

## The Dominion Mandate: Eyes Opened, Power Released

Dr. John Carmichael

[Gen 1:26-28 NASB95] 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

[Eph 1:15-22 NASB95] 15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which [exists] among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention [of you] in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. [These are] in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly [places,] 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

[Eph 2:5-6 NASB95] 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,

- Church fathers like Irenaeus, Origen, and Athanasius held robustly to what we now call *Christus Victor*. That the incarnation and cross were God's strategy to reclaim humanity from demonic captivity. Early Pentecostals through practice: exorcism, healing, and deliverance confirmed to them what the early church had taught theologically.
- Paul is not praying for more power to be given to believers. He is praying for revelation of the power already available.
- The tragedy in the church is not lack of power. It is lack of perception.
- The same power that raised Christ from the dead... The same power that dethroned principalities... The same power that seated Jesus above all... ..is already working toward us who believe.
- But if our eyes are not opened, we will live beneath what Christ died to give.

**Why do so many believers live powerless lives when the exceeding greatness of God's power is already available to them?**

**Here are four keys to walking in the exceeding greatness of His power.**

### **I. YOU MUST RECEIVE A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION**

- a. [Eph 1:17-18 NASB95] 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- b. Power is accessed through revelation, not just information. You can know Scripture mentally and still live defeated, but when revelation hits your spirit, everything changes.

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- c. [Mat 16:17 NASB95] 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
- d. *Christus Victor* Connection: The early church didn't just believe Jesus died, they believed He defeated Satan.
- e. They lived with a consciousness of: Christ enthroned, Satan disarmed ([Col 2:15 NASB95] 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.), The Church seated with Him.
- f. Pray daily: "Lord, give me revelation, not just knowledge." Meditate on who you are in Christ (Ephesians 1–2) Refuse to live by feelings. Live by revealed truth.

### II. YOU MUST KEEP YOUR EYES OF UNDERSTANDING ENLIGHTENED THROUGH THE WORD

- a. [Eph 1:18 NASB95] 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- b. Revelation must be maintained through intentional focus on the Word. If you don't attend to the Word, you will drift from truth.
- c. Mark 4:24 (AMPC) – And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.
- d. [Pro 4:20-22 NASB95] 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.
- e. The opposite is true, too. [Heb 2:1 NASB95] 1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away [from it.]
- f. The Word doesn't fail, but it can slip from us if neglected.
- g. *Christus Victor* Connection: The early church saturated themselves in: The teachings of the apostles ([Act 2:42 NASB95] 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.), The finished work of Christ, The victory of the resurrection
- h. Because of this: They confronted demons boldly ([Act 16:18 NASB95] 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.), They walked in authority naturally
- i. Application: Give focused, daily attention to the Word, not casual reading; Meditate until truth becomes reality; Guard against spiritual drift (distraction, busyness, neglect).
- j. If the Word is not central, power will not be experiential.

### III. YOU MUST PRAY IN THE SPIRIT TO ACTIVATE REVELATION AND POWER

- a. Ephesians 1:16-18 [Eph 1:16-18 NASB95] 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention [of you] in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (spirit of revelation)
  - i. connected with Ephesians 6:18 [Eph 6:18 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- b. Praying in the Spirit releases mysteries that build spiritual understanding and power.

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- c. [1Co 14:2 NASB95] 2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in [his] spirit he speaks mysteries.
- d. [Jde 1:20 NASB95] 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- e. When you pray in tongues: You bypass your natural mind, You pray God's perfect will, You activate spiritual edification and revelation
- f. *Christus Victor* Connection: The early church was a Spirit-filled church: They prayed in the Spirit; They operated in supernatural authority; Demons responded to them because they lived in Christ-conscious victory
- g. Application: Develop a daily habit of praying in tongues; Pray in the Spirit before studying the Word; Use Spirit-led prayer to stir your awareness of your authority
- h. Revelation is conceived in the Word, but it is ignited in the Spirit.

### IV. YOU MUST LIVE FROM YOUR SEATED POSITION IN CHRIST

- a. [Eph 2:5-6 NASB95] 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,
- b. Authority is not something you chase, It is a position you occupy.
- c. You are not trying to get victory. You are enforcing a victory already won.
- d. [Eph 1:20-22 NASB95] 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly [places,] 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
- e. [Col 2:15 NASB95] 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- f. *Christus Victor* Emphasis: Christ: Defeated Satan; Stripped principalities; Publicly triumphed over them
- g. And then... Seated YOU with Him.
- h. Application: Stop praying from defeat; pray from victory; Speak with authority over oppression and darkness; Remind yourself daily: "I am seated with Christ"
- i. You don't fight for victory. You fight from victory.

- **You cannot walk in the power of God until your spiritual eyes are opened to what Christ has already accomplished and where you are seated in Him.**
- The power of God is not distant; it is directed toward you.
- But that power is accessed through revelation, the Word, the Spirit, and your position in Christ.