MAGH
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Delegated Authority

Introduction

- God's kingdom operates through a structure of delegated authority.
- In week 3 of the Government of God series, Ps Lakers covered that all authority originates from God and is delegated for a purpose. It flows through us as we are aligned with God and have an intimate relationship with Him. For this our hearts must remain surrendered, our lives governed by His Word, and our steps led by the Holy Spirit.
- I've reflected on this from a corporate and personal perspective and today share my thoughts.

Delegating at Work and for Personal Affairs

- Delegated authority is not just a spiritual concept; it is reflected in government, business, and everyday life.
- For example, our Australian Governments operate through different levels of authority: federal, state, and local. Their relevant scope of powers and their confines originate from the Australian Constitution which is the base for the powers delegated to each level of Government.
- An example of this differentiated delegation is the constitutionally set federal government power of defense. The federal government has the exclusive constitutional power to maintain armed forces and declare war. This means that only the national parliament can deploy the military or manage national security.
- Similarly under the constitution state governments are granted the power to regulate schools including the power to manage and run public school systems. This means that state parliaments decide school curriculums, teacher training rules, and daily school operations.
- In my corporate legal background I prepared a number of delegated authority matrices for Banks and other organisations. It is the way the Board delegates authority to the executive and senior management to sign and approve contracts, expenditure and activities.
- Those with authority cannot go beyond their delegated authority or they could be fired or prosecuted for more serious offences.
- Similarly, at our firm we help individuals delegate authority every week. We do so via preparing powers of attorney. Some of these are for estate plans including Enduring Powers of Attorney for financial matters and Enduring Powers of Guardianship for personal and health related matters.
- If they are used to transact on property they also need to be registered with the land titles office.
- If these are not clearly drafted or signed or registered as needed then they may not effectively grant the attorney the power intended.
- Worse still, if the attorney exceeds the power granted (like using donor funds for their own needs) then they may be subject to civil or even criminal penalties.
- What all delegated authorities and powers of attorney have in common is that they all set clear limits on what the attorney can do and can't do.
- The attorney has a level of freedom to undertake the roles and responsibilities they are given. But it's within the confines of the authority granted.
- So freedom but within boundaries.

God's Power of Attorney

- When I think of the authority God has granted me, I think about it like a power of attorney that he's granted to me.
- It is an authority granted with the freedom to exercise it as needed.
- Yet there are boundaries I must stay within:

Matthew 8:8-10
"The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me.'

- Authority flows from being under authority. The centurion understood that submission and authority are inseparable.
- The confines are that it must be exercised while in alignment with God as the authority is granted by God and His Government and this is the base for that authority.

Romans 13:1
"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

- So all legitimate authority originates from God and is delegated by Him.

- However, the key question is: *How do we exercise that authority well and within God's confines?*

Exercising Authority with Wisdom, Restraint and Self-Control

James 1:19-20
"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

- From this we see that Godly authority is exercised through wisdom, restraint, and self-control rather than emotional reaction.
- Authority should not be exercised through pride, anger, or emotional reactions.
- When challenged or criticised, we have a choice:
    - React from emotion.
    - Respond with wisdom, humility, and love.
- Exercising authority in God's kingdom means seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance before responding.

Personal Example

- A difficult conversation arose when criticism was directed toward my family.
- My go to in the past has been to be defensive and sometimes even react aggressively – give it back as well as I got it.
- [JP to walk through what happened]
- Rather than reacting defensively, I chose to respond honestly and lovingly.
- The goal was not to win an argument but to represent Christ well.

- The above example led to a great discussion around how people are rarely transformed through judgment or pressure.
- Genuine encounters with Christ are more powerful than forceful persuasion.
- Our attitudes and actions can either draw people closer to God or create barriers.
- It led to a very different situation at the next family gathering – JP to elaborate.

Coming Under Authority

1 Corinthians 14:33
"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace."

- God's government brings order, peace, and alignment, not chaos or confusion.
- There is an order to follow and before we can exercise Godly authority, we must first come under God's authority.

Isaiah 9:6-7
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders... Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."

- God's Kingdom is a government and Jesus is its King. When Christ is Lord over every area of our lives, obedience becomes a natural outflow.
- Like fastening the top button of a shirt correctly, everything else falls into place when the first thing is right.

Conclusion

- God is the ultimate authority and He is a God of order.
- Divine order flows when we submit to His leadership.
- Effective leadership requires:
    - Humility
    - Wisdom
    - Love
    - Dependence on the Holy Spirit
- We exercise delegated authority best when we remain under God's authority.
- When God and His Kingdom are given first place in our lives, everything else falls into its proper order:

Matthew 6:33
“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”