

# Living Free, Living Fully

(Authority – Church on assignment)

**God wants us to live in Freedom...  
...so that we can live out His purpose on the earth.  
Intentionally become all that God made you to be.**

## Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

## John 10:10 (NIV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

- Keep on using the 5Rs to help you in relationship with God (see Page 2)...  
but don't focus on a formula!  
However, the tool of the 5Rs is for Life! Not just for a course.
- Imagine what it looks like for you to live in God's freedom, let it produce a Godly passion within you so that you diligently deal with everything that stops you being all that God made you to be!
- Engage with God.  
Co-operate with him.
- Be relentless in your pursuit of being the person God made you to be!  
It's for His glory & praise, for your sake, for all those you know & love and for all those who will meet you in the future.
- Get into honest accountability relationships.

## Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)

...and do not give the devil a foothold.

Recognise



Repent



Receive forgiveness



Rebuke & renounce



Replace & realign

- a characteristic behaviour/thought pattern
- a lie
- a name for a stronghold or spirit
- an access point (how it got there)

- Confess: name the sin & your behaviours (accepting a lie, agreeing with it, sin reaction)
- Honest repentance
- Take sin to the cross

- Jesus' response to honest confession is forgiveness, love and grace

- Make a decision to reject this way of thinking
- Cut off oppressing spirits, send them to the feet of Jesus
- In authority and with confidence!

- Declare the opposite if appropriate
- Find biblical truth to realign your thinking
- Pray your original design into being
- Agree to walk that way

## **Q: What is the church's assignment?**

**A: We are to carry on the work of Jesus.**

We are his church, His body on the earth.

### John 14:12-14 (NLT)

I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

### **The Great Commission**

#### Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **The Great Commandment**

#### Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

### **Examples of Jesus**

#### Luke 19:10 (NIV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

#### 1 John 3:8 (NLT)

But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

### **Jesus came to destroy the power of:**

Sin ♦ Death ♦ Sickness ♦ Materialism ♦ Poverty ♦ Fear...etc.

He wants us to carry on the good work!

#### Romans 12:21 (NLT)

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

#### Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

... be filled with the Spirit

## **Come on Church!**

### Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

## **God wants us to live in His authority and continue His work.**

We have a mission from God! THE CHURCH ON ASSIGNMENT is not just surviving evil.... but being victorious over evil.

### In the beginning God created Adam to rule on the earth

- If we are going to truly understand God, the Christian life, salvation, the Church’s mission, etc. we must increasingly reference the beginning of creation as depicted in the first chapters of Genesis.
- When we look at creation we see that God’s design for humankind was to operate as God’s stewards over this earth.
- Human beings were to operate as God’s authority on earth.
- God’s original design for mankind was to rule. (Genesis 1:26-28)

But....

### Ephesians 2:2 (NLT)

You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

In Christ...

### Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

# 1. Living in Authority

## a) Christ's authority

### Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world, but also in the world to come.

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

- Jesus is not seated in heaven in a far corner of the Universe. He is present to us in the invisible realm.
- Jesus is the ultimate authority over all spirit beings.
- No one has greater authority than Jesus.

## b) The Believer's Position of Authority

- Salvation for the believer is more than merely an entrance into the presence of God for eternity.
- The believer is to continue the ministry that Jesus began and modelled for the Church in the Gospels. This requires God's authority and power.
- Our position is in Christ due to His salvation.

### Ephesians 2:1 & 4-6 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...

### Colossians 2:9-10 (NIV)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

### 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

### c) God's authority seen in Jesus Christ

- Jesus' authority is delegated to him by God the Father at whose command He does His work  
(Christ applauded the centurion for seeing this - Matthew 8:9)
- God's authority in Jesus was manifested during his ministry in various ways:
  - His teaching....  
Mark 1:27 (NIV)  
The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."
  - His exorcizing power...  
from Matthew 8:32:  
Jesus said to the demons "Go!"....and they went!
- Jesus' authority over Satan:  
Matthew 4:10 (ESV)  
Then Jesus said to him: Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."
- Jesus' authority over creation  
(storms/water to wine/feeding 5000....)
- Jesus' authority over sickness (Peter's mother-in-law):  
Luke 4:39 (NLT)  
Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

### d) Our Authority

If we are going to move in the power and authority of Jesus Christ we need to understand authority.

AUTHORITY (dictionary definition):

The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.  
The right to exercise power

In the world we live in authority is disrespected.

e.g. Government (national & local), police, teachers.

Sometimes it may be with good cause, because abuse is at work. But the answer to abuse is not no use but proper use!

People know their rights but do not always embrace their responsibilities and submit to the authority that is over them.

The only true authority someone has over you is the authority you choose to give them.

