

**6-WEEK PURSUIT  
DEVOTIONALS  
WEEK 4 - AUTHORITY**

**MONDAY - “THERE IS AMAZING POWER IN PRAYER”**

**Devotional:**

My husband and I both agreed on starting a family soon after we were married. We had four children in six years, three sons and finally a daughter. We thought our family was complete. The Lord thought otherwise.

Our daughter started Kindergarten. We were moving from the infant and preschool years into the years of having all of our kids in school. Our days of raising babies and toddlers were behind us. So I thought. But I began to experience symptoms of pregnancy. Two months into showing every sign I remembered of being pregnant, I made an appointment with the doctor. I was expecting him to explain how these were only symptoms and would pass. But an examination proved another baby would arrive in seven months.

There were many issues to be dealt with. But the first, and most frightening, was to call my mother with the news. She felt we started our family before we were ready, had the next one too soon, and the other two she felt were too many for us. She had been known to express her feelings on the issue of abortion, feeling in extreme cases, like already having too many children, it was justified. I firmly disagreed. Life begins at conception.

Two days after my doctor appointment, I attended an Aglow retreat. My friend, Doris Ross, a strong Christian of several years, suggested a group of us gather for prayer in our cabin. These ladies were so compassionate, as I shared with them how I feared facing my mother with the news of another pregnancy. I was in tears as I told them I feared she would suggest abortion. I knew I'd never go along with the idea, but did not want to hear it. This was a precious child of God's design, whether or not we felt ready. Strong verbal prayers went up in my behalf.

Monday morning, after the retreat, after praying for courage, I boldly phoned my mother, telling her about the pregnancy. I expected to hear screaming, loud objections, even an evil suggestion of abortion. I could hardly believe my ears when she told me: “Yesterday your dad and I saw the cutest baby. I told him how sad it was all our grandchildren are now older, past the baby stage.” It was good news to her of a baby grandchild on the way. The Lord is amazing! This was a powerful answer to prayer.

We assumed we'd have another girl, rounding out our family with three boys and two girls. But it was another boy. He was a sweet baby, the whole family loved him and enjoyed having a baby around. The first four children all left home within two years of each other. I knew I was not yet ready for a completely empty nest yet. Having one remain for a few more years was part of God's plan.

He attended Northwest Bible College (now University) and became a pastor. He met a strong Christian girl at college and married her. God has used him to minister to many. He is presently

on staff at a large Assembly of God Church in the Seattle area, where he and his wife conduct ongoing classes on marriage. She is an author and speaker, and he serves the church by planning small group meetings, events, and preaching the sermon on occasion.

Isaiah 55:9 ESV

“For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Submitted by a Member of Riverside Lighthouse

**REFLECTION:**

Prayer changes us. How has God changed your mind about something in the past?

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, transform the way we think. Help us to spend more time in prayer and communication with you. We want your way, and want to trust you more.

## **TUESDAY – “ELIJAH TO ELISHA”**

### **Devotional:**

If there is one thing I knew as a child it was that my parents were in authority over me. What they said or wanted me to do was to be done without question. No excuses! It wasn't out of fear that I did what they said, it was out of respect. I knew that they had my best in mind and would always love me whatever happened.

I learned how to be a parent from my parents. What to do and what not to do were easy to come by because of my experience with my parents. You might not have had wonderful parents like I did but you learned authority from someone.

God has placed people in our lives with authority over us. He has also given us authority over the spiritual realm. So the question would be, “How are you using it or even are you at all?” Just as Elijah and Elisha were given spiritual authority so were you.

Luke 10:19 says, “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.”

Time to put that God-given authority to work.

Pastor Vern Weaver

### **PRAYER:**

Let's conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel led. Pray...

- Ask the Lord to help you walk in His authority.
- Pray to be full of His Holy Spirit.
- Pray that the Lord would help you with fear and doubt.

**WEDNESDAY – “MY GRANDPARENTS”**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read James 5:16-18 before reading our Devotional.

**DEVOTIONAL:**

Dear Church Family,

My Grandpa was a pastor.

The churches he pastored were small in size, his life with my grandma and their kids was a humble one, and in generations to come few will remember the quiet man known as Ray Weaver. Then why is it that to this day, I feel a deep need to call out to God for the same anointing my grandparents had? The truth is in the fruit of their labors.

My dad and his ministry through the years is a direct result of Ray and Beverly Weaver’s faithfulness. I now am in ministry because of their faithfulness. Their family and so many others are blessed today because of what God had done through a sweet and quiet couple.

Oh how I long for the same anointing to live as they did. And, you know what, I boldly ask for an even greater anointing from God. Not because I deserve it, but because I need it! You and I church, need the authority of God. Not so that we could lord over people, boss others about, or gain any recognition, but so that we may live honoring Jesus Christ. Church family, you are anointed by the Holy Spirit for ministry.

