



# SUBMITTING TO DIVINE AUTHORITY UNLOCKS LIFE'S BLESSING

*"1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: 5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. 6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: 7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. 8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick. "*

- Luke 7:1-10

# **Submitting to Divine Authority Unlocks Life's Blessing**

What do you think Jesus Christ can do in your life and in your circumstances? Because if you are in alignment, you have access to authority if you have alignment straight. You ought to call him and be aligned under him so you have the authority of him over the things that he has placed you over. Because you walk as a victor and no longer as a victim.

When my children were small one of the things that I often did was give them piggyback rides. They would get on my back, and I'd crawl over the den and give them piggyback rides where they would be sitting their weight on me to carry them. Jesus Christ today would like to offer you a piggyback ride.

He wants to offer you the opportunity to piggyback on his authority. The passage that I have just read to you is unique. Everything about Jesus's life and ministry is special but Luke chapter 7 verses 1 to 10 is unique.

Why do I say that? Because according to verse 9 after he has the conversation with the centurion it says when Jesus heard this he marveled at him. Let's set the scene. There is a centurion.

A centurion was a mid-level officer in the Roman army who oversaw 100 soldiers. He oversaw 100 soldiers in a legion of 6,000 soldiers.

So, the legion, the Roman legion had 6,000 and he was responsible for 100 of those 6,000 much like a captain or maybe a major in our army. He had a servant who got ill. He got sick and was about to die.

It says that the centurion heard about Jesus. Word had gotten out that this Jesus is something else. The blind see, the lame walk, the dumb talk.

I mean it's just; this Jesus is blowing folks minds with what he's doing. So, he sends a couple of Jewish leaders to ask Jesus to come and save his servant who's about to die. Now that's unusual within itself because the Jews hated the Romans.

But this Roman was cut in different cloth because the Jewish leader said he loves our nation, and he even went into his pocket to build our synagogue. This guy is different. There's a great lesson there and that is just don't judge people because they belong to a certain group.

So, Jesus is now on his way to the centurion's house who has made a prayer request. Save my servant's life. So far so good.

Jesus is on his way. He's gotten the prayer request. Looks like the answer is on the way.

However, before Jesus gets to the house, the centurion sends the message. He says at the end of verse 6, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. Don't come any further.

He sends some of his friends and says tell Jesus don't come any closer. I'm not worthy. So, one of the things we need to note as we get into this is this centurion, he may have had a lot of money, may have had a lot of clout, but in the presence of Jesus he wasn't nobody.

The centurion says, he says I'm not worthy, verse 7, but just say the word and my servant will be healed. Say what? Just, you don't have to come, just talk from a distance and it'll be equal to you coming. Because your words will heal my servant.

And that's the scene. So far so good. But let me show you what blows Jesus' mind, what makes him marvel with shock and awe.

It's what the centurion says next that is at the heart of our sermon today. And that gives you and me a transformation approach to getting God to move in your circumstances and mine. The key to this whole story is verse 8. I need to read it again.

Verse 8. For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to this one go, and he goes, and to another come, and he comes, and to my slave do this, and he does it. Now when Jesus heard this, he marveled. I am also a man under authority.

Let's back up to one word. Also. I am also a man under authority.

When you use the word also, you mean something else. I am like something else, or in this case, I am like someone else. I am also a man under authority.

Well, who is he talking to and who is he talking about? He's talking about Jesus. He says, Jesus, I'm like you. I am just like you.

I am a man under authority. Why does he say that? Word has gotten out about Jesus doing all these miracles. You are under authority.

Jesus Christ in his humanity operated not by virtue of his deity, but by virtue of his submission. Jesus says in chapter 5 of John verse 19, these words, therefore Jesus answered and said unto them, Truly, truly I say to you, the son can do nothing of himself, unless it is something he sees the father doing.

For whatever the father does, these things the son also does in like manner. For the father loves the son and shows him all the things that he himself is doing. And the father will show him greater works than these, so that you may catch this word, marvel.

You cannot exercise legitimate authority over what you are supposed to be over, unless you learn to be under what God has put over you. If you're not under what God has put under you, you can't ask God to help you to deal with stuff that's underneath you. If you are out of alignment with that which is legitimately supposed to be over you, you lose heaven's authority to be able to boss situations that's supposed to be under you.

The point is, you cannot have authority over until and unless you are submitted under. And because most people do not understand this theological principle of authority, prayers don't get answered, victory doesn't get achieved, power doesn't get recognized, changes are not made in spite of prayers being prayed. Because the prayers are being prayed out of alignment.

