

August 1, 2021

## The Centurion: Under Authority

I hope and pray that we can receive the revelation of the authority we have as ambassadors for Jesus Christ, as His kings and priests, as children of God, as the ones filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

**Centurion:** A Roman non-commissioned officer who was in command of a 100 men. They were chosen by merit and were men of integrity and sound mind. The New Testament spoke of the Centurions in terms of praise. They carried a staff of vinewood as a badge of their office. The Centurion was the “corrections” officer, the one who was in charge of keeping the peace. In today’s terms, I would compare the Centurion to the County Sheriff and Chief of Police.

**Matt 8:5-13** *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a **centurion** came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."*

The Centurion had **compassion** on his servant.

*7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."*

*8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, **I am not worthy** that You should come under my roof. But only **speak a word**, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man **under authority, having soldiers under me**. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

**Humility** is considered the greatest virtue in the Kingdom of God. This Centurion was not only humble, he had a submitted heart. He knew, in order to be in authority, he had to be under authority. If we are under the authority of Jesus Christ, we walk in great authority.

**Authority in words:** The Centurion understood the power and authority in words. When words are spoken with authority; considerate it done.

*10 When Jesus heard it, **He marveled**, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, **I have not found such great faith**, not even in Israel!"*

Jesus turned around to speak this to those who followed Him, and not directly to the Centurion. Jesus was called Rabbi which means “teacher” and Jesus is fantastic at seizing the moment to teach His disciples. Real life learning.

The Centurion was not a Jew or a believer (as far as we know) and he worked for the government, the ones who oppressed the Jews and yet Jesus marveled at his great faith! This same account given in **Luke 7:2-10**, the Centurion is said to “love the nation” and has built a synagogue. Today we call someone who loves this nation a “Patriot.”

What happens next is even more profound. Jesus prophesies about people gathering with the founding Patriarchs of the Jewish nation and that they would “**sit down**” with them in the Kingdom of Heaven. To “sit down” indicates a position of authority. **Eph 2:1-10**, **Eph 3:10**, tells us **through grace** we are raised up together and **made to sit in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come (end times) He might show the exceeding riches of His grace. God prepared us for good works before we were born, showing His workmanship and **manifold wisdom through us** to the principalities, powers and rulers of darkness of this age. Through God’s grace and authority, the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ (**Rev 11:15**).

*11 And I say to you that many **will come** from east and west, and **sit down** with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the **kingdom of heaven**. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Jesus marvels at the revelation of authority coming from the Centurion and connects it to the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and **as you have believed**, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

What are we believing for? Are we believing in faith or fear? For freedom or bondage? For depression or joy? For hope or despair? Same-old same-old, or something new? What did you come here today to see and believe?

This Centurion was compassionate, humble, submitted, under authority, in authority, loved the nation, worked for the government, built a synagogue and had great faith. As far as we know, he was not saved, but he was God's minister (**Rm 13:1-7**).

**Pride** is considered the greatest sin because it was the fundamental sin of Satan when he first sinned. Pride inevitably leads to rebellion (SFLB). Pride **blocks the fear of the Lord** and can lead to an attitude "I know better than God."

**Prov 22:4** *Humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.*

The truths and the mysteries of God are only received by those who are humble. Pride brings a critical spirit. Humility brings a spirit of unity and a **child-like faith** to learn deep revelations of the Father.

**1 Peter 5:5-11** *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be **clothed with humility**, for "God **resists the proud**, But gives **grace** to the **humble**." 6 Therefore humble yourselves **under the mighty hand of God**, that He may **exalt you** in due time, 7 **casting all your care upon Him**, for He cares for you.*

**Resist:** Strong's #498 *antitassomai* (an-tee-tas'-som-ahee); to range oneself against, i.e. oppose: Webster; to fight against

Pride is one of the most deceptive spirits, and when we come to God with pride in our heart, God resists that spirit of pride and it can feel like God is resisting us and cause anguish, anxiety, confusion, and depression.

*8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

We are to resist the devil, and one of the best ways to do this is with a humble-submitted heart to Jesus, allowing His grace to flow through us and bring victory. Pride is an open door for the devil to operate in our heart and at the same time it makes it more difficult to hear from God.

*10 But may the **God of all grace**, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**Grace:** Strong's # 5485 *charis* (khar-ece), from *chara* "joy" and *chairō* "to rejoice." It is the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in our life that brings favor, benefits, joy, gratitude, liberality and pleasure. It is unmerited favor and underserved blessings, a free gift from God. Grace is not only our free gift of salvation, but it is also the power-word describing the Holy Spirit's operational means. **Grace is a force as well as a favor, being a verb as well as a noun.** Grace is the power to overcome sin, not the power to live with it.

Pride works against grace. Humility, obedience and submission put us under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt us in due time! We shout "Grace! Grace to this mountain!" (**Zech 4:7**)