STONE CHURCH

POD STUDY GUIDE

SPEAK 2.0

STONE CHURCH

WEEK TWO
COMING INTO ALIGNMENT

With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips.
Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

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Introduction

When Heaven and Earth Come Into Agreement

Matthew 6:9-10

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Hebrews 11:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave them an extraordinary request to bring before the Father:

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

This prayer reveals something essential about our relationship with God. Prayer is not merely an opportunity to tell God what we need. It is an invitation to participate in His purposes by bringing our lives and circumstances into agreement with His will.

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Throughout Scripture, God's Word is presented as the expression of His authority. Hebrews 1:3 describes Jesus as **"upholding all things by the word of His power."**

Everything that exists was created through Him and continues to be sustained by Him.

Yet God has chosen to involve His people in His work. He calls us to proclaim His Word, pray for His intervention, and represent His kingdom in the earth.

Consider an ambassador representing his nation in a foreign country. The ambassador's words carry authority, not because of his personal importance, but because of the government he represents. His responsibility is to communicate the will of the one who sent him.

The same principle helps us understand spiritual authority.

We do not create God's power through our words. We exercise faith by agreeing with the One who possesses all authority. To understand how this works, we must first understand who we are in Christ.

AT YOUR CHURCH

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Jesus taught us to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth. How does this change our understanding of prayer from simply asking for things to participating in God's purposes?

2. What is the difference between trying to convince God to agree with our desires and bringing our desires into agreement with His Word?

1

Our Identitity is Key to Our Authority

Hebrews 2:5–10

'For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And have appointed him over the works of Your hands; You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. '

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

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From the beginning, God created humanity for a remarkable relationship with Himself. Genesis 1:26–28 reveals that human beings were made in His image and entrusted with responsibility over creation.

Psalm 8 describes humanity as crowned with glory and honor, with the works of God's hands placed under human stewardship. We were created not merely to inhabit the earth but to represent God's character and exercise responsibility under His authority.

However, sin disrupted that relationship and introduced corruption into creation. Hebrews 2:8 acknowledges this reality: “But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.”

Then comes one of the most important statements in the passage: “But we do see Him... namely, Jesus.” Where humanity failed, Jesus succeeded. Through His death and resurrection, He reconciled us to God and opened the way for us to become His children.

Romans 8:15–17 describes believers as adopted sons and daughters who have received the Spirit of adoption and become fellow heirs with Christ. We no longer approach God as strangers seeking acceptance. We approach Him as children who belong to the Father. But our new identity also carries responsibility.

Second Corinthians 5:20 declares, “We are ambassadors for Christ.” Just as an ambassador represents the authority of the government that sends him, believers represent Jesus Christ in the world. This is why spiritual authority must never be separated from relationship and submission.
In Acts 19:13–16, the sons of Sceva attempted to use Jesus' name to cast out an evil spirit without possessing a genuine relationship with Him.

Their experience demonstrates that the name of Jesus is not a spiritual formula that can be used independently of His lordship.

Our authority is not found in merely speaking His name. It flows from belonging to Him and acting under His authority.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Hebrews 2 acknowledges that we do not yet see everything subjected to humanity, "but we do see Jesus." How does Christ's redemption change the way we understand our identity and responsibility as believers?

2. What does the experience of the sons of Sceva teach us about the difference between using the name of Jesus as a formula and exercising authority through a genuine relationship with Him?

LIFE APPLICATION

Consider how your identity in Christ influences your prayers. Do you approach God with confidence as His child, or do feelings of condemnation and unworthiness keep you from seeking Him? Hebrews 4:16 invites believers to **"draw near with confidence to the throne of grace."**

This week, practice approaching God with the confidence of a redeemed child while remembering that your authority remains submitted to His lordship. You were redeemed to represent the One who redeemed you.

2

We Pray From Inside What the Word has Built

Colossians 1:16–17

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Romans 8:19–23

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Hebrews 11:3 teaches that the universe was formed by God's Word.

John 1:1–3 reveals that all things were created through Jesus Christ, the eternal Word.

Colossians 1:17 then declares, “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

This means God's authority is not something external to creation. The entire created order exists through Christ and continues to depend upon His sustaining power.

When Jesus commanded the wind and sea to become calm, creation responded to the authority of its Creator. He was not introducing an unfamiliar power into the natural world. He was exercising authority over what existed through Him. But creation does not presently reflect the fullness of God's original design.

Romans 8:19–23 describes creation as groaning under corruption while eagerly awaiting the fullness of redemption. Sickness, death, suffering, and disorder remind us that the world remains affected by the fall.

Yet Jesus came proclaiming the kingdom of God, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed, and demonstrating God's power over the works of darkness. He then commissioned His followers to continue proclaiming His kingdom and ministering in His name.

This is where our responsibility becomes clear. We cannot independently command creation as though we possess the authority of its Creator. But we can pray, speak His Word, and minister under the authority Jesus has entrusted to His people.

Consider the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat. A thermometer merely reports the temperature. A thermostat establishes the desired setting and signals the system to respond. Similarly, we often spend our time describing what is wrong rather than bringing God's truth into the situation through prayer.

Alignment means allowing God's Word to establish what we believe, what we pray, and how we respond.

