

LESSON 10

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY: PART TWO

I. IMPORTANT TRUTHS IN THE WORD ABOUT SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

A. First instance of rebellion against authority

1. Isaiah 14:12-14

“How art thou fallen from heaven O Lucifer...For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

II. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY IN THE MAN AND NOT THE MAN IN AUTHORITY

A. Numbers 12

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, who was anointed by God to be the leader over Israel.

B. 1 Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

C. God has placed gifts in individuals in the body of Christ and these gifts put these people in a place of spiritual authority.

D. With spiritual authority also comes responsibility.

1. Hebrews 13:17

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account...”

III. WHEN YOU REBEL AGAINST GOD’S REPRESENTED AUTHORITY YOU REBEL AGAINST GOD

A. 1 Samuel 8:4-7

v7 “And the Lord said unto Samuel...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”

- B. 1 Samuel 15:1-23. God's attitude toward rebellion.
Notice verse 23: "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..."

IV. SUBMISSION OF THE HEART IS THE KEY TO BEING RIGHTLY RELATED TO SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

- A. 1 Samuel 24:2-7. David cuts off Saul's garment and then repents for touching God's anointed.
- B. 1 Samuel 26:7-12. David again has the opportunity to kill Saul but will not touch God's anointed.
- C. Genesis 9:20-26. The sin of Ham.

V. SERVING WITH STRANGE FIRE

- A. Leviticus 10:1
"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."
- B. Other examples of men walking outside of God's designed line of authority.
 - 1. 1 Samuel 4:4. Hophni and Phineas.
These were the sons of Eli, they were priests and knew not to move the ark of God without proper commandment.
 - 2. Numbers 16. The rebellion of Korah.
Though they were men of renown, they were not anointed to lead over Israel as Moses was.

AS MEMBERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, WE MUST LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY SET FORTH BY GOD AND HIS WORD. THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO PROTECTION AGAINST DIVISION AND STRIFE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THE BODY OF CHRIST.