You know church, I have thought long upon this question of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why does it happen? Why is it tied to speaking in tongues? Why is it not always at salvation? Why do seem people seem to wait years while others receive the Baptism immediately? Well, I believe I can say one thing on this matter with absolute certainty: the Baptism of the Holy Spirit grants us an authority in prayer and in declaring Jesus that we simply do not have on our own.

I have seen the difference in my own life. The ministry Jesus called me to is above and beyond me in every way. And while I will not bother with my whole story here, I will say that God has personally said to me: that I am not called because I am talented or gifted. In fact, I have seen that if God removes His hand, my ministry is ineffective and worthless.

God called me to the ministry because my grandparents prayed that their children and their children would be used of God. It is by no merit or work of my own that I write these words to you church. It is by the grace of God and the faithfulness of those who came before me.

Ray and Beverly Weaver had authority from God. I know this, because they prayed, and it came to be. That is what I want for you church. The prayers of righteous women and men are effective. There is authority where God is moving. Do you want Him to move you?

Sincerely,  
Ty Weaver

**CHALLENGE:**

Today, ask God for His anointing. As you eat, as you drive, as you prepare throughout your day, ask God for His power to be His servant.

Take a moment, and answer this question: what do I need God's anointing for in my life? Do not keep your answer vague. Answer personally: how could the power of God's Holy Spirit help you live out your day-to-day life?

**PRAYER:**

Let's conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for God to fill your life with His presence
- Pray for Jesus' Baptism of the Holy Spirit to fill you with His power again and again
- Pray for God to anoint you for ministering to others

**THURSDAY – “HE CHOSE WHO?”**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read Romans 13:1-7

**DEVOTIONAL:**

It seems that with each election, local, state, and nation-wide, the choices get harder and harder. The options get fewer and fewer. People become more and more divided. Yes, we do our part by voting and participating in our democratic institution, but God has the final say. We may not like who God put in charge, but GOD put him/her in charge.

We cannot accept God as our Lord and Savior without fully giving him authority in our lives, and that includes our government, our bosses, and our superiors. He put them in charge. Paul says, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” (Romans 13:1-2).

From our shift supervisor to our CEO, to our Governor, to our President, each person was appointed, by God for this time and this purpose. It is our duty as Christ-followers to respect their authority.

God has the ultimate authority, so when we start to doubt and deny the people he has appointed, we doubt and deny God’s authority. While we may not appreciate our manager cutting our hours and bringing in tuna for lunch, again.... We need to continue to do our job with fervor and honor them.

Becky Weaver

**CHALLENGE:**

Try every day to approach your superior (teacher, manager, boss, etc.), preferably one you have difficulty with, and do something small, like: asking how their day is going, ask how you can help them today, ask how you can pray for them?

**PRAYER:**

Ask God to give you a heart for the authoritative figure in your life, that you struggle with. Thank Him for putting that person in a place of authority.

**FRIDAY – “GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY”**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read Mark 16:15-19

**Devotional:**

My Father was the ultimate authority in the house and we as kids all knew it even though mom did most of the discipline. It was dad who was the ultimate authority and carried out discipline when we needed it most. I feared displeasing my father more than my mother even though I didn't really understand why. As I grew up and began to understand things more, my dad did have the tough job of being the ultimate disciplinarian with mom's backing but they were a team caring for us the way God cares for us.

We have been given that kind of authority also as Christians. Our heavenly Father has blessed us with authority over sickness and the enemy! Even though we have this authority we don't always walk in it. We doubt or we just assume that it's not for us but a gift for someone more worthy than I.

Mark 16:17-18 says, “And these signs will accompany those who believe; In my name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Pastor Vern Weaver

**PRAYER:**

Things to pray about:

- Pray that you will walk always in faith believing that the word of God is for you.
- Pray for guidance in how to use this God given authority.
- Pray that you will live for Jesus in such a way that others will see this God given authority.
- Pray that you will lead others to walk with Jesus in the same way.

**SATURDAY – “AN INTRODUCTION TO - ISAIAH & JEREMIAH”**

Isaiah, and Jeremiah, two prophets who lived in a dark time, warned their country of its doom and that only devotion to God brings about restoration. Tomorrow, on Sunday, we will look at the stories of these two men and learn how to hear the voice of God. But before we hear from the Sunday Sermon, let’s take a moment to setup some background to these heroes of our faith.

**ISAIAH:**

Below is a list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to learn more about Isaiah and his character.

Question #1: Why do you think God called Isaiah? Read *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Question #2: Why do you think no one listened to Isaiah? Read *Matthew 13:10-17*

**JEREMIAH:**

Below is a similar list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to now learn about Jeremiah.

Question #1: How did Jeremiah become a prophet? Read *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

Question #2: Why is Jeremiah referred to as the weeping prophet? Read *Jeremiah 26:1-8*

**FINAL QUESTION:** What does it take to hear the voice of God?