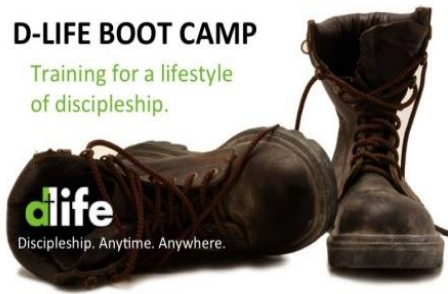


D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle
of discipleship.



Keeping it Real

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Rev. Deborah Crawley, Teacher
Sis. Tammi Crummy, Asst. Teacher

YOU HAVE AUTHORITY

Jesus said, ***"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you"*** (Luke 10:19). **That is a great deal of authority!**

How is it, then, that the devil is able to keep causing believers so much trouble? It is because many do not exercise the authority God has given them. They are not walking in the understanding that, even though Jesus won the victory, they need to enforce that victory in their daily lives.

Think of it this way: it is illegal for someone to break into your house, but don't you still lock your doors to discourage thieves and to protect your property? In the same way, when it comes to Satan trying to gain entrance into your life, you need to exercise your blood-bought right to close the door in his face. By resisting the devil and standing firm in the faith, you are actively enforcing Jesus' victory in your life.

God has given you all the authority you need to be able to stand against the devil and his works. He has also provided you with armor and spiritual weapons for your warfare against Satan. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul describes these items and defines how to use them. He writes, ***"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"*** (Ephesians 6:10-11, 13). Paul made it clear that, while God has provided the armor, it is the believer's responsibility to put it on and stand against the enemy. We must take our position of authority and use what God has given us.

God's mighty weapons are **faith, truth, righteousness, the gospel message, and the Word of God**. The Holy Spirit equips Christians for the struggle, providing the weapons they need

KINGDOM AUTHORITY

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

As a believer, you have a responsibility to build the **Kingdom of God** wherever you go, but what exactly does that mean? The Kingdom of God is established wherever God's will is done on earth. God desires that His children are in right relationship with Him, set free from fear and brokenness, and living in the power and authority that Jesus won on the cross.

Many Christians wait for God to do something and blame Him when we don't see Him move, but the truth is that He has given you the authority. In Matthew 18:18-20, Jesus says, *"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

In the Name of Jesus

The name of Jesus is powerful. Philippians 2:9-10 says, *"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth..."* When you use Jesus' name, Satan's strongholds cannot stand (see 2 Corinthians 10:4).

Keep the Devil Out

Ephesians 4:27 tells us **not** to give any place to the devil. Whether you have been a believer for twenty days or twenty years, keep building your relationship with God through daily Bible reading, meditating on the Word, and praying. Be involved in a good, Bible-believing church, and develop the practices of fasting, worshiping, and giving. When it comes to keeping the devil out, there is no substitute for godly living.

You do not want to be one who unintentionally gives the devil access by entertaining sin, by being disobedient, or by rebelling against God. Make sure you are quick to forgive others as Christ has forgiven you because having an unwillingness to forgive others can give the devil a foothold in your life (Mark 11:25).

James 4:7 instructs us to, **“Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Because Jesus resisted the devil by submitting to God, He could say, “...he (the devil) has nothing in Me”** (John 14:30). He left no room for the devil to take advantage of Him. Likewise, when you submit to God and resist the devil in the authority Christ has given you, the devil must leave.

The blood of Jesus gives you the authority to stand up to the devil. And like Jesus in the wilderness, you can resist him with the Word of God and your testimony. When the devil tells you a lie, start speaking the truth of God’s Word. And when you are tempted, think of all the times when God has rescued, loved, and cared for you in the past. Speak against the plans of the devil, and watch him flee from your life!

Finally...

The victory Christ won, He won for you. After He rose from the grave, victorious over death, sin, and the devil, He proclaimed, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* (Matthew 28:18). When you received Christ as the Lord of your life, Colossians 1:13 says you were delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into God’s kingdom.

You can take a bold stand against the devil and his works because of your position in Christ and because you have been given authority over Satan in the name of Jesus. As Proverbs 28:1 says, **“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”**

Submit to God, boldly exercise the authority He has given you, and stand firm because, **“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”** (1 John 4:4).

When you exercise your power and authority over the enemy, it’s like bringing a nuclear bomb to a knife fight. Go kick some tail and take back your territory!