

"SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY"

Matthew 8:5-13

Our text shows the need/potential/power of spiritual authority. You will need this in all of life.

I. THE BASIS OF LIFE

A. The Centurion has a need – and he comes to Jesus to ask for help

1. But most importantly he understands how all of life works/spiritual power works: **Authority!**

a. **Matthew 8:9** *For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

1. *The right to rule/use power; To put your foot on...to determine what happens*

2. This is how KOG operates: God doesn't just help b/c you ask nicely

a. All that God is going to do in/for/through you will flow out of authority; Supernatural dimension

B. You cannot have authority without faith: **V10** *I have not found such great faith – in Israel!*

1. Faith is not based on our works – but Jesus goodness: I don't deserve it!

2. Faith is confidence in Jesus power – more than our circumstances

II. UNDER AUTHORITY

A. His understanding of power flowed out of him being under authority **V9** *For I also am a man under authority*

1. **Under the authority of Jesus: V13** *Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you."*

a. He submitted to Jesus rule over his life: He responded in obedience

1. It will be difficult to get the Devil to listen to you – if you won't listen to Jesus!

a. **Acts 19:15** *And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"*

2. **Under the authority of others: V9** *For I also am a man under authority...*

a. We all have people who have authority over us: They can direct us in certain ways

b. But there is a rebellious streak inside of us

1. Pride: We think we know better/don't like being told what to do

2. Bad experience with authority: So we reject all authority (actions/words/attitudes)

c. Our authority is dependent on being under authority

1. **Matt 8:9** *For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

a. Where there is a power lack – we should check if there is an authority problem

III. AUTHORITY RELEASED

A. Authority releases a miracle dimension that changes things

1. Authority is God backing up what you say – with His power

a. **V8** *But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.* b. **V13** *Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.*

B. This is shown in miracle healing

1. This man grasped that healing is not begging God to do something - It is taking authority

2. **Take authority over the spirit causing the problem**

a. **Mark 9:25** *When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."*

1. Jesus didn't spend time asking Father to please heal – he commanded the spirit to leave!

a. *My experience 1st crusade: You foul demon – come out of her hand!*

3. **Command the body to function properly**

a. **Mark 7:33-34** *After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!").*

1. Who or what is Jesus talking to? His ears/his tongue!! Command it to work as it should

C. Interesting authority/dominion is connected to healing

1. Spiritual authority is transferrable: I fought a lion/bear – now a giant!

2. If you can have authority over sickness – you can have dominion over any spirit!

a. It is a good testing/proving ground

1. Do I have authority? 2. What do I do when there is a struggle? 3. What do I believe?