

**Date:** 9 June 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lionel Goh | **Topic:** Walking in Our Spiritual Authority as Leaders | **Scripture:** Assorted

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recognize that human institutions have also been given authority by God
2. The importance of keeping our spiritual umbrella intact so that we can continue to care for those placed in our care.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Ps Lionel shares a recap of Spiritual Authority and speaks about how human institutions are also given authority over those under their charge. He also shares about the spiritual authority leaders hold and the importance of keeping our spiritual umbrella intact.

## SERMON RECAP

### a. Recap of Spiritual Authority

1. What is Spiritual Authority?
  - God- given right to receive and use God’s power that flows from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  - Only a born-again believer can exercise spiritual authority
  - We have the right to pray and bless others. We must learn how to steward it well.

*“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
  - God gave man the authority to rule the earth. However, the Devil usurped Man’s authority and rules the world. Jesus came and destroyed the Devil’s works. Through His obedience, Jesus receives God’s highest authority. Jesus delegates His authority to all believers so that we can make disciples of all nations
3. Satan still holds some power today (**1 Peter 5:8-9, James 4:7**)
  - While Satan has been defeated by Jesus at the Cross, God in His sovereignty has not totally removed all of Satan’s power today
4. Two Competing Powers in Our World Today

|                        | <b>Jesus</b>  | <b>Satan</b>                            |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Spheres of Rule</b> | Kingdom of God, Church  | Kingdom of Darkness, World              |
| <b>Subjects</b>        | Heavenly hosts, believers                                     | Demons, Sons of Disobedience            |
| <b>Life Purpose</b>    | To redeem humanity from their sins and bring them back to God | To steal, kill and destroy humanity     |
| <b>Final Destiny</b>   | Eternal reign and glory over all of heavens and earth         | Eternal destruction and anguish in hell |

5. Spiritual Authority of believers
  - Right to pray effective prayers (**Mark 11:2 -24**)
  - Right to bless others (**Numbers 6:22-27**)
  - Right to overcome Satan (**Luke 10: 17-20**)
  - Right to preach the gospel with power (**Mark 16:15-18**)
6. Purpose of Spiritual Authority
  - Enables believers to live a life of freedom, victory and fruitfulness
  - Gives believers the power to pray, bless and protect those under their charge
  - Gives believers the power to preach the Gospel with signs and breakthroughs

**b. Human Institutions and Authority**

1. God established human institutions for orderly function of society
  - King and Government
  - School
  - Church
  - Secular Organization
  - Family Unit
2. Authority is given to every human institution.

| Human Structure | Leaders in authority | Subjects Under Authority | Bible Reference           |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nation          | King / Ministers     | Citizens                 | <b>Romans 13:1-2</b>      |
| School          | Principal / Teachers | Students                 |                           |
| Church          | Elders / Pastors     | Congregants              | <b>Ephesians 4:11-12</b>  |
| Company         | Owners / Managers    | Employees                | <b>Ephesians 6:5</b>      |
| Family          | Parents              | Children                 | <b>Colossians 3:18-21</b> |
| Cell Group      | Leaders / Core Team  | Cell members             |                           |

3. God and the spirit world honour human authority (**Numbers 30:3-9**)

**c. Additional Authority Given to Spiritual Leaders**

1. Authority to pray for spiritual wellbeing and physical healing (**Ephesians 1:17-18, James 5:14-15**)
  - Ps Lionel also exhorted the congregation to continue to trust God while waiting for God’s healing.
2. Authority to impart spiritual gifts (**Romans 1:11-12, 2 Timothy 1:6**)
  - God has given leaders the privilege to bless and impart spiritual gifts to His people
3. Authority to protect subjects from Satanic attack (**Luke 22:31-32**)
  - Leaders of the different institutions are given spiritual authority to shield their subjects
4. Authority to shape the spiritual atmosphere of their institution (**2 Kings 18:5-7, 2 Kings 20:1-3, 11**)
  - Through the book of 2 Kings, we see how the nation prospers when a godly king sits on the throne and how the people would suffer when an evil king is on the throne.
  - God has given spiritual authority to leaders to bless the people.

