

# Communicating with God

## A study of prayer and Bible study



Our Need For  
Authority

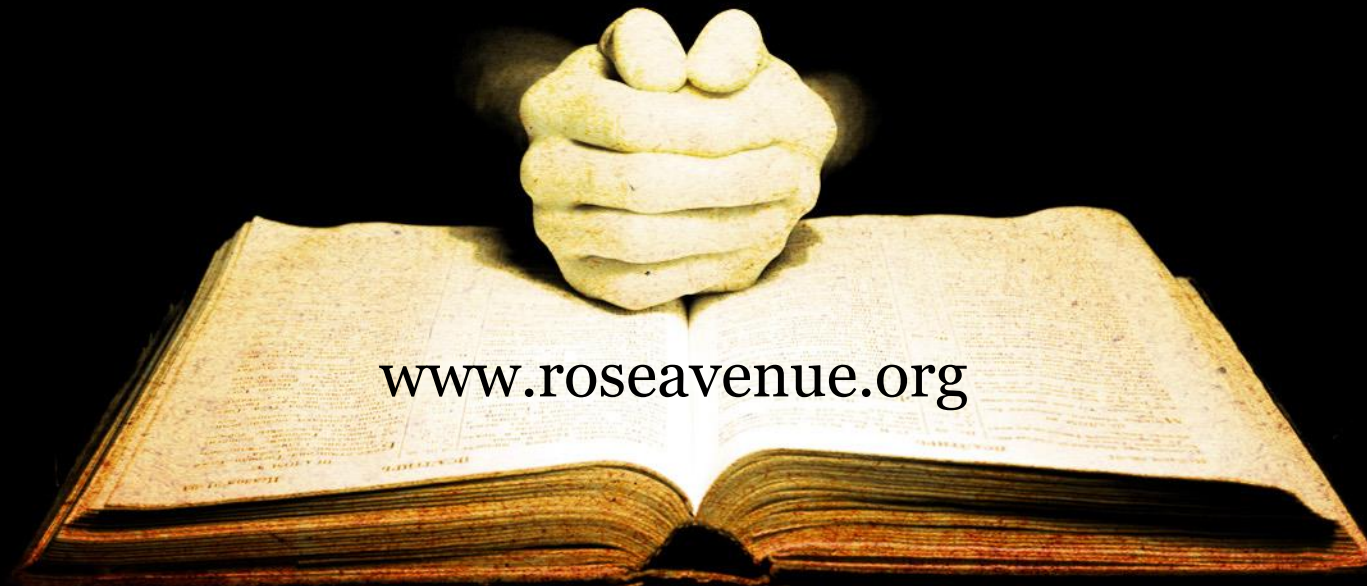


## Studying the Bible

- We have begun a study of HOW to study the Bible. This is another way of saying how to study God's communication to us.
- We have established some qualities for why we should view the Bible as God's word.
- We have noted some reasons WHY we should study the Bible.
- In our last lesson we addressed the POWER of God's word.
- Today...

# Bible study (4)

## Our Need For Authority



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Communicating with God:  
A study of Prayer & Bible Study  
**Our 2024 Theme**





## A study of authority

- Today we begin a BRIEF study of authority. We will notice:
- The importance of authority
- How to establish authority – CENI
- Types of authority - generic/specific, aids vs additions
- Is silence an acceptable standard for authority?



# What is Authority?

- 1) The power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine.
- 2) A power or right delegated or given.
- 3) A person or body of persons in whom authority is vested.
- 4) Usually authorities, persons having the legal power to make and enforce the law

(American Heritage Dictionary - [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))



# What is Authority?

- We see authority all around us:
  - 1) Driving
  - 2) Access to areas - restricted, foreign countries, amusement parks, etc.
  - 3) Jobs often come with authority
  - 4) Police officers
- To act with authority requires 3 things:
  - 1) Power to grant permission
  - 2) The permission granted
  - 3) A standard in place

A person in a light blue shirt is holding an open book, likely a Bible, in their hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

## What is Authority?

- Biblically:  
Authority primarily means permission. What do you have permission to do (and how it is to be done).
- Consider the 3 actions of authority: **Genesis 2-3**
  - 1) God created and had the power to make and enact rules
  - 2) God gave liberal access to Adam & Eve in the garden
  - 3) He place restrictions on what they could eat (NOT of the tree of knowledge of good and evil) & consequences.



