

AUTHENTIC AUTHORITY: TRUSTING YOUR ASSIGNMENT

"Imposter syndrome is a direct challenge to the Master Strategist. To feel like a 'fraud' is to suggest that God was tricked into giving you the talent." – Chabala Chibwe, When Fear Becomes Robbery.

A. BACKGROUND

- **Text span:** *Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30), supported by 2 Corinthians 3:5*
- This message confronts a modern internal struggle: **imposter syndrome** — the quiet voice that questions whether a man truly belongs where he stands
- In the Kingdom, placement is not random. It is **intentional, measured, and assigned**.
 - The Master distributes “each according to his ability”
 - That means capacity was already assessed, your season was accounted for, your assignment was measured before anything was ever placed in your hands.
 - So the issue is not access. The issue is **agreement**.
- This speaks directly to the man who:
 - steps into rooms but feels out of place
 - carries responsibility but questions his capability
 - hesitates when he should move
 - withdraws when he should contribute.
- The question is not: “**Am I enough for this?**” The real question is: “**Do I trust that God knew what He was doing when He placed me here?**”

B. DOUBT HAS A SOURCE — THE LIE OF INADEQUACY

(Matthew 25:15)

“Each according to his own ability.”

1. **Biblical Insight:**

- Imposter syndrome is not just a mindset issue — it is a **theological misalignment**. Because at its core, it questions the judgment of God, not your ability
- To feel like a fraud is to imply God miscalculated
- The Master distributed with intention, not error. He did not experiment. He did not hope it would work out. He measured
- Your placement is not accidental — it is authorised

If the source of your thinking is wrong, your posture will be unstable.

2. **Application:** Many men:

- second-guess their seat at the table
- wait for more validation before moving
- shrink in environments they were called into

It's not that you don't have anything to give. It's that you are **questioning your right to give it**. This creates hesitation, delay, and withdrawal.

You begin to:

- hold back instead of stepping forward
- observe instead of contributing
- question instead of executing

So instead of contributing, you observe. Instead of stepping forward, you wait. And over time, hesitation becomes your default posture.

3. Challenge:

Where have I believed the lie that I don't belong... instead of trusting that God placed me here?

Do you secretly believe God "overestimated" you? Where did that lie come from, and why are you giving it more authority than His Word?

C. DOUBT REQUIRES A SHIFT — FROM SELF TO GOD

(2 Corinthians 3:5)

"Our sufficiency is from God."

1. Biblical Insight:

- The issue is not your capability; it is your focus. The issue has never been your sufficiency. Because in the Kingdom, **you were never the source to begin with.**
- Imposter syndrome is often disguised as humility
- But when you fixate on your inadequacy, you make the assignment about you
- Kingdom function is not built on self-confidence, but God-confidence

You are not the source — you are the vessel.

So, the problem is not that you feel inadequate — the problem is that you are **looking in the wrong direction.**

2. Application: Men often:

- overanalyse their readiness
- delay action until they "feel" confident
- measure themselves instead of moving in obedience

This creates stagnation.

But the shift is simple:

- Stop asking: "*Am I enough?*" "*Do I feel capable?*"
- Start asking: "*Did God make a mistake placing me here?*" "*Was I sent?*"

Because if you were sent, that is enough.

3. Challenge: What question is shaping my decisions right now — my capability, or God's authority?

D. DOUBT DISTORTS MOVEMENT — WITHDRAWAL VS PARTICIPATION

(Matthew 25:18)

"He who had received one talent went and dug in the ground..."

1. **Biblical Insight:**

- The servant did not lose the talent — he withdrew from responsibility
- Fear does not always look like failure; sometimes it looks like inactivity
- The voice of inadequacy does not call you to grow — it calls you to retreat

The danger is not just doing wrong — it is **doing nothing**.

Fear convinced him that the safest option was to **step back**. And that is how inadequacy operates. It doesn't always push you into wrong action. Sometimes it convinces you to take **no action at all**. And in the Kingdom, inactivity is not neutral — it is misalignment.

2. **Application:** This shows up as:

- hesitation in leadership decisions
- silence when you should speak
- passivity in moments that require presence

You don't collapse — you **shrink**

And over time:

- potential is buried
- influence is reduced
- responsibility is avoided

3. **Challenge:** Where have I normalised withdrawal... instead of stepping into responsibility?

E. AUTHORITY IS ACTIVATED BY MOVEMENT — NOT FEELING READY

(Matthew 25:16)

“The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.”

1. **Biblical Insight:**

- The faithful servants did not wait for confidence — they moved immediately
- Authority is not proven by feeling ready, but by responding quickly
- You grow into capacity by using what you've already been given

Movement validates assignment.

The faithful servants understood something: They were not responsible for proving themselves. They were responsible for **responding**. Movement was their agreement with the Master's decision. And in that movement, their capacity expanded.

2. **Application:** Men often:

- wait for clarity, certainty, or confidence
- delay execution until everything “feels right”

But Kingdom movement looks like:

- showing up imperfectly
- contributing what you have
- trusting that God will meet you in motion

So, the question is not: “*Do I feel prepared?*”

The question is: “*Am I willing to step forward with what I already have?*”

3. **Challenge:** What have I been delaying... that actually requires movement, not more preparation?

F. THE FRAMEWORK — AUTHORITY WITHOUT DOUBT

- God → Source (Placement is intentional)
- Assignment → Commission (You were chosen, not accidental)
- Man → Movement (You respond, not retreat)
- Outcome → Growth (Capacity expands through use)

G. THE CONCLUSION — A MAN WHO TRUSTS HIS PLACEMENT

A man walking in authentic authority:

- does not allow insecurity to rewrite God's decision
- does not wait for confidence to validate his calling
- does not withdraw when pressure rises
- does not measure himself as the source

He understands this:

- He may feel uncertain... but he is not misplaced.
- He may feel stretched... but he is not mistaken.
- He may feel unready... but he is still **sent**.

You are not a fraud. You are not a mistake. You are an **appointee**.

Final Challenge (This Week):

- Identify one area where you tend to hold back
- Step into that space intentionally this week
- Stop measuring yourself — start carrying what God gave you

Authentic authority is not proven by how confident a man feels... It is proven by whether he shows up where God has placed him.