

Spiritual Authority – Handout

I. Introduction to Spiritual Authority

Romans 13:1–7 teaches that all authority comes from God. Resisting authority ultimately resists God. Hebrews 1:3 states that God upholds all things by the word of His power.

II. Origin of Satan & Rebellion

Isaiah 14:12–15 and Ezekiel 28:13–17 describe Satan's rebellion through self-exaltation and independence from God. Revelation 20:10 assures Satan's final judgment.

III. Warning About False Service

Matthew 7:21–23 warns that works done outside God's authority are rejected. 1 John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness, and Psalm 5:5 teaches that God resists the proud.

IV. Obedience to God

Paul's conversion in Acts 9 demonstrates submission to Christ. True obedience recognizes God's authority rather than merely responding to personalities.

V. Obedience vs Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15 shows Saul's disobedience despite his sacrifices. Rebellion is compared to divination. Jesus modeled perfect obedience in John 18:11, Hebrews 5:8, and Matthew 26:46.

VI. Two Principles

God's authority stands in contrast to Satan's rebellion. Disobedience, self-will, and independence are forms of rebellion.

VII. First Human Rebellion

Genesis 2–3 records Adam and Eve's rejection of God's order. Romans 5:19 teaches that Christ restores obedience.

VIII. Old Testament Example

Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before the Lord (Leviticus 10:1–7). Serving God outside His authority brings judgment.

IX. Moses and Authority

Numbers 12:1–3 and 1 Corinthians 4:3 show that Moses trusted God to defend and vindicate him.

X. Christ as Example

Philippians 2:5–11 and Hebrews 5:8 reveal Christ's humility and obedience, through which salvation comes.

XI. Brokenness & Authority

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 teaches that God's power is perfected in weakness. Spiritual authority grows through humility and dependence upon God.

XII. Practical Application

Believers should submit to authority in family, work, and church while remembering Acts 5:29—God must be obeyed above all.

Key Takeaway

You cannot be in authority unless you are under authority.