

Part 7. Prayer

Lesson 5: Praying in Authority

Lesson Summary

Spiritual authority in prayer is not personal power but a delegated trust grounded in Christ's finished victory (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22). Jesus demonstrated authority over sickness, demons, nature, and sin (Mark 4:39; Luke 5:20–24).

Believers share in His authority as His representatives—never independently or presumptuously (Luke 10:19; Acts 4:10). True authority flows from relationship, not religious formulas (John 15:5; 5:19).

Faith is necessary (Heb. 11:6; Mark 11:22–24), yet healing and deliverance depend on God's will and timing (2 Cor. 12:7–9). We pray boldly in Jesus' name while submitting to His sovereignty (Luke 22:42). When healing delays, we encourage others with God's presence and eternal hope (Rom. 8:28; Rev. 21:4).

Spiritual authority also extends to the Church in areas of discipline and teaching, where "binding and loosing" means applying God's Word responsibly, not manipulating outcomes (Matt. 16:19; 18:18).

True authority is marked by humility and dependence—standing firm in Christ's triumph and clothed in His strength (Col. 2:15; Eph. 6:10).

Key Takeaways

- **Christ is the source of all authority** (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22).
- **Believers share authority** only through union with Him (Luke 10:19; Acts 4:10).
- **Authority = relationship**, not ritual or formula (John 15:5).
- **Faith matters**, but God's will is supreme (Mark 11:22–24; 2 Cor. 12:7–9).
- **Balanced prayer**: bold requests + submission to God's will (Luke 22:42).
- **Encouragement**: even when healing delays, God is present and faithful (Rom. 8:28; Rev. 21:4).
- **Church authority**: discipline, teaching, and guarding truth (Matt. 18:15–17; Heb. 13:17).
- **Binding and loosing**: apply truth in Christ's name, not magical declarations (Matt. 16:19; 18:18).
- **True authority** = humility, obedience, and resting in Christ's finished work (Col. 2:15; Eph. 6:10).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** Who is the ultimate source of spiritual authority?
A: Jesus Christ, who has all authority in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18).
2. **Q:** How do believers exercise authority?
A: By faith, in Jesus' name, in submission to His will (Luke 10:19; Acts 4:10).
3. **Q:** Why can't authority be treated like a formula?
A: Because it flows from abiding in Christ, not methods or emotion (John 15:5).
4. **Q:** Does lack of healing always mean lack of faith?
A: No—Paul's thorn remained despite prayer; healing depends on God's will (2 Cor. 12:7–9).

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5. **Q:** What balance should we keep in prayer?
A: Pray boldly in faith but always submit to God's will (Luke 22:42).
6. **Q:** What does "binding and loosing" mean biblically?
A: Church authority to apply God's Word in discipline and teaching, not commanding outcomes (Matt. 16:19; 18:18).
7. **Q:** What marks true spiritual authority?
A: Humility, obedience, and confidence in Christ's victory (Col. 2:15; Eph. 6:10).

"Praying in authority is not demanding outcomes but standing humbly in Christ's victory—bold in faith, surrendered to His will, and confident in His power."