Someone can try and impose their authority on you. If you are rebelling against them, you might give external compliance but you are not truly submitting to their authority.

You will be rebellious and resentful in your heart.

Spiritual authority comes from God.

- It begins with Him.
- It's located within Him.
- He is the ultimate authority.

Yet He desires to express His authority through His people. Therefore, we need to willingly submit to God's authority.

At the heart of submitting to God's authority is trust rather than understanding. Adam and Eve did not need to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They did not need to **know**.... they simply needed to **trust** God.

True Freedom is not doing whatever you like.

- True Freedom is being constrained to be the person God made you to be and do the things God made you to do.
- True Freedom is trusting in God, living in cooperation with and obedience to Him.
- True Freedom is being able to embrace who God created you to be.

We will find our True Freedom in being submitted to God and living under His authority.

"Yes Lord!" Not "No Lord"!

## 2. Living under God's Authority

Hupotasso (a Greek word meaning: SUBMIT)

Also a military term: To bring in line, to bring under, to submit, to obey, to arrange in order.

Or another way of saying it:

Being the right person, in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, in the right way, with the right attitude, out of respect for Jesus!

Coming under God's authority.

Our authority in Christ requires that we live under God's authority. Only in surrender and submission to king Jesus will we have authority.

James 4:7 (NIV)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

### **a) Only when Jesus is Lord of our life will we have authority.**

If Jesus is not Lord, then we will have no authority.

Because our Authority comes from His Lordship.

Us being under His command.

Matthew 8:5-13 (NIV)

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralysed, suffering terribly."

Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith....." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

## **b) Our Authority needs to come from a place of Revelation,**

What is God doing, saying...?

John 5:19 (NIV)

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

We need to see from Heaven, we need to hear from the voice of the commander in chief.

- **Jesus demonstrated perfect submission**

John 5:30 (NIV)

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

- **Jesus demonstrated complete dependence upon His Father.**

John 7:16 (NIV)

Jesus answered: My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

- **Jesus constantly demonstrated restraint.**

John 8:25-28 (NIV)

'Who are you?' they asked.

Just what I have been claiming all along,' Jesus replied.

'I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.'

They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.'

John 12:49-50 (NIV)

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

**c) Our authority in Christ requires that we live in the Father's love.**

Only in the security and safety of God's Love will we know our true self, value and worth. A precious child of the King. We can then operate in our Father's authority.

Jesus aligned himself constantly with God the Father. He lived under His authority and Love.

John 13:3-5 (NLT)

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin.

Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

Authority to serve in Love...

God is Love! (1John 4:8)

**d) Our authority in Christ requires that we live in unity.**

In the trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit... there is perfect unity.

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Mark 3:25 (NIV)

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mark 3:25 (NLT)

A family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

**The purpose of Authority is to:**

Love ♦ protect ♦ serve ♦ build up ♦ empower ♦ equip ♦ release ♦ lead ♦ influence ♦ bring healing ♦ bring supernatural anointing.

This is what God's authority over us does - and He wants us to be the same.

### 3. Continuing Jesus' work

#### a) The Mandate of the Church

Matthew 16:18-19 (NIV)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- Jesus is building a supernatural church that will overcome supernatural forces of evil.
- The Gates of Hades
  - Gates are defensive weapons
  - Gates are symbols of authority
- 'The Gates will not overcome or prevail' means: they will not withstand the assault of the Church.

#### b) We have been given the Keys

Matthew 16:19 (NIV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

The keys are a symbol of authority and commentators root this statement in Isaiah 22:22:

I will place on his shoulder the key to house of David. What he opens no one can shut and what he shuts no one can open.

This principle of authority is also expressed in the following verses:

Luke 9:1 (NIV)

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases

Luke 10:19 (NIV)

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

### c) Binding and Loosing

There are two kinds of binding.

The helpful kind...

Isaiah 61:1(NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners and the kind which  
imprisons and chains

Proverbs 3:3 (NIV)

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.

**Bind:** to join together.

Bind myself to God:

His love for me  
Jesus' blood,  
The work of the cross,  
His truth,  
The Holy Spirit's leading.

My will, my thoughts, my life, I bind to God's will.  
To come under His authority

The binding which imprisons and chains...

**Bind:** to forbid, to prevent, to restrict, to shackle, to tie, to render powerless, to inhibit, legally or contractually binding.

**Loose:** to smash, to destroy, to release, to empower, to set free, to enable.

- **Binding and loosing covers a wide range of meanings** but they all express the use of authority to establish God's will. e.g. Preaching the gospel, church discipline (what is allowed, what is not allowed), granting forgiveness, healing, explaining truth.
- **Binding and loosing also includes using supernatural authority** in prayer over demonic forces and releasing people into the will of God.
- **A picture of binding and loosing:**

John 11:43-44 (NIV)

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- **A literal example of binding and loosing:**

Luke 13:10-16 (NIV)

... a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God..... 'Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?'

