

Spiritual Warfare

FICM Care and Training

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INTRODUCTION

I. JOSH McDOWELL: “The Authority of the Believer”

(see attached, or look up the following under cru)

https://nmucru.weebly.com/uploads/2/8/6/3/2863040/the_authority_of_the_believer.doc_1.dot

Eph. 1-2

Ephesians 1:19-23 (NASB; emphasis mine)

*"And what is the surpassing greatness of His power **toward us who believe**. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of his might. Which he brought about in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Surpassing greatness of His **power**: *dynamis*: personal power

In accordance with the **working**: *energeo*: activity

Of the **strength**: *kratos*: God exercising his great strength through us

Might: *ischuo*: Great inherited strength

... Resurrection power toward us who believe!

We too were dead in our sins, but now identified with Christ: I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:1-7

Co-buried 2: 4-5 But God, rich in mercy, ... even when we were dead in our sins,

Co-resurrected 5-6 made us alive together with Christ

Co-ascended v. 6 and raised us up with him

Co-seated far above all v. 7 and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ

IF I HAVE TRUSTED CHRIST'S PAYMENT FOR MY SINS, . . .

Who am I seated next to? _____

Where is it placed? _____

What kind of place is that? A place of _____ Eph. 1:23 "far above all rule and power and authority and dominion and every name that is named."

Whose power? _____

Why /for what purpose? v. 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the _____ of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

SUM:

With his blood, Christ purchased bought for us

a place of authority

so we could use our INHERITED POWER

to STAND and KEEP STANDING (Eph. 6)

in order to exhibit the IMMEASURABLE RICHES of His grace and kindness!

(Check out J. McDowell's "Auth. of the Believer")

II. WORSHIP AS WARFARE: Remind me, God, and the enemy who GOD is!

Just prior to Ephesians 6 we're told to sing and give thanks! (Eph. 5:18-21)

Ps. 8:1-2 (NIV)

"LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." (emphasis mine)

Look UP! Set my heart on things above: Life is short. Sing. Out loud!

Ps. 118:24 "This is the day that the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

It's NOT: putting on a face: It's allowing our hearts to grieve:

Psalm 30:5 *“Weeping may last for the night, but JOY comes . . . !”*
David -- Psalms: So honest: anger, frustration, dismay, confusion, pain
Yet he finished with praising God.

“Get to the praise _____!” LOL

III. BECAUSE . . . God is KING! God is SOVEREIGN

He is perfectly ruling over an imperfect world

Seated on the throne!

John 10:11 The thief may come to steal, kill, and destroy,
but GOD is the _____

Who lays down his LIFE: Such unconditional LOVE.

He's GOOD!!

God allowed the enemy to STEAL from Job!

James 5:11 *Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

Job remained steadfast; Why? . . .

Because EVEN WHILE Job was suffering, God was still _____.

IV. THE 2 HANDS OF AUTHORITY

James 5:6-7

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humbling!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Submit: Humble self; surrender self

(See also: Col. 3:12-17 for instructions on what to put on: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love)

Resist the devil: Taking our authority in Christ

and he will flee from you.” That's a promise

V. But GOD is STILL GOD; we're not

I ASK God for many things; I only have authority over what is promised
and over what He has given me dominion over: myself, family, property, ministry

Division is not God's will: "I stand against a spirit of division (rebellion), etc.!"

BUT . . . In my taking authority, I don't have rights to demand God do as I want when I want. We're not owed anything.

God is most glorified through our surrender to his will, like Christ in the garden.

Abraham was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice;

Howard Hendricks: "That living sacrifice keeps crawling off the altar!"

How, when, where – is God's call.

➤ Examples:

Romans 12:18 *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."*

Unified to pray over what has been entrusted to you.

CONCLUSION

Get out from under that pile of circumstances! Don't let discouragement win!

We are OVERCOMERS, not victims! The devil is messing with the wrong ones!!

Because we are Co-buried, co-raised, co-ascended, and co-seated with Christ—

Submit to God through obedience, surrender, and worship, resist the devil (out loud) and he will flee.

ANOTHER FAVORITE RESOURCE:

Raising Lambs Among Wolves (The Adversary at Home) by Mark Bubeck

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

II Chron. 17-20

Kings: good guys, bad guys, and a mix. Jehoshaphat was overall a good guy

17:3 “**The LORD was with Jehoshaphat**, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David and did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel.”

. . . . **So, things went well for him!**

18:1 “**He had great riches and honor**, and he **made a marriage alliance with Ahab** (in Samaria).” . . . Even though they had been told not to be yoked to those outside of God’s people—uh oh!

He and the King of Israel attacked Ramoth-gilead. Because the King of Israel had put his own clothes on King Jehoshaphat, he was under direct attack.

But he cried out to the Lord, the attackers recognized that they had the wrong guy, and **the Lord helped him**.

19:2b “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asheroth out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God.”

When the Moabites and Ammonites came against Judah, Jehoshaphat:

1. Set his face to seek the Lord
2. Proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah
3. 20:13 All of Judah assembled together: men, women, and CHILDREN to seek help from the LORD. There’s something about uniting together!
4. Reminded God who He is
5. Reminded God of his own promises and past deliverance:
20:9 “If disaster comes upon us, the sword judgment, pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.”
6. He recognized his own powerlessness
7. He fixed his eyes on God, not his circumstances: 20:12b “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

20: 15b And the LORD said, “Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s.”

20:17: “You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, o Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.

8. 20:18-19 They bowed down and worshiped BEFORE the victory!
9. 20:20b They would have success if they believed God and his prophets.
10. 20:21 He took counsel (even leaders should not work independently of counsel)
11. He appointed those to go before the army in holy attire, singing and praising.

SUM

II Chron. 17-20: It went well when Jehoshaphat followed God; it went bad when he didn't; but when he cried to God, God rescued him.

In the next attack by 3 sets of enemies, Jehoshaphat:

- sought God,
- gathered Judah in unity,
- they fasted,
- they reminded God of his promises and past deliverance
- they worshipped,
- they admitted their own powerlessness
- they believed God
- fixed their eyes on God
- J sought counsel
- + led with praise . . .

and God fought the battle for them. They just had to stand! (Eph. 6)