

The Dominion Mandate: Keys of Dominion: Walking in Authority with Responsibility

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."

- This has not just been a sermon series; it has been a commissioning.
- On Wednesday night, during the Now Word Regional Prophetic Conference, Apostle Chuck Pierce placed a physical key into our hands. That was not symbolic alone, it was prophetic.
- It was a declaration: God is entrusting North Church with authority to unlock Indiana and this region.
- But here is what we must understand: Whenever God gives keys, He is not just giving access. He is giving responsibility.
- Jesus said in Matthew 16:19, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."
- Keys represent: authority, access, responsibility
- So, the question is not: Do we have keys? The question is: Do we know how to use them correctly?

Why is it so important that we understand how to walk in the authority God has given us?

Because many believers have authority but are not walking in it correctly. Here are four keys to walking in dominion with responsibility.

I. Authority Was Lost in Adam but Restored in Christ

- a. [Gen 3:6 NASB95] 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
- b. [Rom 5:17 NASB95] 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- c. [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.
- d. Adam didn't just sin; he surrendered dominion. But Jesus, the Second Adam, didn't just forgive sin; He restored authority.
- e. Christus Victor: Jesus stripped Satan of authority and publicly triumphed over him.
- f. The cross didn't just save you; it reinstated you.
- g. Application: Stop praying from defeat. Start praying from victory. See yourself seated with Christ (Ephesians 2:6). Reject a powerless Christian mindset

II. Authority Must Be Received Through Revelation

- a. [Eph 1:17-19 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, 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

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- b. [Mar 4:24 AMPC] And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [a][of thought and study] you give [to [b]the truth you hear] will be the measure [c][of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.
- c. [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.]
- d. You don't walk in what you don't see. Paul didn't pray for more power. He prayed for revelation of the power already given.
- e. Authority is not activated by emotion. Authority is activated by revelation.
- f. Application: Stay consistently in the Word. Guard against spiritual drift. Build your inner image of who you are in Christ.

III. Authority Is Strengthened Through Praying in the Spirit

- a. [1Co 14:2, 4 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. ... 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.
- b. [Jde 1:20 NASB95] 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- c. When you pray in the Spirit, you are praying divine mysteries and building spiritual strength. You are aligning yourself with heaven's perspective.
- d. Praying in the Spirit doesn't just change things, it changes you into someone who can handle authority.
- e. Application: Develop a daily habit of praying in tongues. Use it before making decisions. Use it when you feel spiritually weak or unclear

IV. Authority Is Exercised Through Kingdom Keys

- a. [Mat 16:19 NASB95] 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
- b. [Mat 18:18 NASB95] 18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
- c. Keys represent the authority to bind and loose to enforce heaven's will on earth.
- d. You are not waiting on God to act. God is waiting on you to use the keys.
- e. Heaven has already decided; keys are how earth enforces it.
- f. Application: Speak the Word with authority. Bind demonic activity in your life and region. Loose God's will: healing, freedom, salvation.

V. Authority Must Be Used Responsibly

- a. [Luk 22:25-26 NASB95] 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' 26 "But [it is] not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.
- b. [2Co 10:8 NASB95] 8 For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,
- c. [1Pe 5:2-3 NASB95] 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to [the will of] God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- d. Authority in the Kingdom is not for control. It is for service.
- e. It is for Him, not us. It is for people, not over people.
- f. Jesus redefined authority:
 - i. Not domination, but servanthood

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- ii. Not control, but empowerment
 - iii. Not pride, but stewardship
 - g. If your authority lifts you above people, you're misusing it. If it lifts people, you're using it right.
 - h. Application: Check your motives: Is this about God's glory or personal gain? Use your authority to serve, heal, and restore. Walk in humility while carrying power.
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- **God has restored our authority through Christ, not for self-exaltation, but to advance His kingdom by serving people, enforcing His victory, and walking in spiritual maturity.**
 - God has restored your authority, revealed your authority, strengthened your authority.
 - Given you keys to exercise authority, He is entrusting you to use it responsibly.
 - That physical key we received is a prophetic reminder: we are called to unlock this region.
 - Not with hype. Not with control. Not with flesh.
 - But with the Word, the Spirit, the authority of Jesus Christ.