

Living and Working from a Position of Authority

Introduction

- A. When you, or someone you are helping, are sure the problem is the oppression of the enemy, take time to pray, worship, put on the armor, and then make careful use of the following suggestions.
 - B. Keep in mind that there is no magic formula or quick solution when one is working with the enemy. However, Satan and all wicked spirits have been defeated by the Lord Jesus, and all believers have been given that victory as delegated authority. We are expected and commanded to use our authority and resist the Devil.
Luke 10:1,16-22; I Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:10,11.
 - C. Read the following suggestions carefully. Look up the verses, meditate on them, and assume by faith the position of delegated authority.
- I. Select a time when you can study and pray without interruption. Be honest before God as to why you want His help. Ask Him to open your spiritual understanding so you can grasp the truth of His Word.
 - II. Reflect on the following passages. Write out a brief summary of what is taught in each passage. Study them in the order given. Genesis 3:15; Exodus 12:12; Job 1,2; Luke 4:16-18; Matthew 16:18,19; Luke 11:20; Hebrews 2:14,15; Colossians 2:15; I John 3:8; Ephesians 1:15-2:6; I Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:10,11
 - III. Consider the various ways in which the enemy can become involved in the life of the believer. Ask yourself why and how the enemy did this. Is there always a clear or sinful reason?
 - A. As individuals:

King Saul - I Samuel 16:14; 18:10; 19:9
Job — 1 and 2
Peter -- Matthew 16:22,23; Luke 22:31
Paul - II Corinthians 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18
 - B. As Church members:

Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 5:11—13; II Corinthians 2:6-11; II Timothy 12:25,26
 - C. As pastors: I Timothy 3:16,17
 - D. As Churches: II Corinthians 2:6-11; Revelation 2:10,13,24

E. As children: Mark 7:24-30; 9:14,29

IV. Consider the significance of the above passages. Think of how the enemy could influence Eve before she became a sinner and how he could even speak to and tempt the Lord Jesus when He was here on earth. These passages remind us of how vulnerable all of us are — even though we may be living in the light best we know. Don't overlook the fact that almost always a person is brought into bondage **before** they realize something is wrong.

V. Read Ephesians 1:15-2:6 again. Consider what it means for the Lord Jesus to have defeated Satan and now has a position of final authority over him and all wicked spirits. Apply these verses to your own life. Accept the truth that **you have all the victory of the Lord Jesus given to you as delegated authority.**

VI. Isolate the problem you believe you should work on. **Write it out.** Is it deception of some kind, a hindrance, immorality, fantasy, bad thoughts, disunity, false teaching, grudges, criticism, bondage, passivity, gossip, wounds from the past, unbelief, fear, bitterness, some addiction or obsession, habits that cannot be broken, some compulsive action, anger, laziness? Pray and think about it until it's clear.

VII. When you have clarity regarding the above and an opportunity to work on the problem, then follow these suggestions (but only if you are honest and walking in fellowship with God)!.
A. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and Revelation 12:10,11. Cover yourself with the armor.

B. Take a position of authority over the problem and the work of the enemy behind the problem. Be aggressive and authoritative in stating the following.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take a position of authority over this _____ . I command that all the working of wicked spirits in regard to _____ must stop. In the power of the name and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ I break down all demonic control through _____ . In the power of the name above every name I command that all demonic activity regarding _____ must leave.

C. Such statements may need to be said a number of times. You don't have to shout. Do not confine yourself to my words. Work hard at this. God is worth fighting for.

Victor Matthews