, to experience elevation, God allows us to exercise spiritual authority over our own future, rather than allowing the enemy to accomplish the plans he has designed for us.
4. In our study of "The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority," we have examined the first level, "Authority Over Self" and are now in the second level, "Authority Within the Family Structure."

5. We're spending extra time on the first two dimensions, which are foundational for the other ten.

## **"Using God's Authority to Bless Your Family!"**

- B. The story of Nehemiah receiving authority from the king to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem is one of the most insightful passages of the Bible that connects the building of the family with the church.
  1. **Nehemiah 4:13 (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."
  2. In scripture, Jerusalem is a "type" or metaphor of the church. So, when this wall was being built, houses were actually attached to the wall of Jerusalem. As they built the wall of the "church," they were also building the walls of their homes.
  3. This reveals how closely the well-being and future of the home and family are tied to the well-being and future of the church.
    - a. If the wall of the church is broken down, the protective wall of the family will also be broken down.
    - b. As goes the church, so goes the family; as goes the family, so goes the church.
    - c. ***You cannot build a family of strength in the things that matter most without being connected to a strong church!***
  4. This is why the enemy has made such an orchestrated attack against the church—he is aiming for the family! And the reason for his powerful attacks against the family is—to destroy the church!
  5. This also underscores the importance for the church to uphold and cherish its God-given values. If we don't, our families will suffer.

6. Likewise, for the church to be victorious, families must take a firm stand for the teachings of the church.
7. Simply stated, your life and family are elevated as you elevate the church, and when the church is elevated, your family will be elevated.
  - a. The two were meant to be opposite sides of the same coin.
  - b. The reason? God intended for your family to be part of His family, as well.

C. How do we exercise spiritual authority in our homes? This is what we learn from the Book of Nehemiah:

1. You have been POSITIONED to win the fight!
  - a. **Nehemiah 4:13 (NKJV)** - "Therefore I POSITIONED men!"
  - b. He supports those who support His causes. Elevating the family is God's objective—not ours alone!
2. God wants to position MEN!
  - a. Yes, He's calling men—but don't apply with the thought that it's going to be easy. It's not!
  - b. In today's ego-centric, "me-focused," self-absorbed world, there is an absence of real men who are willing to put themselves in harm's way for their family.
  - c. The best example of true manhood is Christ, who willingly gave Himself for us—His family!
3. God has set you WITH your family, to fight on their behalf. A man's actions and values will impact his entire family!
  - a. **Nehemiah 4:13** - "I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows."
  - b. If He has called men to *fight*, don't expect this to be an easy task.
4. Do not FEAR the outcome of this battle.

- a. **Nehemiah 4:14 (NKJV)** - "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."
  - b. At times, men fear to stand upon righteous principles. We fear that by standing, our wife or children may be upset . . . we fear that our employer will disapprove . . . that we will no longer be popular. But stand anyway—and don't be afraid!
  - c. How can we live without fear when so many families have gone wrong? The answer: know in advance the outcome!
5. Make your HEART and your HOME God's dwelling place. If you do, He will protect your dwelling place and your loved ones.
  - a. **Nehemiah 4:14: (NKJV)** - ". . . Remember the Lord." Their assignment was to build the city of God and the Temple where His presence would dwell.
  - b. This is the God factor. It's all about Him!
  - c. **Psalm 91:9-10 (NKJV)** - "Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;"
  - d. The result is found in **Psalm 91:5-8 (NKJV)** - "You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked."
6. You must be VIGILANT!
  - a. **Nehemiah 4:16 (NKJV)** - "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."

- b. They *all* wore armor—which speaks of preparation.
  - c. Don't wait until a crisis comes to begin family devotions, reading God's Word together, and speaking blessings to one another.
  - d. Because our ever-present enemy wants to hurt you, be aware of the traps he will set.
7. Fight FOR your family—not **with** them!
- a. **Nehemiah 4:17-18 (NKJV)** - "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. Build the church—and you'll build your family. Build your family—and you'll build the church!
  - c. Stand for what is right, and never compromise your values.
8. They FINISHED the wall.
- a. **Nehemiah 6:15 (NIV)** - "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days."
  - b. The result? The **enemy** became afraid!
  - c. **Nehemiah 6:16 (NIV)** - "When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."
- D. What we learn from this scriptural teaching is actually very exciting! It reveals that under normal conditions, you are supposed to have spiritual authority within your family.
1. YOU are meant to have authority in your home ... not the devil, not the government, not friends ... not even the church—but you!

2. Since you were meant to have authority in your home, why allow the enemy to create havoc by destroying your home, your marriage, your children or finances?
3. Dad, **you** are the priest for your family! The enemy can be stopped dead in his tracks if you'll tell him, "What you are doing *is not allowed here!*"
4. The spirit dimension always responds to rank.
  - a. No one in the home has the rank of a father—not a pastor, intercessor, evangelist,...no one! God has placed **you** in charge of your family!
  - b. Declare today, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" Let the devil know that Christ rules in this home!

#### E. Life Application Points:

1. Determine to possess and exercise authority within your home.
2. Since authority must be based upon something, study the Word together as a family.
3. As priest for your home, speak and pray blessings, divine favor and supernatural elevation upon your family.
4. Use this authority to cancel every assignment of the enemy against your home.
5. Model and make important the things you want to see in the lives of your family members.
6. Strategically work to keep your family covered and protected with spiritual weapons.
7. Prayer, worship, the Word, church attendance and even tithing are all weapons of your warfare.