# Why is authority important?

## Without it there will be chaos

- When there is no standard of authority (or it is not enforced), men will do what they want. This leads to chaos.
- Even the most hardened atheist must admit this.
- **Judges 21:25, 17:6**, ... *everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

**NOTE:** This is NOT because there was no standard!  
But men acted as if there was none.





# Why is authority important?

Without it there will be evil

- While the standard is debated, all must agree there is a moral standard, right and wrong.
- This is about rules EVERYONE needs to follow.
- **Cf. 1 Timothy 1:8-9**, laws were made for the lawless.

NOTE: God's laws do make sense and would make this world a better place if followed by all!



# Why is authority important?

## To get things done

- What happens when no one is in charge? Chaos, or nothing. Things fall apart.
- The Bible is filled with examples of godly leaders: Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah, the apostles, Jesus...

**NOTE: You can see the 3 elements of authority in each of these examples.**



# Why is authority important?

## To establish order

- This is why authority prevents chaos
- **Cf. Genesis 1:1-3**, the earth was without form and void... then God said...
- Effective leaders keep their domain functioning. They act **WITH** authority!



# Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

## The nature of man calls for it

- Humans think about morality and spirituality. It is how we are “wired” (aka, “created”).
- Even the atheist or non-believer has to address this.
- WHY does man think about God & morals?

**Cf. Ecclesiastes 3:11**, eternity in our hearts

Evidence in creation - **Romans 1:20**

**Psalm 104:24**

Since there is a God, clearly we need a standard!



# Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

There are consequences if we fail to follow God

- Knowing there is a God, and establishing WHO He is, does it matter what we do about our relationship with Him?
- **Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**  
Those who reject God will answer!



# Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

IF we have no spiritual standard,  
man will create his own

- History establishes this (mythology, etc.)
- **Romans 1:21-23, Acts 17:22-23**
- Israel's history shows this over and over  
They even created their own gods - **1 Kings  
12:25-33**

Again, this was NOT because there was no standard!



# Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

IF we have no spiritual standard,  
man will create his own

- Consider religious division today! Why? Much of it has to do with attitude toward authority and HOW it is established
- **1 Corinthians 1:10**, Paul's admonition!

Typically, we do not divide over what God says, but what He does NOT say! **Cf. 2 Peter 3:16**



## Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

We NEED a standard and we need to agree on what that standard is and HOW we establish authority!

- We must accept that the Bible is the word of God!  
We must determine rules (boundaries) to ensure that we are “rightly dividing the word of truth”.

**2 Timothy 2:15, Acts 17:11**





# Why Spiritual Authority is Needed

## What should that standard look like?

- It should grant us fellowship with God -  
**1 John 1:3, 6-7**
- It should promote the unity God demands -  
**John 17:20-21, Philippians 2:1-2, 3:16**
- It should lead us to heaven -  
**Matthew 7:21-23, 1 John 5:13,  
1 Corinthians 15:1-2**



# Why should I listen to God?

## Colossians 3:17

Because He is God!

- **Isaiah 45:3, Psalm 90:2**
- He is all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing, eternal
- **He is sovereign!** He has ultimate authority (right and power) - **Psalm 115:3**



# Why should I listen to God?

Because He created this world and set it in order

- **Genesis 1:1-2, Hebrews 3:4, 11:3**
- As our Creator (**cf. Genesis 1:26-27**), He knows what is best for us!

## **Jeremiah 10:23**

Much of our brokenness in this world stems from a rejection of Him and His will

He has the right to tell us what to do and how to do it!



# Why should I listen to God?

Because He has demonstrated His control

- He has given us reason to accept the Bible as His word - esp. prophecy - **Galatians 4:4**  
Jesus came as intended and planned.
- No other religion's god has the credentials we find in the Bible.



# Why should I listen to God?


Because of the work of Jesus and Holy Spirit

- Both are deity - **John 1:1, 14, Hebrews 9:14**
- Jesus declared His authority - **Matthew 28:18**  
**Acts 2:36** - Peter declared His authority!
- Holy Spirit revealed God's word to us -  
**John 14:26, 16:13, 2 Peter 1:20-21,**  
**1 Corinthians 2:9-11**

The Bible is God's message to us and must be our source of authority!

We need to devote time to its study and handling it accurately!



A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book with both hands. The book is open to a page with some text, and the person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

How much time are  
spending listening to  
Him?

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. The text "Let us pray!" is centered in the middle of the image.

Let us pray!