That we're not properly under what we should be under, or we're not properly over what we ought to be over, or both. And once you are misaligned in God's kingdom program, what you have done is cut the cord of the transfer of authority. In Luke chapter 9 verse 1, we read this verse, And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

Guess how they got authority? He gave it. He gave it so they had it. They had it over the very things that they were trying to have them.

Many of us have things that we are trying to have. Trying to own us, control us, dictate to us. But because Jesus gave it, they had it, and because they had it, they could use it.

Alignment is the key to not only answering prayer, but spiritual authority. Seeing heaven comes down into history, seeing heaven transform history, and putting the devil under your feet instead of him boxing your head. He knew Jesus' access to God.

Jesus said, All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth, Matthew 28:18. All authority, I'm in charge now. So, the alignment to Jesus Christ is critical if you want heaven to join you in history.

In Colossians chapter 3, it kind of breaks it down into some categories. Let me review some of these categories real quickly with you. Beginning with verse 17, we read in Colossians 3, Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

So do it under Jesus' authority. Then he starts breaking it down. Wives.

Be subject to your own husbands as is fitting to the Lord. Okay, now I know I'm tiptoeing on some sensitive areas here. If you as a wife are out of alignment with your husband's legitimate authority, if he were legitimate, then you are out of alignment with God.

And if you're out of alignment with your husband's legitimate authority, and therefore out of alignment with God, you cannot then go and ask God for help. He goes on. He says, Husbands, love your wives.

Do not be embittered against them. You don't get to cuss at your wife. You don't get to be abusive, whether verbally or physically or attitudinally.

You don't get to be neglectful. You don't get to be obstinate. You don't get to do this because once you operate outside of God, He won't hear your prayers.

1 Peter 3 verse 7 says, Husbands, treat your wives with equal honor so your prayers are not hindered. So many a man who get on their knees is wasting his time because he wants to be over without willing to be under. Woman, you submit to me while I submit to nobody.

Nobody is going to tell me what to do, but I'm going to tell you what to do. The reason why she's a rebel is she's following a rebel. The Bible says, in 1 Corinthians 11:3, every man is to be under Christ's authority.

You do not get to be a totally independent male. You are underneath authority, the Bible says. And if Jesus, the man of all men, had to be under his father's authority, what makes a man think that he can be independent of Jesus' authority? That makes you a male rebel.

It says, let not that man think he will receive anything from the Lord. God's not going to listen to your prayer, and no, He's not going to change your woman. Because you are in a rebellion.

I am in rebellion when we do not take this biblical posture. He goes on and says, children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. The reason why you should teach your children to obey is not just because you're their parents, of course they should, because you're their parent, but because they want to make God happy.

Because when they make God happy, God will even answer their prayers. Because they have come under the legitimate authority, not wrong authority, but legitimate authority of their parents. In fact, when Ephesians talk about this, he says, and tell the children this will help to enable them to live long on the earth.

In other words, God will so honor coming under the legitimate authority of a parent that God will make sure you don't die early. That's how, so when you tell your kids obey me, I want you to obey me because I'm your father, but I also want to obey you so the Lord can give you all your days. And you don't die ahead of time.

So, obedience is tied to a child's alignment. Then he comes to parents, he says in verse 21, fathers do not exacerbate your children so that they will lose heart. That's a parent.

The reason why he says fathers, by the way, is in the Bible men, men are supposed to raise the children, not the women. Okay, I am not talking about you, I'm talking about the culture, I'm talking about the Bible. Ephesians chapter 6 verse 4 says fathers raise your children.

All the time it's the father who raises the children. Well, you say, well what's the woman supposed to do? One word, help. She's supposed to fill in the gaps when you can't.

But God holds you responsible for the home. You can't be talking about, I'm the king of this house. And all you do is sleep there.

You are responsible for the spiritual imprint of your children. You are responsible for the discipline of your children. You are responsible, yes, she fills in the gap when you can't.

But we have a generation today where daddy is not home, or he might as well not be home. Because he doesn't have this responsibility. He says do not exasperate your children, but you are to influence them because this is your responsibility as lined up under God.

He says in Genesis 18:19, Abraham raises your children in righteousness and justice. It's always the father's responsibility. But today we live in a day of male abandonment of the responsibility.

And so, we have a generation of kids running wild. This is your responsibility. Your responsibility is not first to be happy.

