

"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God."
~John 1:1

The Lord's Flock *Growth* DIGEST PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



“Discovering the Power of Our Personal Domain”

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Personal Authority

We have personal authority and power to fulfill our purpose in life. What is happening in our life is within our personal authority and power.

Whatever is our status in life, rich or poor, we have personal authority.

God is the one who gives authority to all of us. “All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.” (John 1:3)

God is the author of authority and man is the authorized. We have been authorized by the Author to fulfill our purpose in life.

Four principles in understanding authority:

- 1) **There is an author.** The authority that we have came from God. It is linked to the origin and source of our gifts and power.
- 2) **There is an authorization.** We have been given permission and right by the Author to carry out our authorization in the world.
- 3) **There is authenticity.** We become real and authentic when we do what we are commanded to do. Unfortunately, we

4) sometimes do not know our true purpose in our world.

- 5) **There is personal authority given to all of us by God to fulfill a specific purpose.** This authority is not exclusive; it does not mean we have nothing to do with others. It actually means that we have to do something for others.

Personal Domain

Aside from giving us authority, God also gave us our personal domain. Domain is the area within which we can exercise our authority or “gifting.”

When we discover our personal domain and our gifts, we will be able to fulfill our purpose to its fullest extent.

“A man's gift clears the way for him, and gains him access to great men.” (Proverbs 18:16). When gifts given by God are used in the proper way, doors of opportunities to greatness are opened.

“You see a man skilled at his work? He will stand in the presence of kings; he will not stand in the presence of obscure men.” (Proverbs 22:29). Skills used properly in the workplace or in any assigned task will lead us to promotion and distinction.

True authority is the right and power to be who you were created to be.

Power and Authority

Power and authority are very similar.

Power is the capacity to do something by force or energy. It can be exercised through position, knowledge, strength/force and even threats

Authority is power. We should know how to properly use authority and power. Authority and power can be abused. We should remember that authority has been given to us by God, the Author. It is not our own, we are only its steward. When we are empowered with authority from God, we should exercise such power in accordance with His will.

Authority given by God is a trust from God. Let us do everything to earn and be worthy of this trust.

Moreover, we must act only within our domain. We should not get out of this domain.

When we abandon God's authority and trust, we actually forfeit our shared authority. This is when Satan seizes the authority from us.

For example, when we came into the Renewal, we were authorized and empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness. We were given the authority to reach out to *“the ends of the earth.” “But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8).

What have we done with this authority and power to witness? Have we exercised such authority in our domain (family, workplace, school, neighborhood, acquaintances, friends, peers, and others.)?

~~Let us move around in our environment to~~ **meet people**—people of all ages, people in our neighborhood, in our school, in our workplace, and in other institutions. Let us also interrelate with the complex web of social network. There are many opportunities to exercise and share our God-given gifts within our personal domain.

Interrelated and Interdependent Authorities

Our authorities and gifts are interrelated and interdependent because we are all human beings.

What happens when our personal authority meets others' personal authorities such as family, church, school, friends, acquaintances, peers, neighborhood, and workplace?

We actually need each other's authority. We truly need one another. No man is an island.

The greatest commandment teaches us to love God and to love our neighbor. (Matthew 22:37-39). Love of God and love of fellowmen are inseparable.

The following gifts are interrelated and interdependent of each other and they show that we really need one another:

Love	Family	-
Witnessing	Church	-
Knowledge	School	-
Skills	Work	-
Sharing	Friends and Acquaintances	-
Sharing.	Peers	-
Sharing.	Neighborhood	-

Failure to Witness

Those who have failed to exercise their authority to witness have already sold out to Satan. Satan has already deceived them and has entered their lives. Everything that is wrong in the world today is a consequence of betrayal or abandonment of man's authority.

“The angels too, who did not keep to their own domain but deserted their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains, in gloom, for the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 1:6). “Domain” is linked with “proper dwelling.” This verse is about abandoning home and family in the secular world and our spiritual family in the supernatural world.

Symptoms of the Devil's Hold on Us for Failing to Exercise Our Authority

The Devil's “sleeper hold” includes apathy (a “don't care” attitude), sell out (“the job is others', not mine”), laziness (claiming to be tired and sleepy) and procrastination (putting off the job for next time).

We have to battle Satan's “sleeper hold” in order to exercise our authority. We sometimes ask God's help without realizing that we are no longer under God's warranty because we have not observed the “terms of use”. Our warranty from God is similar to an appliance manufacturer's warranty that is rendered void or cancelled when the user does not follow the warranty conditions.

Restoration of Authority

God the Father, the “manufacturer”, sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to help us correct our improper use of our God-given authority. Jesus redeemed us from our sins.

What are we going to do so that our authority can be restored by God. Let us acknowledge our sins. *“If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.”*

(1 John 1:9). Our God is a God of love, compassion, and mercy.

Let us ask forgiveness from God so that we can become clean again before Him.

Once we have our authority renewed we can have the power. *“... All power 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

Conclusion: Let us all be faithful and obedient in our personal authority to witness within our personal domain!

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