

Living Authorized – In and Under God's Authority!
Love-Impact Manual
Lesson 4

Understanding the way God's authority works in your life is vital to fulfill your _____ and calling. Many believers don't understand this subject and because of their lack of understanding it keeps them from operating in the _____ of their God-given authority. Here's a good definition of authority...

Power given to somebody: power to act on behalf of somebody else, or official permission to do something.

God gives every person a specific realm of authority to operate in. In Romans, Paul lays out a clear picture of the way God's authority works on the earth...

Romans 13:1-2

*1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is **no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.** 2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.***

This Scripture can be _____ if you don't understand how God works. God is sovereign and in control, but He's also given man a completely free will. As we read Romans 13:1-2, we see that there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Here's an important nugget: God's authority rests _____ who are in a position of authority, and we are called to honor that position of authority as God's authority. Now I know the wheels are probably turning in your head right now. What about this certain person in authority? What about an _____ in authority? What if someone in authority asks me to sin? I was thinking the same thoughts when I first read this Scripture. We'll answer those questions ahead. Did you know that God works through unbelievers? He even spoke through a donkey in the Bible. In **Proverbs 21:1**, it says...

*The **king's heart is in the hand of the Lord,**
Like the rivers of water;
He turns it wherever He wishes.*

In the Bible there were numerous kings who walked in a place of God-given authority. Some were believers, some were unbelievers, some were believers acting _____. But each one of them were appointed by God with designated authority. God calls us to honor and submit to His authority that rests on _____ position of authority. It's how God created things to work. Think about the way a family works and the way God gave parents designated authority over their kids to teach, train, and love them. Think about the way a business works and the way God gives a manager designated authority over his employees, to teach, train, _____, or correct. Think about the way a government works, etc. God has wired us to be under and in authority in life. It's the way the Kingdom works, and God is Kingdom minded.

I used to have a real problem honoring authority. I had been hurt by authority growing up, was very _____, and had a hard time trusting people in authority. As God began to teach me about being under and in authority, it was _____ to understand that God appoints the authorities in my life and

He was the one I needed to trust. Remember, the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord and He directs it. Many times God uses authority in our lives to build _____ . Other times God uses authority in our lives to promote us. God works through authority!

So... to answer a few questions:

Does God's authority rests on an unbeliever in authority over my life? _____ it does, whether someone in authority over you is a believer or not, no authority exists that God hasn't established.

Does that mean that since God's authority rests on someone, that they will make godly decisions? _____ it doesn't. God has given people a free will.

What if someone in authority asks me to sin and do something dishonest or ungodly? Here's the key. Always stay in a spirit of _____ and humility, recognizing God's authority that rests on the person – and keep God's Word your _____ for righteous living. If someone in authority asks you to sin or do something dishonest, in humility and honor you can let that person know that you honor him or her, but can't compromise your conviction. Does that make sense? It all comes down to is: walking in a _____ spirit or a spirit of honor.

David in the Bible had such a revelation of authority. He was anointed to be king and _____ for greatness, but his process to fulfilling his destiny brought some serious character building under authority. Remembering that the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord will really help when you deal with _____ authority – often it's a test of your heart and response to leadership. David was brought to a testing place of honoring authority, and he's such an example for us. After David was anointed to be Israel's future king, King Saul became jealous of the favor and anointing that rested on David's life. Before you knew it, King Saul was pursuing David to have him _____ . David ran for his life, being pursued by God's established authority! 1 Samuel 24 highlights David's heart and the revelation he had about honoring God's authority. For context, King Saul has been pursuing David to kill him and was sleeping in a cave. David had received word of where Saul was. His friends were cheering him on, encouraging him to take King Saul's life. It was his opportunity to kill his enemy, the authority who _____ him. Read below...

1 Samuel 24:4-7

The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

*Afterward, **David was conscience-stricken** for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "**The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.**" With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

David recognize God's authority that rested on King Saul, and in the midst of King Saul's mistake he still honored his authority. God tested David's heart with Saul more than once, and David passed the test, keeping his heart under authority – the character being built to be the king of Israel!

Does this mean that what King Saul did was okay? No. Does this mean that we should tolerate abuse and mistreatment? No. Does this mean that we shouldn't leave a

_____ where there's abuse of authority? No. Does this mean that we should honor God's authority that rests on that person in authority, regardless?

Being under and in God's authority is simply a heart _____ of walking in a spirit of honor rather than rebellion – humility rather than pride – forgiveness rather than bitterness, trusting God's hand that rests on all authority. Sometimes it'll be to build character, and other times it's for promotion!

Here's another important nugget: in order to be in authority, you need to be _____ authority. It's similar to the way the military works: you walk in authority and grow in authority by coming under authority and showing yourself _____. As you model responsibility and faithfulness in the military, you get _____ to greater realms of authority. It's the same way in the Kingdom, it's important that you come under authority to have authority. James expounds on this truth...

James 4:7

Therefore **submit yourselves to God**, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

I think we've made it pretty clear that all authority that exists has been established by God and is considered God's authority. So when James says to submit yourselves to God, it means coming under His established authority in your life. As you are under and in God's established authority, you are given authority over the _____.

As God was teaching me this, I had a dream. In the dream I had an authority problem. I worked in a building that was _____ by someone in authority that was not living a godly lifestyle. Because of my disagreement with his beliefs, I completely dishonored him and disobeyed the guidelines that he gave me as an employee. Next, the dream shifted scenes. I was at an outdoor market walking around, and suddenly a _____ jumped on me and began to harass me. As a Spirit filled believer I immediately began to take authority over the enemy, commanding him to leave. I was using the name Jesus. I was raising my voice. The enemy _____ to harass me! Then I woke up.

God immediately spoke to me about the importance of being under His established authority, even when you _____ with someone's belief system or morals. Because I dishonored God's established authority over my life, I lost my authority over the enemy. In order to be in authority, you need to be under authority. As I began to understand this, I began to see _____ in my life as I walked it out. I began to see freedom from long-term issues and struggles I dealt with. I came into alignment with authority. You can think of it like being under an _____ when it's raining – your protected under God's authority.

Being under authority is an attitude and a status of the heart, recognizing God's hand resting on all authority. It's time to honor our _____. It's time to honor the police. It's time to honor your manager. It's time to honor your pastor. It's time to walk in God's designated authority in your life.

As God began to establish me in this revelation, He challenged me saying "Kawika, I want you to honor authority the way you want to be honored when I promote you into a place of authority." I knew that as I honored authority, I was _____ into the calling on my life. The same goes for you, it's time to honor authority the way you desire to be honored when God promotes you.

SOME LAST KEYS TO HONORING AND COMING UNDER AUTHORITY:

- Forgive those in authority who have hurt you in the past.
- Repent and change your mind of any rebellion. Choose to have a submissive heart that honors God's authority.
- Understand and own who you are as a son or daughter of God. This brings the security in your heavenly Father's love, acceptance, and affirmation, enabling you to honor authority with no strings attached. When your needs are met by your heavenly Father, you can give and serve out of a place of wholeness and being loved.
- Recognize God's authority that rests on those in authority in your life, and honor them as you honor God.
- Trust God's hand working through authority, whether it's to build character or to promote you.
- Step into your own realm of delegated authority, recognizing the responsibility to represent God in all you do.

It's freeing when you understand how God's authority works. You can trust Him in _____ with authority, honoring Him, and keeping your destiny in His hands. There's _____ under His covering of authority, and freedom. I encourage you to make it a point to live a lifestyle under and in God established authority.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, I believe your word. I ask you to continue to show me how to walk under and in your established authority. Teach me to honor the people in authority You've placed in my life. Establish me under and in your authority. Teach me to walk in and own my designated and delegated place of authority. I choose to honor your authority in my life. In Jesus name, amen.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people in authority who have hurt you, it's time to forgive.

Choose to forgive each person the Holy Spirit brings to mind and welcome Him to bring healing to your heart – replacing lies with truth.

What are some areas you can grow in when it comes to honoring God's authority in your life?

What are the areas God has entrusted His authority to you in?