

May 9/10

Authority- Eph. 4:1-16; Matt. 28:17-19

Every house needs authority. Children are not born knowing how to behave; they need to be educated. If we communicate our expectations we may get better results and not need to reprimand as often. Discipline needs to be consistent but love must always be included. We need to maintain that balance of truth and grace. As parents we need to keep the faith. A lot depends on our attitude and our acceptance of the authority in our lives. A police cadet in uniform may look the part of an officer, but without the gun and the badge he lacks the authority of one. Some of us are walking through this Christian life with no authority because we're not walking in relationship. Some of us look the part but we have not come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. There is havoc and turmoil in our lives because we lack the authority to defeat the enemy of our soul. God wants us to walk in relationship with him not in religion. God desires for us to be overcomers not overcome. Failure is an event not a person. We may falter and fail in situations and circumstances but we are not failures.

People can misuse their authority and that can rob us of relationships but we are called to hate the sin not the person. Especially when that person is a parent, we need to honour them in accordance with the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment. We may not be able to change the situations or circumstances we find ourselves in but we can change our attitude towards them. Remember, God has a plan and a purpose for your life and He will sustain you and bring you through until that plan and purpose is recognized. What is your attitude towards life, negative or positive? You may be looking for acceptance; know this- God accepts you. Choose to rise up. Keep the faith. If we are going to grow healthy families it's about faith. How strong is your faith? Your faith may be the only thing you have to pass on to your children and grandchildren. Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim.1:5. It may be the only thing, but it will be the best, most valuable thing you can give them. It will have eternal rewards. How strong is your faith through the storms and circumstances of your life? Regardless of what you are going through today your reality is you can choose to include God or exclude Him. One is faith and one is fear. Choose to include Him. It may not change your situation but it will change your attitude. To the best of your ability, and with God's help you will make it through. We want to know before we even start that things will work out; that's called a guarantee. "Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it even when you don't feel like it because God promises good results" (James MacDonald). Faith won't come accidentally or magically, Rom. 10:17. Get into the Word for yourself; get into the Word as a family. Pray for your kids to be in a place where they will hear it. God loves you and has only good in store for

you. He accepts you and doesn't want you to take the attitude that you are a mistake or a failure. Believe it, accept it and begin to walk in the authority He gives (Luke 10:19). We are not victims but victors, not overcome but overcomers. Successful men and women come in cans not can'ts. This is not a pep talk; it is the truth of God's word. You have authority when you are in relationship with authority. Do you know Jesus? If you are still breathing it's because He has sustained you because He has a plan for you. Say yes to Him and let Him pull you through. Keep the faith!