Your responsibility first is to be responsible. Slaves, in all things, verse 22 says, obey those who are your masters on earth. We would say today, employees obey your employers, not with external service or as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

When you go to work, verse 23, whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the

inheritance. It is the Lord Christ who you serve. You don't whistle while you work, you worship while you work.

He says when you go to work, you go to work for the Lord. You don't only work for the man. He goes on and he talks about employers, chapter four, verse one.

Masters, these are the ones over the servants, grant to your slave's justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a master in heaven. You see the authority? Masters, be fair and just. You can't abuse your employees.

You can't misuse your employees. You must pay a fair wage for fair work to your employees. You must not withhold wages, James says, from your employees.

He says, you are to be fair and just with your employees. And the reason why you don't mistreat your employees is because you're not the only master. Chapter four, verse one says, remember you have a master.

So, if you're going to be over, you better be under. Be under your master if you're going to be the right kind of master and get the right kind of service and benefit and blessing in your company. Don't pray to me for God to turn things around in your company when you don't let me be your master.

Because I am the master of your business. That is, if you're a Christian employer, you are not the final say-so. He is.

But when you come under, you now can have authority over or with God intervening in the process. This is a process of answered prayer and spiritual authority. In Philippians 2:5-11, it talks about Jesus.

He says, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and he became a servant. So, he was equal to God, but he came underneath the father. Equal to God, but he came underneath the father.



Well, what did the father do? Well, it goes on to say, for God now has highly exalted him. So that the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the father. Because he came under, God exalted what was under him.

And now he's over everything. If you are unwilling to come under the legitimate authority God places over you, then you do not get God's help in what is underneath you. What does Jesus say about this man? Jesus is stupefied.

And in chapter seven, he says, when Jesus heard this, he marveled at him. And he turned and said to the crowd who was following. So now he is talking to everybody who's there.

So, it's like me talking to you. He turns to the crowd. He says, "Did you see that?" I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.

It says in verse 10, when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health. So, what's my point? Jesus believes in long distance prayer answers. Because he is not physically there.

He didn't physically go to the house. He just sent the word to the house, even though he was absent from the location. Now you have to understand all the other miracles Jesus did, he was there.

Now, why do you need to know that now? Cause he is not here. Jesus is not here. You can't go to the mall and find Jesus.

You can't go downtown and find Jesus because Jesus is not here. He's seated on the right-hand side of the father. But the good news is, he does long distance prayer answers.

He doesn't have to be here to get stuff done. That's why I love Hebrews chapter 7, verse 25, which says Jesus, our great high priest, ever lives as an intercessor for believers. He ever lives to invade our circumstance, and he doesn't have to be here to get it done.

So, I want to challenge you to go for a piggyback ride. Cause Jesus wants you to ride on this authority principle. I want to challenge you to get aligned.

If you're a man out of alignment to say, Lord Jesus Christ, I surrender to your authority. If you're a woman out of alignment, say to the Lord Jesus and to your mate, to your legitimate authority, I will surrender. To say to your parents, if you're a child, I will submit it to your legitimate authority.

To go to work tomorrow, I will submit to the legitimate authority of this job as I serve the Lord Jesus Christ, whether a master or as a employee. The Bible says that church members should submit to the legitimate authority of the leadership of the church. The Bible says that citizens should submit to the legitimate authority of government because only when we submit in the line that God has established over us, will he give us authority and victory for the stuff under us.

And if we do not make that decision, we live with unanswered prayer and unrealized authority. I want to close with one verse. It's a well-known verse with often a misquoted word.

Galatians 2.20 says, I'm crucified with Christ. My total identity is with him. Nevertheless, I live.

I'm dead, but I'm alive. I'm crucified with Christ, but nevertheless, I live. He says, but not I. It's Christ who lives in me.

And then he comes with the zinger that's misquoted. He says, the life which I now live, I live by faith. Now, most people say in the son of God.

But the text says, I live by faith of the son of God. Oh, that's different. I not only have faith in him, I have faith of him.

In other words, I'm going for a piggyback ride. I am going to believe that if I get on Jesus' back and ride this horse because I'm underneath his authority, that his faith will cover my faith, giving me great faith in the situations I got to deal with in my life. So, I know you're going to leave here and you're going to face some situations.

You ought to call him and be aligned under him, so you have the authority of him over the things that he has placed you over so that now you walk with your head up high because you walk as a victor and no longer as a victim because you're in alignment.