

# EXERCISING AUTHORITY

Sylvester Onyemalechi

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have the right to dominion. By dominion, I mean the right to rule or to exercise authority on earth. The purpose of Jesus Christ is that we may reign in this life. God does not only want us to reign in the life to come, but, He wants us to reign in this life as well. Jesus came to set us free from the power of the enemy, and deliver us from the dominion of darkness, not that we become slaves again after salvation, but that we reign in life, and dominate our world.

To exercise authority over the forces of darkness you must do the following things:

## 1. See yourself as God sees you.

Don't look down on yourself. Do not see yourself as nobody. God has called you and made you somebody. The Bible teaches we were "nobodies" and "no people" before we met Christ, but God made us His own people, a peculiar people, a unique people His own special children, His own chosen, purchased possession when we accepted Christ.

*1 Peter 2:9-10*

*9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*NIV*

Say to yourself, "I'm not a nobody, I am somebody. I am God's son possessing the very life and nature of God". Look at yourself as God looks at you. You are a son of God. You are a king to reign in this life. You are a priest to minister to God and teach His ways to men. You have dominion over darkness. You have dominion over your enemies. You have dominion over your affairs. See yourself like this always and don't look down on yourself. Carry the picture God has painted about you in your head every where you go at all times. Walk with this mentality and you'll see victory in Jesus name. This is what the Bible calls faith – seeing yourself the way God sees you and what He says you are. This is renewing of the mind – changing your opinion of yourself and accepting God's opinion of you and walking in the consciousness of it daily.

## 2. Deal with fear

Destroy fear completely in your life using the knowledge you now have about your new position in Christ. Fear is deadly. It incapacitates a man as it paralyzes his faith in God and His word. The Christian life is a life of faith, and fear is the opposite of faith.

*Rom 1:17*

*17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

*NIV*

Fear is not from God but from the devil. God has not given His children the spirit of fear, but of love and of a sound mind. A sound mind is a mind that is in agreement with the word and will of God.

*Rom 8:15*

*15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

*NIV*

*2 Tim 1:7*

*7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

*NKJV*

Destroy fear in your life right now. Eliminate it as you believe the word of God concerning your new life and position. Eliminating fear completely may take a while. As you believe the word of God and start to walk in it, once in a while fear will rise up in you, even as you are going in a dark part of life, don't give in to it. Quickly use the scripture to fight it as you assure yourself that you are safe in the hands of the Savior who has promised never to leave you nor forsake you.

*Ps 23:4*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*NKJV*

*Matt 28:20*

*20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

*NKJV*

*Mark 11:22*

*22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.*

*NKJV*

Any time you call on Jesus especially in time of danger, Jesus will always rise up on your behalf and deliver you. Trust and revere Him. You must always be conscious of the fact that fear is an enemy. Fear is the policeman of the devil. Once fear arrests you, whatever the devil wants to do in your life will be enhanced. But if you can resist fear, the devil will not be able to gain the upper hand. Destroy it. Work at it.

One way by which you can destroy fear is giving yourself to hearing the word of God again and again. Meditate on it, don't just browse through it. Read it and settle down and meditate on what you have read. Buy teaching tapes and listen to them repeatedly. Invest in faith building books and consume its content. As you do this, the Word will be settling down in you and become a stronghold within you. And the stronghold of fear will be

gradually destroyed. Be diligent in doing this and you will soon celebrate your victory over fear.

### **3. Be bold**

Speak with confidence without doubt in your heart when you exercise authority. We exercise dominion through the mouth. When you speak against the forces of darkness, the darkness in you life, or in your way, you must speak with confidence that comes from faith in God and who you are in Christ. Be bold and eliminate doubt. Jesus said,

*Mark 11:23*

*23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.*

*NKJV*

Be confident that Jesus will not disappoint you – He will not fail to keep His promise to you. Your words will come to pass in Jesus. Your mountain will definitely move. What you want to see will definitely come to pass. Keep speaking and never doubt.

### **4. Arm yourself with scripture**

You must learn to use the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

*Eph 6:17*

*17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

*NKJV*

When in battle with the enemy, the word of God is a necessity. It is the sword of the Spirit and without it you can't slay the enemy. This was what Jesus used when he was tempted in the wilderness after forty days of fasting and praying in Luke 4:1-13. This account gives a true picture of how the word of God serves as a sword in the spirit and effectively used to defeat the enemy.

The devil is a seducing spirit and likes to come in disguise and unnoticed. He doesn't want you to know he is behind those evil thoughts that come into your mind. He doesn't want you to know that he is behind the evil experiences you are having. He always wants man to see his neighbor as the enemy meanwhile he is the one inspiring and manipulating the whole situation. That is why you must be very knowledgeable in the scripture. With knowledge of the word of God you will be able to resist the devil and use the scripture as a sword against him and win. Jesus defeated the devil because He was knowledgeable in the word and will of God. He knew the right scripture to quote and use to counter the attack and suggestions of the devil. You need to spend time with the word of God to master the word to the point were you will be proficient in the use of it.

### **5. Humility**

It takes humility to exercise the authority and power of God. The arrogant do not go far with God, they always fall by the way side. You must be humble to see God's power work wonders through you and for you. Jesus Christ, the Bible says was exalted above all names because of His humility.

*Phil 2:5-11*

*5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*NKJV*

Humility is the way to the top, while pride and arrogance takes a man down to the pit. Jesus though He is God, He did not count equality with God something to be grasped. In humility He became a man, even a servant and died like a criminal though He did not commit any sin. When He came to earth, He emptied himself of all His glory as God to enable Him live as a complete man. He submitted himself to God the Father and became a servant unto death. As a result of His humility, God the Father exalted Him and gave Him a name that is above every other name that at the mention of the name Jesus, every knee shall bow in heaven, on earth and beneath the earth.

If you are humble, the power of God will flow more in you and out of you to exercise the authority you have in Christ. If your only motive for seeking to manifest the power of God is so that you will be seen as someone great or be boasting, "I prayed for that man that day and God healed him, I did this, I did that", then you are not going to go far with God in this matter. If it is for boasting you'll miss it. If it is for competition or rubbing shoulders with others, you will be in trouble soon. God's anointing is not for pride and arrogance. It is not meant to make us break ranks such that we do not recognize our leaders any more. It is not for noise making.

You must not be proud because God is using you and you are having result in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus said to all His disciples,

*Luke 10:20*

*20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

*NIV*

Be humble for it is the only way the Spirit of God will increase His anointing in you on a daily basis, so that you can exercise the authority that has been freely given to all the children of God.

Every believer has access to this authority in Christ. The power you generate through your walk with God determines the measure of authority you will manifest in your life. Deepen your relationship with God and God will make you a wonder to your generation. Use the knowledge gained from this teaching and your testimony will fill the land. Don't just know, but use what you know. Don't just understand, but walk in the understanding you have. Go and have dominion, reign and rule your world. It is your portion in Christ.