

# Spiritual WARFARE

## THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

### WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS WORLD?

- ▶ Original Design – Mankind was given authority & dominion (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:1-6)
- ▶ Rebel Rulers stepped in (Genesis 3; Ephesians 6:12)
- ▶ Christ won back what was lost (Hebrews 2:6-8; Matthew 28:18)

**PRINCIPLE:** In Christ all believers have both the \_\_\_\_\_  
& the \_\_\_\_\_ to resist the devil.

### A. DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN POWER & AUTHORITY

(Luke (9:1-2; 10:17-20)

- ① Authority ▶ the \_\_\_\_\_ to rule (exousia)
- ② Power ▶ the \_\_\_\_\_ to rule (dunamis)
- ③ Subjection ▶ to \_\_\_\_\_ (hupotasso)

### B. SOURCE OF AUTHORITY (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:17-23)

- ① The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Ephesians 1:17-20)
- ② \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's Authority (Ephesians 1:21-23)
  - ▶ Far above... ▶ In the present age and...

### C. \_\_\_\_\_ OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 1:19; 2:6-7)

### D. \_\_\_\_\_ OF AUTHORITY (Hebrews 8:1)

E. DIVINE \_\_\_\_\_ OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 3:9-11; 1 John 3:8b; Matthew 28:18-20)

F. \_\_\_\_\_ OF AUTHORITY (Ephesians 6:12; John 14:30)

### G. QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUTHORITY

- ① \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 19:13-16; James 4:7)
- ② \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 16:18)
- ③ \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 28:1; Joshua 1:7)
- ④ \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:5)
- ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_ Heart (Philippians 2:3-4)

H. THE ISSUE OF FEAR (2 Timothy 1:7; Matthew 10:28; 1 John 4:4; Revelation 21:8)

- ① Essential attributes of a fear object
  - ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ ▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- ② Key to Eliminating Fear:
  - ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ one of these two attributes

Great Spiritual Warfare Resources (Books) by Neil Anderson:

- Victory Over The Darkness • Bondage Breaker



### Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God that through Christ, He has given us power and authority not only to prevail in spiritual warfare, but to fulfill the Great Commission.

### My Story

What are the top 2 or 3 things that you fear? Why do you fear them?

### Digging Deep

1. Of the many things shared in Sunday's message, what really resonated with you?
2. **Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Psalms 8:3-6.** How do these verses speak to the authority that God has given to mankind? Do we still have this authority?
3. What is David asking God in Psalm 8:4? In what ways do people struggle with this question today? What is your Christian response to the question regarding our place as humans in God's universe?

### Digging Deeper

4. **Read Hebrews 2:6-8.** How does the gospel message impact mankind's worth? Why is this important to talk about when sharing the good news of Jesus with a nonbeliever?
5. **Read Matthew 28:18 and James 4:7.** How do these verses connect to one another? How does our devotion to Jesus connect to our ability to be victorious in spiritual warfare?

6. **Read Luke 9:1-2 and Luke 10:17-20.** How does Jesus define the authority and power given to His disciples? How should Christ-followers respond to having this type of authority?

7. **Read Ephesians 1:17-23.** Why is it futile to struggle with fallen angels with our own ability and power? Where do you need the incomparably great power of God (v.19) to be at work in your life right now?

### Taking It Home

8. Our spiritual authority is reliant upon our spiritual position in Christ. (Remember, believers are seated with Christ in heaven). When feeling powerless against the dark powers of this world, what things can you do to actually exercise your true authority in Christ? How can we encourage one another in this LifeGroup to believe and "lean into" the spiritual authority which has been given (delegated) us in Christ?
9. **Read 2 Timothy 1:7, Matthew 10:28, and 1 John 4:4.** How do these verses provide encouragement in our spiritual battles? Have each person in the group commit to memorizing one of these verses, and follow up next week and review them.

### Praying Together

Spend time in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you recognize your spiritual authority through our resurrected Savior. Encourage one another to practice "submitting to God and resisting the devil" ... with the promise that when we do so, Satan has to flee from us (James 4:7). Don't forget to pray for spiritual boldness!