

It's a matter of authority

Ephesians 6

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for this is right.
"Honor your father and mother,"
which is the first commandment with promise:
*"that it may be well with you
and you may live long on the earth."*

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- **Children, respect the God-given authority of your parents and you will be blessed**

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but bring them up in the training
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- **Fathers, do not abuse the authority God has given you over your children**

Ephesians 6

"Bondservants, be obedient to those
who are your masters according to the flesh,
with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart,
as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers
but as bondservants of Christ,
doing the will of God from the heart,
with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord,
and not to men,
knowing that whatever good anyone does,
he will receive the same from the Lord,
whether *he* is a slave or free..."

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- **Ultimately, God is the authority over us**

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knowing that your own Master also is in heaven,
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- **Positions of earthly authority do not indicate positions of spiritual authority or power**

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"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord
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 - Obeying
 - Not abusing power
 - Submission under God's authority
 - Recognizing earthly power and spiritual power are two different things

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- **Directive** - put on whole armor
- **Objective** - not yield any ground to the devil's intentional plans for your destruction

Ephesians 6

"For we do not wrestle
against flesh and blood..."

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- **Our battles are not physical ones if we are surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ**
- **Our battles are spiritual in nature**

Ephesians 6

"For we do not wrestle
against flesh and blood..."

- Pain

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- Pain
 - Not surrendered leads to doubt, fear, depression

Ephesians 6

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- Pain
 - Not surrendered leads to doubt, fear, depression
 - Leads to bitterness

Ephesians 6

"For we do not wrestle
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- Pain
 - Not surrendered leads to doubt, fear, depression
 - Leads to bitterness
 - Leads to rebellion

Ephesians 6

"For we do not wrestle
against flesh and blood..."

- Anger
 - Not surrendered leads to doubt, fear, depression
 - Leads to bitterness
 - Leads to rebellion

Ephesians 6

"For we do not wrestle
against flesh and blood..."

- Disappointment
 - Not surrendered leads to doubt, fear, depression
 - Leads to bitterness
 - Leads to rebellion

Ephesians 6

"but against principalities,
against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness
in the heavenly *places*..."

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"but against principalities,
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against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness
in the heavenly *places*..."

- **These accomplish the "wiles of the devil"**
- They are real spiritual beings with real spiritual authority in real spiritual and physical places

Ephesians 6

When a follower of Jesus Christ is living his or her life submitted to the authority of Jesus Christ, then the enemy of Jesus Christ has no authority over His follower.

James 4:7

"Therefore submit to God.
Resist the devil
and he will flee from you."

Romans 8:38-39

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth,
nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us
from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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and having done all, to stand."

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and having done all, to stand."

- **When the enemy attacks,
the whole armor protects**
- **When the armor protects,
we are still standing when the battle is over**

Matthew 14

The problem the disciples have is the water.

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Satan has limited authority on earth.

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But Satan has no authority over Jesus.

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The problem the disciples have is the water.

Satan has limited authority on earth.

But Satan has no authority over Jesus.

And Jesus walks on the problem
to get to His disciples.

We must...

- Be positioned under the authority of Jesus

We must...

- Be positioned under the authority of Jesus
 - Obedient

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 - Obedient
 - Loving

We must...

- Be positioned under the authority of Jesus
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 - Aware of difference between earthly and spiritual power

We must...

- Be positioned under the authority of Jesus
 - Obedient
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 - Submissive
 - Aware of difference between earthly and spiritual power
- This positions the authority of Satan in our lives and our circumstances to be destroyed

We must...

- Start looking at situations and asking Jesus to take the authority over them

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- State confidently that the enemy no longer has authority over the situation once we accept in faith that Jesus is in control of it

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- Start looking at situations and asking Jesus to take the authority over them
- State confidently that the enemy no longer has authority over the situation once we accept in faith that Jesus is in control of it
- Recognize that the battle is a spiritual one - and that the armor of God, worn by an obedient follower of Jesus Christ means that the outcome is already determined
...and Jesus wins!

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So, let's live our lives this week in such a way that the authority of the enemy is broken and the authority of Jesus can protect and bless us.