

Extreme Life Makeover

"Taking Control of Your Life"

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Sunday, April 26, 2009

(Notes from 9 a.m. service)

- Extreme Life Makeover is what God does for us and is not just for the "down and out," but for all of us. We all have areas that need improvement, adjustment, and freedom from (habits, offenses, finances, etc.)
- **Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- God gave us authority over the 'creeps'!
- "Law of first things" - a statement of priority.
- When God created us in His image, the first thing He did was He blessed us, and then gave us dominion, complete authority.
- God made everything! First thing in the morning I begin by worshiping and thanking Him for all He created. It elevates my soul when I ponder on all He has done!
- He gave us authority/dominion over the earth!
- When God made man, it was like the owner of a corporation who gave his son authority to run the company's departments. When that is done, you can't go behind him and second guess all his decisions and change them. We must make decisions and bear the rewards and consequences of them all in order to learn and grow.
- **Psalms 24:1 (NKJV)** The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.
- We are all being trained to rule/reign with Christ through all eternity. Our lives never end.
- God doesn't clean up all our mistakes without us feeling the effects of them.
- **Deuteronomy 30:19 (NKJV)** I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
- God shows up when the right choices are made and then changes you based on it.
- When God gave dominion and authority, it is for our own lives (within the context of His sovereignty). He can do whatever, whenever, with whomever, but in that sovereignty He chooses to let us walk out the authority He gave us.
- God has set before us life and death, and told us to choose (and told us which to choose!).
- God always knows what is best for our lives.
- One of the worst things that can hinder you is to get a "victim" mentality ("It is not my fault."). Everything you blame someone or something else for, you give up the responsibility to change!
- When you are hurt and blame them and hold them in unforgiveness, you stay connected and controlled by them. (Children of abusers will become abusers themselves.)
- Choose life . . . in a sense . . . heaven has done all it can do through the work of the cross, to break all the powers that are hindering you. Until you take the authority that God has given you, God's hands are tied. God won't do anything else until you do something!
- God requires that we rise up and become who He has made us to be.
- **Matthew 16:18-19 (NKJV)** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- Gates of Hell - Satan's planned to destroy my life, but he won't prevail against me. I can't stop everything that is happening around and to me, but I don't have to cooperate by letting it occupy my mind and mouth.
- God says, I will give **you** the keys; I will show you how this works in your life.
- We aren't wired to conquer things apart from God. Jesus says, "What my Father says, I do."

- In my younger years, I didn't really believe He meant that literally. I had never bound or loosed anything!
- He gives ME keys, which represents two things: 1) Access - (Keys open and give access to my house.) If you stole my keys, you would still have access, but not authority to be there! 2) Authority - (When I give someone access to my house, they have authority to go in it and be there.)
- This is why in Hebrews 4, He says come boldly (access and authority) to the throne of grace.
- God expects me to come into His presence and use the authority given me to change things in my world.
- Keys to what? Kingdom of Heaven
- Kingdom: basillia (like St. Peter's basilica) The place from which a king rules and reigns, not over which he reigns.
- It is the place he reigns from (access to heaven where I reign from).
- **Luke 17:20-21 (NKJV)** Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation;²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."
- The kingdom (basillia) of God is within you! The place from which the Kingdom of Heaven reigns is within me!
- Whatever I bind is bound. Take things in my life and bind them, and heaven will back me up! Whatever I loose in my life, heaven will back me up! God has given me authority to bind and loose.
- Refer again to **Matthew 16:19**.
- Many people pray and ask God to bind and loose, that is okay, but then we must enforce it!
- I don't have 'power', but I have 'authority' in Jesus Christ!
- You can't just bind anything. You have to know what is already bound in heaven, and that God will back you up.
- Some say, "I want that job, it is mine!" But, you don't know if that is the one God has for you, but you do know God wants you to have a job that you will enjoy, and that will bless you and prosper you financially.
- Don't take authority until you know it's what God's wants.
- Sometimes people take authority over things they are not sure of and when it doesn't happen, their faith becomes weaker, and then later on they don't take authority the way they should.
- If the Bible says I shouldn't have it, then I have full authority to bind it (lust, etc.).
- It is God's will for me to prosper, have all my needs met, and things to enjoy.
- You should not live struggling and straining to make it through life.
- God cannot be unfaithful to His word.
- Shouldn't live my life struggling. God wants me provided for, but I have to find the appropriate scripture, hide it in my heart, and take authority with it.
- **Psalms 35:27 (NKJV)** Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."
- **III John 1:2 (NKJV)** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.
- You can't have authority unless you are under authority of Jesus Christ. Take the authority He has given you.