



ROLES OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY



Key Scripture: "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes..." (Matthew 8:5–13)

Understanding and submitting to God's established authority is the foundation for exercising genuine spiritual authority. Many believers desire to operate in power, authority, and spiritual gifts, yet overlook one of God's fundamental principles—**submission to authority**. The Roman centurion in the bible understood something many people ignore: authority flows through those who recognize, acknowledge and submit to a higher authority. Jesus commended his understanding and called it great faith.

Spiritual authority is not determined by titles, popularity, position, or influence. It is demonstrated by obedience to God's order and willingness to submit to God's delegated authority over us.

1. Spiritual Authority begins with Submission

The Roman centurion told Jesus, "I also am a man under authority." Before he spoke about commanding others, he first acknowledged that he himself served under higher authority (Matthew 8 v 5-13). He understood that authority must be given before it could be exercised. Scripture teaches that genuine authority begins with humble submission to God. "The measure of spiritual authority you carry is directly connected to the measure of your submission to God's authority"

2. Obedience Is Greater Than Position

A title does not automatically produce spiritual authority. To be under a spiritual authority is choosing to obey instructions given by the spiritual leadership placed over us by God. To continually choose own ways is contrary to the principle of spiritual authority which is submission. God values obedience more than outward appearance or religious activity, true spiritual maturity is revealed by a heart that is teachable, humble, and obedient to spiritual authority over us. 1 Samuel 15 v22

3. Faith Recognizes God's Order

Jesus marvelled at the centurion's faith because he understood spiritual authority. The centurion recognized Jesus as one carrying a higher authority and believed that Christ only needed to



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speak for healing to occur. Faith is not merely believing God can act; it is trusting the authority of His Word. Halleluyah!

4. Humility and Spiritual Authority

David refused to harm King Saul even after God had rejected Saul as king. He respected the spiritual office God had established and waited for God's timing, instead of promoting himself. The bible says 1 Samuel 26:11 AMPC "The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed" David's display of humility towards King Saul despite his flaws shows how humility keeps us from rebellion. Humility keeps us from rebellion, pride, and self-promotion. God entrusts authority only to those who remain humble before Him.

5. Submission Opens the Door for Spiritual Growth

Spiritual progress requires surrender, consecration, and obedience rather than self-will. As believers submit to spiritual authority set by God, we position ourselves to grow in character, wisdom, and effectiveness for the Kingdom, God's blessings are experienced most fully when we walk according to His divine order.

Key Lessons to Remember

- Spiritual authority begins with submission to God.
- Obedience is more valuable than position or title.
- Humility invites God's grace.
- Faith recognizes and honours God's authority.
- God's order should always be respected.

Further reading: Romans 13:1–2, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Samuel 24:5–7, James 4:7, Luke 10:19

Personal Reflection

- Am I submitted to God's authority in every area of my life?
- Do I obey God's instructions even when they challenge my preferences?
- Is my life marked by humility and is teachable?
- Am I seeking God's authority or merely personal influence?
- Am I truly living under God's authority, or am I simply doing what seems right in my own eyes?

Personal Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for teaching me the importance of spiritual authority. Help me to submit to Your will and to walk in humility and obedience. Remove every trace of pride, rebellion, and self-will from my heart. Teach me to honour Your divine order and to trust Your leadership in every area of my life. May my life reflect the character of Christ, and may I exercise spiritual authority only as I remain submitted to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.