|   | <b>Believers</b>                | <b>Leaders</b>                                      |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | To pray effective prayers       | To pray for spiritual insights and physical healing |
| 2 | To bless others                 | To bless subjects with spiritual gifts              |
| 3 | To overcome Satan               | To protect subjects from Satanic attacks            |
| 4 | To preach the Gospel with power | To shape the spiritual atmosphere of the group      |

**d. Keeping Our Spiritual Umbrella Intact**

1. God’s authority structure in the home (**Colossians 3:18-21**)

- Ps Lionel shared about the Biblical Order of the family.
- Christ is the largest umbrella covering all
- Christ covering the husband – husband’s role is to protect, lead and provide for the family
- Husband providing the covering for the wife – wife’s role is to comfort, teach and nurture
- Wife provides the covering of the children – children’s role is to love and obey parents
- We are to consider if the umbrella we have is big enough to provide covering for those under our care.
- As leaders, we have great responsibility to steward our spiritual authority well, as we short-change our people when we are careless in our spiritual walk, or we neglect to use our spiritual authority

2. How can we keep our spiritual umbrella intact?

- Consecrate ourselves and our group to God (**Romans 12:1-2**)
- Keep walking in step with the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:16**)
- Be diligent in shepherding our people (**1 Peter 5:1-4**)

**e. Personal Application**

- The Tragic Story of Samson (**Judges 16:20-21**)

# Discussion Questions

- 1. From the sermon, what are reasons God has elected people to act as our spiritual authority? What are the characteristics these people have to display and abide by? How can we as sheep also support and look out for our leaders?**

## Leader's Notes

This is a question for the cell to consider the purposes and calling of people in spiritual authority, and for members to consider how they could also walk alongside their leaders to build the church.

## Transition

God has put leaders in our midst to lead and shepherd us and it is both a privilege and has a cost.

- 2. What are some reflections for the story of Samson and how can you apply it in your own personal life?**

## Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to look at the story of Samson and to identify some lessons that spoke to them. This question also aims for us to reflect on how we can be good stewards of the spiritual authority God has given us.

## Transition

As we continue to learn about how to steward our spiritual authority, may we continue to grow in it to live how God has designed for us to live.

- 3. As believers, what are the spheres of influence we have been placed in? How can we keep our spiritual umbrella intact? How can we support one another in keeping our umbrellas intact?**

## Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to also think about the spheres of influence God has placed them in. How have they been exercising their spiritual authority in these areas? Leaders can invite members to reflect on how they could influence these spheres in a God-pleasing way and to also consider how they can take care of their own umbrellas and to look out for one another.

## Closing

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. As He has given us spiritual authority, He will also empower us to steward it for His glory!



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. **The Parents Gathering. Sat, 29 Jun, 2.30pm-6pm Grace Chapel.** The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become parents that God intended us to be. Register by Sun, 23 Jun: [rlc.sg/pg](http://rlc.sg/pg)
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 Singapore Garden Festival by Caleb Ministry.** This seeker-friendly outreach outing is specially organised for seniors aged 55 and above, as well as their family members. It is suitable for pre-believers or unchurched believers you are currently reaching out to. We will be having lunch together at Olive Vine before attending the Singapore Garden Festival. There will be a short sharing of the gospel over lunch.

Sat, 10 Aug 10.45am-2pm

10.45am: Fellowship & Lunch (Olive Vine Pasta Fusion, #B1-17 Marina Square)

12.30pm: Singapore Garden Festival (Suntec City Convention & Exhibition Centre, Levels 4 7 6)

#### Specially Discounted Rates

*Include lunch & admission to Singapore Garden Festival*

*Eligible for local residents based on age in NRIC*

- Seniors above 60 & Children below 12: \$35 per pax
- Those above 12 & below 60: \$40 per pax

*\*Our Caleb Ministry staff have kindly set up a booth outside Victory Chapel (Level 1) this Sun, 2 Jun should you need assistance in signing up for the event.*

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. **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 disciplining their children in the ways of God, grandparents



# Announcements

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](https://rlc.sg/familylife) or [www.riverlife.org.sg](https://www.riverlife.org.sg) (Under the "Resources" tab)

1. **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

2. **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.

3. **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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### Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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