

AUTHENTIC AUTHORITY:

WHEN A MAN ALIGNS UNDER GOD, RELEASES CONTROL, AND CARRIES WHAT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN

A. BACKGROUND

- **Text span:** *Genesis 12* → *Genesis 22*
- Abraham's life presents a complete framework for understanding authentic authority. In his world, authority came from inheritance, structure, and position; the father's house (*bit abim*) defined identity, protection, and legitimacy.
- God disrupts that system. He calls Abraham out of what is established into what is unseen. Authority is no longer inherited; it is entrusted. This is a message about **authorisation**, not self-appointment, but divine entrustment.
- This speaks to every man who:
 - carries responsibility but feels the pressure of it
 - desires influence but questions its source
 - wants growth but fears losing control
 - leads outwardly but senses internal misalignment
- The question is not "Do I have authority?"
- The real question is: **Is my authority aligned with God's order?**

B. AUTHORITY HAS A SOURCE — GOD

(*Genesis 12:1*)

"Go... to the land I will show you."

Abraham does not initiate authority; he responds to a call.

1. **Biblical Insight:**

- Authority is not self-generated; it is bestowed
- Abraham did not appoint himself; he was sent
- The call disrupted comfort, identity, and security
- Authority flows from alignment with God, not personal ambition

If the source is wrong, the authority will be unstable.

2. **Application:** Many men operate in self-appointed authority:

- moving ahead of God's timing
- building platforms prematurely
- attaching identity to roles or titles

This produces pressure, instability, and misalignment.

3. **Challenge:** Where am I trying to operate in self-appointed authority instead of being aligned with God's call?

C. AUTHORITY REQUIRES SURRENDER — ABRAHAM

(*Genesis 22:2*)

“Take your son... whom you love...”

Isaac was not just a son; he was the promise fulfilled after decades of waiting.

1. Biblical Insight:

- Authority is proven by surrender, not possession
- God tests alignment, not performance
- The issue was not Isaac; it was Abraham’s attachment
- What you cannot release will eventually control you

If you can’t release it, it owns you, and you are no longer leading it.

2. Application: Every man has an “Isaac”:

- a position he has worked for
- a vision he has built
- a relationship he depends on
- an identity he has formed

Misalignment begins when stewardship becomes ownership.

3. Challenge: What am I gripping that I need to surrender in order to lead rightly?

D. AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS THROUGH SUBMISSION — ISAAC

(Genesis 22:6–9)

“They went both of them together.”

Isaac remains, not because he is forced, but because he trusts.

1. Biblical Insight:

- Isaac was capable of resisting, yet he submitted
- His submission was voluntary, not imposed
- Authority is relational; it flows through trust
- A man cannot lead well if he does not know how to submit well

Authority is shaped by how a man sits under authority before he stands in it.

2. Application: Submission is revealed in:

- how you respond to correction
- how you handle instruction
- how you relate to authority over your life

Resistance above you will distort authority within you.

3. Challenge: Am I submitted in the areas where God has placed authority over me, or do I resist?

E. AUTHORITY IS SUSTAINED BY PROVISION — THE RAM

(Genesis 22:13–14)

“The Lord will provide.”

At the point of surrender, provision appears.

1. Biblical Insight:

- God sustains what He authorises
- The ram was already positioned, Abraham did not produce it
- Provision follows alignment and surrender
- Authority is sustained by God, not human effort

When authority is aligned and surrendered, provision follows.

2. Application: Men often:

- strive to hold everything together
- carry outcomes themselves
- operate in pressure instead of trust

If you must manufacture it, you are not operating in God-sustained authority.

3. Challenge: Am I striving to hold things together, or trusting God to provide where He has called me?

F. THE FRAMEWORK — AUTHORITY IN ORDER

On Mount Moriah, authority is revealed in full structure:

- **God** → **Source** (Authority is given)
- **Abraham** → **Surrender** (Authority is yielded)
- **Isaac** → **Submission** (Authority is trusted)
- **The Ram** → **Provision** (Authority is sustained)

G. THE CONCLUSION — AUTHORITY THAT CAN BE TRUSTED

Authentic authority is:

- **Sourced** in God, not self
- **Proven** through surrender, not control
- **Formed** through submission — not resistance
- **Sustained** by provision — not effort

Final Challenge (This Week):

- Identify one area to surrender
- Identify one area to come back under authority
- Identify one area to stop striving and start trusting

Authentic authority is not proven by what a man can hold. It is proven by what he is willing to release... and how he remains aligned under God.