- The woman was bound by Satan.
- Jesus looses the woman from Satan's hold and she is healed and set free.  
(Note the word 'should' in verse 16 – it is a Greek word that means 'it is imperative that this thing is done/must').

**In Matthew 12:29 the Lord said 'first bind the strongman and then spoil his goods.'**

**How can you bind the strongman if you will not recognise his existence and face the fact that he is the hidden cause of evil?**

**The church must learn this binding power of prayer, for it is written: 'whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven' and what can this binding mean except: restrain the work of the enemy by appealing to the conquering power of him who was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil?**

**'Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.'**

**The key to supernatural authority is to be in line with God's will and God's purpose so that you prohibit what God wants prohibiting and you release what God wants releasing.**

(taken from an article in: How to pray for Missionaries - Jesse Penn-Lewis)  
(emphasis, ours)

#### **d) We are called to aggressive spiritual warfare**

**God wants us to overcome, to overpower, to win.**

We need to develop a warfare mindset We are made to fight the enemy. To say about a situation "this is not God's will!"

We will take back what the devil has stolen.  
We need to know what is ours.

We need to repent from agreeing that bad stuff is God's will. Sickness is not from God. We are in a battle. We need to fight the good fight of faith.

We have all experienced defeat and disappointments in our life, and we have probably not been very good at handling them very well. We have prayed and we did not get the miracle or breakthrough we wanted. So we may have given up and lost hope and heart. We need to recognise the hurt, pain and grief - not bury it or deny it but grieve well. Give ourselves permission to acknowledge it and pour it out. Then rise back up in faith and go for another round.

Don't let disappointment or toxic sorrow stop you from fighting.  
**That is exactly what the evil one wants...**

### Matthew 12:29 (ESV)

Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

### Luke 11:21-22 (ESV)

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his spoil.

The word 'overcome' can be used instead of 'bind' which gives us another insight into the principle of taking authority over the enemy.

The Christian life is not a passive stance against evil spirits but an active and aggressive one in which we are on the offensive:

"This is not good; this is not right – so let's pray!"

### Principles from Luke 11:21-22

Having just delivered a man from a demon and explained it as 'driving out demons by the finger of God', he then illustrates what's taking place:

- The strongman is a picture of Satan, evil spirit.
- The evil spirit has weapons that enable him to guard and protect what he regards as his own house and possessions (this implies a legal ownership).
- Jesus, being stronger than demonic spirits, can attack and overpower spirits:

1John 4:4:

He who is in us is greater than he that is in the world.

Now the spoils can be divided up. This is the fruit of release from powers of darkness enabling people to walk into freedom.

### Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

Therefore, put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

### 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT)

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

## **e) We are to enforce the Victory of Jesus**

- In spiritual warfare it is essential to understand that **we do not have to win victories**; rather we extend and enforce the victory Christ won on the cross and through the resurrection.

- **We do not have to produce the victory.**

This removes the pressure to work up enough faith, energy, passion...etc.

With simplicity of faith and obedience, we declare God's victory into a situation, expressed in our words and actions.

The powers of darkness **know** that they are defeated at the cross; however, they try to bluff us into believing we cannot deal with them.

Ignoring all distractions, lies and fears, we listen to God, pray what he reveals to us, and thereby establish the victory in the heavenly realms - so that transformation can take place in the natural realm.

- **Satan will try to obscure what happened on the cross – don't accept this.**

- **Don't agree with fear, lies or intimidation.**

Don't wait until you feel better and don't allow natural circumstances to define your mood. Remind yourself of who you are in Christ.

Live free, live fully! In God's Authority, be about His assignment!

## Questions to consider:

1. Have you ever used the 5Rs outside of a freedom prayer appointment?  
If so, did you find it useful? Do you think it's a good way of dealing with a stronghold/spiritual oppression?
2. Ephesians 1:19-23 contains this statement about Jesus:  
Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. (NLT)  
  
What things/situations in your life might look different if they were under the authority of Christ....??!
3. Using Genesis chapter 2, pick out some things that indicate God's original design & intention for mankind.  
How does this compare with your own life?
4. In what ways do you believe God uses you as a co-worker (1 Cor 3:9)?
5. How much did Jesus do without consulting the Father?  
Why did he need to consult his Father?  
How much do you follow his example in this? e.g in what you should say or do?
6. Does it encourage and inspire you when you hear other people's testimony of God working through them? Ask God to do something similar for others and for you again...