

## Principles of Prayer

### Lesson 4 “The Authority of the Believer”

I. Introduction - Introduction - We are in a series call “Principles of Prayer” because we are in the middle of 21 days of prayer and fasting.

#### A. Review

1. Jesus said my house will be called a house of prayer - **Mark 11:17**. Throughout the series I’m teaching about different aspects about prayer we need to understand to have a successful prayer life.
2. So far we’ve talked about the main purpose of prayer which is to fellowship or commune with God. Our high call as Christians is to be friends of the Lord. He wants to share His heart with us. That’s how we even know what to pray.
3. We’ve also spent a couple of sessions talking about fasting. When we fast we deny our flesh so we get more sensitive to the Holy Spirit who is in us. It helps learned to not be controlled by our senses, but by the Holy Spirit. Last week, I talked about fasting can help us identify the lies of the devil and help us establish in truth.

B. Tonight I want to talk with you about the authority of the believer. Many people pray passive prayers or don’t pray because they assume God controls everything. This is a massive misconception and hinders our ability to receive from God.

#### II. The Authority of the Believer

A. **Psalm 115:16** The heavens are the Lord’s but the earth He has given to the children of men.

1. This explains why Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. **Genesis 1:26-28**. God have Adam and Eve dominion in the garden so He would have had to violate his word to stop them from eating the piece of fruit when they were tempted by Satan. They were supposed to use their spiritual authority to subdue the earth by casting the devil out of the snake.
2. This is also why God had to send Jesus. Since God gave authority in the earth to humanity, He couldn’t redeem everyone without sending a savior. **John 5:26-27**. Why did Jesus have authority in the earth? Because He was the Son of Man, not because He was the Son of God. Why? God gave authority in the earth to humanity. A man gave away our authority so it took a man to get it back.

B. This leads to a question. Doesn’t **Psalm 24:1** say *the earth is Lord’s and all of the fulness thereof*? Doesn’t this really mean the earth belongs to God and not man?

1. Here's the answer. The earth and all of its fulness does belong to God, however, He has given humans the responsibility to steward the earth. As stewards it is our responsibility to take care of the earth and everything in it. God has given us His word and Holy Spirit to tell us how to do this.
2. This is similar to our lease agreement with Church of God. We own the church, but they steward it on Saturday afternoons. We have stated in their lease what they can do and what they can't do, but technically, I can't stop them from doing anything on Saturday afternoons. They could turn the inside of the sanctuary into a movie theatre and sell popcorn, peanuts, and soft drinks, and I can't stop them because they have free will to do what they want to do.
3. God gave us free will as believers and He'll let us do what we want to do and He'll also let us neglect responsibilities He assigned to us.
4. There is a day God will call the lease when He returns to the earth, but until that time He's given us free will and wants us to rule and reign in life through Him. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, **Matthew 6:10** - *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

C. Practical Application - Find a scripture that declares the will of God and act on it. This often means declaring truth, but sometimes can mean taking specific steps like to lay hands on the sick, give offerings to receive, making a choice to control our thoughts when the devil speaks lies to us, etc.

1. Example of how I pray for folks to receive healing. I declare the power of God to flow. It's His power, but it's at my authority. It's just like turning the light switch to make the electricity come on. I don't call Duke Power.

### III. Conclusion - Pray Closing Prayer

1. Divide Up in Groups
2. At the end we'll receive the offering - **Luke 6:38**.