But biblical alignment also requires sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 teaches that those who are led by the Spirit of God are His children. In Acts 16:6–10, the Holy Spirit redirected

Paul's missionary plans, demonstrating that even good intentions must remain submitted to God's direction. We must therefore learn not only to know what Scripture says but also to walk in step with the Spirit who inspired it.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Colossians teaches that everything was created through Christ and continues to hold together in Him. How does this truth strengthen our confidence when praying for God's intervention in difficult circumstances?

2. In Acts 16, the Holy Spirit redirected Paul's plans. Why is spiritual sensitivity important when applying God's Word, and how can we distinguish the Spirit's leading from our own preferences?

LIFE APPLICATION

Identify a situation where you need God's intervention. Rather than allowing the circumstances to dominate your thinking, find Scripture that reveals His character, promises, or instructions concerning that need.

Begin praying according to Matthew 6:10: "**Your kingdom come. Your will be done."** Ask God to act, but also ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to respond. There may be a conversation to initiate, someone to forgive, a decision to make, or an opportunity to minister.

Coming into alignment means agreeing with God's Word and following the direction of His Spirit.

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3

Excercise Your Authority With Faith in God

Acts 3:1–16

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: **In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene -walk**!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Mark 11:22–25

And Jesus answered saying to them, “**Have faith in God**. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

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When Jesus taught His disciples about speaking to mountains, He began with the command, **"Have faith in God."** This is the foundation of biblical authority. Faith is not confidence in the strength of our declarations. It is confidence in the God who possesses the power to accomplish what He has promised.

Jesus then connects believing prayer with forgiveness. Mark 11:25 teaches that when we stand praying, we must forgive those against whom we hold offenses. This reveals an important principle: We cannot separate the authority we desire to exercise from the obedience God requires of us.

The early church provides a powerful example in Acts 3. When Peter encountered a man who had been unable to walk from birth, he declared, **"In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"** Peter then took him by the hand, and the man was healed.

But notice what Peter said afterward. He asked the crowd why they were looking at him as though his own power or godliness had accomplished the miracle. Peter understood that the authority belonged to Jesus.

The servant spoke and acted in faith, but the risen Christ supplied the power. This is the pattern we must learn to follow. We are called to pray boldly, speak God's truth, minister to those in need, and obey the direction of the Holy Spirit. Yet faith also requires perseverance.

Hebrews 10:23 instructs believers to "**hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**" Sometimes we pray and see an immediate answer. At other times, we must continue trusting God while circumstances remain unchanged.

Paul experienced this when he repeatedly asked God to remove his affliction. God's response was, "**My grace is sufficient for you"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). Biblical faith does not require us to pretend that every prayer has already produced the outcome we desired. It calls us to remain confident in God's goodness, authority, and faithfulness. Our responsibility is to believe His Word, obey His instructions, and remain faithful while trusting Him with the outcome.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Peter commanded the man at the temple gate to walk in Jesus' name, yet afterward insisted that the miracle did not come through his own power. What does this teach us about exercising spiritual authority with both boldness and humility?

2. Hebrews tells us to hold firmly to our hope because God is faithful. How can we continue standing on God's Word when circumstances do not immediately respond to our prayers?

LIFE APPLICATION

Choose one area where you need to exercise faith. Find a passage of Scripture that addresses the situation and begin praying it with confidence.

Then ask yourself: **“What action would demonstrate that I genuinely believe what God has spoken?”** If you are praying for reconciliation, take a step toward forgiveness. If you need direction, prepare yourself to obey. If someone needs healing, offer to pray for them in Jesus' name.

Do not allow your faith to remain merely an idea or a declaration. Let your words express your faith and your actions demonstrate your obedience.

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BRINGING IT HOME

His Word, Our Faith, His Power

Coming into alignment with God's Word begins with understanding who we are in Christ. We are children of the Father, representatives of Jesus Christ, and people called to walk under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The world we live in was created through God's Word and continues to be sustained by His power. Although creation remains affected by sin and corruption, Jesus has inaugurated His kingdom and commissioned His people to proclaim its truth and demonstrate His love and power.

This means our prayers matter, our words matter, and our obedience matters. But the authority remains His.

Personal Reflection

- Am I approaching God with the confidence of His child?
- Am I allowing His Word to govern my expectations and responses?
- Am I sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction?
- Is there an area where I have been speaking God's promises but resisting the obedience those promises require?

This week, identify one situation that needs to come into alignment with God's truth. Find a Scripture that addresses it, pray for God's intervention, and take one practical step of obedience.

Remember the progression: Know who you are in Christ. Believe what God has spoken. Pray according to His will. Follow the Holy Spirit. Stand in faith.

We do not need to manufacture God's power. We need to live in agreement with His Word and remain submitted to His authority.

His Word. Our faith. His power!

Prayer

Father, thank You for redeeming us through Jesus Christ and welcoming us into Your family. Thank You that we are no longer strangers but Your children, called to represent Your kingdom in the earth. Teach us to understand our identity in Christ and to exercise spiritual authority with humility, confidence, and obedience. Help us recognize that Your Word carries the power and that our responsibility is to believe, pray, and act in agreement with what You have spoken. Holy Spirit, lead us into greater sensitivity to Your voice and direction. Show us how to pray, when to speak, and where we need to obey. Give us boldness to minister to those who are hurting and faith to believe You for healing, deliverance, restoration, and breakthrough. When answers are delayed, strengthen our confidence in Your faithfulness. May Your Word govern our thoughts, shape our prayers, direct our actions, and establish Your purposes in our lives. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen.