

**Date:** 2 June 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lionel Goh | **Topic:** Understanding Our Spiritual Authority | **Scripture:** Assorted

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that we have spiritual authority granted to us from God.
2. Wield that authority against Satan, to bless and to heal others.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Many believers are unaware that the Lord has given us great spiritual authority to live a victorious life, defeat the Devil and bless others. This sermon teaches our members the basics of our spiritual authority and how we can use it effectively. The goal is to encourage our people to diligently exercise this God-given authority and see the power of God at work in our lives.

## SERMON RECAP

### 1) What is Spiritual Authority?

- It is the right that Jesus gives to all believers to use His power to make dynamic impact in the spiritual realm.

*"It is like using Jesus' credit card of authority, power, and resources to make beneficial transactions in the spiritual realm." - Charles Kraft*

### 2) The Origin of Spiritual Authority

- At creation, God gave Man the authority to rule the earth ([Gen 1:27-28](#)).
- Through deceit, Satan usurped Man's authority to rule the earth ([John 10:10](#)).
  - i. Satan deceived Adam and Eve into sin ([Genesis 3:13](#))
  - ii. Satan took over Man's authority to rule the earth ([Luke 4:5-8](#))
  - iii. Satan rules the world through Man's disobedience ([Ephesians 2:1-2](#), [1 John 5:19](#))
- Jesus defeated Satan at the cross ([Colossians 2:13-15](#))
- Through His obedience, Jesus receives God's highest authority ([Philippians 2:9-11](#))
- Jesus delegates His authority to us ([Matthew 28:18-20](#))

### 3) The Nature of Spiritual Authority

- The right to pray efficacious prayer ([John 14:13-14](#), [Mark 11:22-24](#))
- The right to bless others ([Numbers 6:22-27](#), [1 Peter 2:9](#))
- The right to overcome Satan ([Luke 10:17-20](#))

### 4) The Pre-requisite in Using our Spiritual Authority Effectively

#### Observations from [Acts 19:11-16](#)

- "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."
- Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding."

Lessons from Acts 19:11-16:

- We need to be children of God (John 1:12)
- We must come under Christ's authority (Matthew 8:5-9, John 15)
- We need faith in exercising our authority (Mark 11:22-24)

**Conclusion**

- Jesus gives us spiritual authority so that we can live a victorious life and bless others.
- God is exalted and people are blessed when we exercise our spiritual authority diligently.

# Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever used your spiritual authority to pray over an illness, a bad life situation, or a demonic encounter? Share your experience.**

## Leader's Notes

We all learn from each other's experiences. If you have used your spiritual authority to pray over something, share your experience with others. How did you get to a place where you're confident of your spiritual authority?

For members that have not exercised their spiritual authority before in prayer, it is good to help them to process why they are hesitant.

## Transition

We should use our spiritual authority to bless, protect and keep those around us from the wiles of Satan.

- 2. Why do you think many believers are reluctant or afraid to use their spiritual authority in confronting a life problem or demonic attack?**

## Leader's Notes

There are many reasons why believers don't use their spiritual authority. Sometimes they are held back by doubts and unbelief, thinking that they are not 'worthy' enough for such authority. Others are not sure how they can use it and may use it 'wrongly'. There might be some who are discouraged from using it by other believers.

Think about why believers don't use it and then pray for God to break them from whatever is holding them back.

## Transition

It is only when we recognise our spiritual authority and use it, then can we live an abundant and purposeful life as children of God.

- 3. Imagine living your life with spiritual authority. What would it look like? What is the biggest difference from the life you live now?**

## Leader's Notes

*"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* – **Luke 10:19**

This is an exercise in imagining what living a life with spiritual authority looks like. When you grasp the power and significance of having spiritual authority, and that we are authorised to use it, your life will be different. You will live a victorious life that will be free from fear of this world and its principalities, you will bless and heal others boldly, you will pray powerfully. Isn't this something that we should aspire to?

Resource: [Living Victoriously – Understanding Our Spiritual Authority](#) by CityLife

## Closing

Let's not be defeated by this world for we have God with us. He is for us and not against us.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

## 1. Sermon Application

- Pray for all RiverLifers to live victoriously and to be a great blessing to those around them.
- Pray for us to diligently exercise our authority in every life obstacle and overcome them.
- Pray for our family members and friends, especially for those who have yet to know Him.
- To commit 2024 to God and allow Him to work in us and through us as we continue to seek Him.

## 2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into a season of prayer and fasting, that God will align all of our hearts and do what He needs to do so that we can live in a new normal that glorifies Him.

## 3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
  - a. Russia and Ukraine
  - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
  - c. Israel & Hamas – Pray for the truce talks between Israel and Palestine in Cairo, that a peaceful resolution can be reached.
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
  - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
  - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
  - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
  - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
  - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
  - d. Canada (Wildfire)
- Pray for Singapore
  - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
  - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
  - c. Pray for those affected by the Singapore Airlines's SQ321 turbulence incident
- Other Global Issues
  - a. Pray for the United States of America as they gear up for this year end's election
  - b. Continue to pray for the medical strike in South Korea
  - c. Pray for the situation in various parts of Indonesia where 58 people are killed by cold lava and flash floods

## 4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



1. **SERMON SERIES: SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.** 2-30 June 2024 One of the biggest truths that Christians tend to forget is this – we are in the midst of a spiritual war. For many Christians, the enemy seems to render them completely ineffective in this spiritual war – they are never a threat to the kingdom of darkness. As a result, many live as prisoners of this war – bounded by addictions, sinful patterns, demonic manifestations and strongholds. This is not the victorious life that Jesus, our Saviour, bought for us on the cross. When we live as sons of the Most High, the authority that was lost in the Garden of Eden is being restored to us. This authority is given so that the church can be the salt and light that flows into our communities and into the nations. In this sermon series, we will explore the believer's rightful authority, how to exercise this authority where we are planted, and the benefits of coming under the spiritual authority of the shepherds in RiverLife. Our prayer is that through this series, believers will start to exercise their God-given authority, and live victorious lives in their families, workplaces, and in the world.
2. **Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024.** Sun, 9 Jun 2024. 11.30am, Victory Chapel (Level 1). A gentle reminder to all Leadership Members to attend our 23rd AGM. If you are unable to attend, kindly submit your completed proxy form at the Information Counter on Sunday, 2 Jun or to the church office by Friday, 7 Jun at 2.30pm.
3. **A School Holiday Guide for Parents of Primary School Children.** Parents - The June school holidays are upon us. When it comes to this season, most of us may be too preoccupied with juggling a packed schedule to see the opportunity this provides for us - there are some things in regard to parenting that we can only do during the holidays that we cannot do during the school term. Our FamilyLife Department has prepared a resource aimed at helping you steward the holiday season well as parents.
  - Access it here: [rlc.sg/flnl](http://rlc.sg/flnl)
4. **Outing to NPark's Garden Festival by Caleb Ministry.** For Seniors Aged 55 & Above. Sat, 10 Aug 2024. 10.45am-2pm, Suntec Singapore (Level 4 & 6). The Caleb Ministry is organising an Outreach cum Outing to NPark Garden Festival. The event consists of a 3 course lunch @Olive Vine at Marina Square before proceeding to the Garden Festival. Do invite your pre-believing/unchurched loved ones and friends to this event where there will be a short sharing of the gospel over lunch before the Garden show.
  - Specially discounted entrance tickets and lunch are as follows:
    - \$35/- each for local Seniors (>60yrs, based on IC) and local Children (<12).
    - \$40/- each for other local residents
  - Registration: [rlc.sg/CalebGdnFest](http://rlc.sg/CalebGdnFest) (Closing Date: 21 July)
5. **RiverLife Missions.** Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: [rlc.sg/missions](http://rlc.sg/missions)
6. **Sustaining the Fire.** As our 21-day season of prayer & fasting comes to a close, we thank God for reviving us individually and collectively. It is needful for us to go on walking closely with the Lord and be faithful stewards of the work that has been done in us. We can continue this journey by spending time with God daily using this recommended 21-day devotional:
  - 21 Days to Overflow takes readers on a 3-week journey of emptying themselves of self, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and living out an overflowing spirit-filled life. 21-Day Devotional: [YouVersion Bible App](#) | [PDF](#)

Our Revive Us, Lord website has been updated with resources to help you grow in these four aspects – spiritually, relationally, physically & missionally.

For more information: [rlc.sg/21days](http://rlc.sg/21days)

## 7. Family Life Portal.

- Our Family Life ministry strengthens relationships within the family so that they are reflective of who God is – married couples loving and serving each other, parents discipling their children in the ways of God, grandparents inspiring the generations by their faith and actions, and the singles living secure and fruitful lives for God’s kingdom! RiverLife's Family Life portal is an online platform that contains this year's calendar of Family Life initiatives as well as a wide range of resources for various life stages.
- Access the portal: [rlc.sg/familylife](http://rlc.sg/familylife) or [www.riverlife.org.sg](http://www.riverlife.org.sg) (Under the “Resources” tab)

- YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).**  
The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

- RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](https://rlc.sg/revivenights))

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

- Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

*\*Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 2	Quarter 3
<p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp</li> </ul> <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2</li> <li>• 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2</li> <li>• 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM</li> <li>• 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp</li> <li>• 27 Jun – Fun Day (Youth)</li> <li>• 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2</li> </ul>	<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp</li> <li>• 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 14 Jul – Leaders Equipping</li> <li>• 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch</li> <li>• 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2, Dating Couples Course</li> </ul> <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 03 Aug – YA Gathering</li> <li>• 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2</li> <li>• 04 Aug – Leaders Equipping</li> <li>• 10 Aug – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3</li> <li>• 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Weekend,</li> </ul> <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 07 Sep – YA Gathering</li> <li>• 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3</li> <li>• 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces</li> <li>• 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy</li> <li>• 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach</li> </ul>

## Quarter 4

### October

- 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3
- 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3
- 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles
- 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth)
- 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)

### November

- 02 Nov – YA Gathering
- 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth)
- 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3
- 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat

### December

- 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference
- 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend
- 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4



# Ministry & Opportunities



## 1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/9m](https://rlc.sg/9m)
- Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](https://rlc.sg/serve)

## 2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit [rlc.sg/missions](https://rlc.sg/missions).

## 3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: [rlc.sg/serve-rlcar](https://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar)

## 4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: [rlc.sg/rtf](https://rlc.sg/rtf)

## 1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: [rlc.sg/brp](http://rlc.sg/brp)

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

## 2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](http://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

## 3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](http://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

## 4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## 5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: [rlc.sg/wachannelinvite](http://rlc.sg/wachannelinvite)

Telegram Channel: [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch)

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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