Making Disciples

Notes for Session Twenty-two

Spiritual Authority

Session Goals

1. The disciple will become aware of one or two situations in his/her life where he/she can take authority.
2. The disciple will identify a scripture that promises God will protect us.
3. The disciple will name three areas where we are given authority.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Let the leader guide prayer with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

Spiritual Authority

We are all sons and daughters of the King, which means we have full access to Him and all the resources of His kingdom. God shares His power, through the Holy Spirit within us, because He wants us to be His victorious church in this world. Our authority is our spiritual birthright delegated by Him to use His power. We can change things when we exercise that authority using His name with faith in Him. However, we must remain under His authority.

In humility:

Titus 3:1-2 "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle showing all humility to all men."

2 Corinthians 10:17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

And in righteousness and justice:

Proverbs 21:3 "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."

1 John 2:29 "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."

2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by His own glory and goodness."

Following His commands:

Matthew 28:18-19 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 8:9-10 "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. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have but not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

He has promised:

Matthew 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

- Use your authority by using the power of your words to command the physical and spiritual protection of yourself, your family, your home, and your possessions that God has promised you.

Psalm 23:4 "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I shall fear no danger, because you are with me, your rod and your staff, they protect me."

Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

Psalm 91:10 "No harm will overtake you; no disaster will come near your tent."

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." This is not a recommendation that you tread on serpents and scorpions, but it is a promise you will not be hurt if you accidentally do.

Acts 28:3 "But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire a viper came out because of the heat and fastened to his hand."

- Use your authority to come against sickness. Not just yours but pray for the sick.

Matthew 10:1 "Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."

Luke 9:1 "And he called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,"

Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers. cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay."

Matthew 8:17 "He himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases."

Psalm 103:2-3 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases."

- Use your authority to cast out demons.

Mark 16:17 "And these signs will accompany those who believe in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues."

Luke 9:1 "And he called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,"

Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay."

Mark 1:39 "And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons."

Luke 10:17 "The seventy returned with Joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name.'"

- Use your authority to subdue the weather or what needs to be subdued in nature.

God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth. They lost that to Satan, but Jesus came to take it back. He demonstrated His authority when He commanded the fish to go to the side of the boat, the fig tree to wither and said to the water peace be still.

Matthew 8:23-26 "Then He got into the boat, and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us, we're going to drown!' He replied. 'You of little faith, why are you afraid?' And then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm."

John 21:6 "And He said unto them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and you shall find some.' So, they cast and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish."

Matthew 21:18-19 "Seeing a fig tree by the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, 'May you never bear fruit again!' Immediately the tree withered."

Matthew 17:20-21 "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

- Exercise your authority in the area of provision, for you and for the things that He directs you to do.

Psalm 34:9-10 "Fear the Lord, you His holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Authority over death.

Jesus promised that we would perform the miracles He performed and even greater ones. And Jesus even exercised authority over death as when Lazarus was raised from the dead.

John 11:38-44 The account of Lazarus.

John 14:12 "There he spoke to his disciples, saying, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the father.'"

There are higher levels of authority too as you mature, and God will guide you into those depending on what He has called you to do.

Galatians 5:25 "If we live also by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

Action Steps

- This week exercise your authority by speaking out using His name. Let us know next week what happened.

- This week ask God to show you an area that you have found difficult that you can take authority over. If you then have an opportunity tell us the results.

- If there is a need exercise your authority over sickness in your body or in someone else who you know. Share with Us the results next week.