

Hi, Welcome to Hangin' with Heid's Daily Devotional. This devotional is dedicated to my two sons, Jerry and Seth. For a hard copy of today's devotional, which includes all scriptural references that support my statements in today's post, please go to my website [heidijolopez.com](http://heidijolopez.com) and look under the tab, Daily Devotional.

## Day 10

- Why is understanding the authority Jesus Christ has given us so important?
  - Let me give you an example in the natural to help us see the parallel to the spiritual.
    - Authority is a mantle — like a coat from God that the spirit world sees and the natural world feels.
    - Although I may not have fully understood or even partially, let's be honest, the authority I have always had in Christ Jesus for the majority of my Christian life, I always knew I had authority as a teacher. Always. At the age of three, I knew I was a teacher — God had firmly impressed that upon me. When I stepped into the classroom after college, I walked in that God given authority I had as a teacher. Because I knew He gave me authority in that area, I didn't doubt it, nor hesitated to use it — correctly, I might add. Authority comes with great responsibility — and when we abuse it, we answer to God, not man. (Mark 9:42).
    - Here is an example of how authority works in the natural —
    - I was standing in the back of a church one Sunday before service, and two kids were screwing around up front and about to possibly cause some damage to what was up there as well as acting ridiculous in church. With the authority of the teacher I am, I raised my voice so they could hear me and said, "Enough. Sit down now." Immediately, the two adult women near them sat down (as well as the children). Now, I laughed and said to them, not you, etc. But the point is, those women heard and felt the authority in my voice and immediately responded to it.
    - We have all experienced being in the presence of someone with authority. We have also experienced being around people that don't recognize authority when it enters the room, leaving us with a twisted feeling in our stomach of, "what is about to happen?"
    - Authority is real; it is tangible.
- Now, as we learn about the actual authority given to us by God through Christ Jesus, we begin to take ownership of it. Authority is our birthright as sons and daughters of the Most High God, but if we don't know we have it, how can we use it?
  - Mostly, in mainstream Church, we are taught to be meek and mild — they say, Jesus was meek and mild — We usually have that statement shared with us with the picture of a kindly Jesus carrying a little lamb on His shoulders.
  - Now, I can always agree with Jesus being meek, which is humble — but, do you know what humility really is? Humility does not mean we let people walk on us or shoo away praise when given to us or deny the authority we have in Christ. That is FALSE humility (which is actually a form of pride, often coupled with insecurity and lack of understanding of our identity in Christ Jesus).
  - Humility is knowing the authority we have, walking in it, but NEVER abusing it. Humility knows the hierarchy of authority and always yields to who is above it; humility is power under control. Period.
  - And you know what, Jesus was never mild! Mild connotes weak, and He was NOT weak! Please, let us never mix up calm and self controlled with mild.

- Jesus is perfect humility. He never took His eyes off of the Father and what the Father had commissioned Him to do on earth, never. Ridicule, persecution, whipping, mockery, violence, and finally death on a cross NEVER deterred Him from staying in humility and fulfilling the Father's purpose for Him.
  - Humility never thinks of itself; it always thinks of what God is asking. Humility is one of the purest forms of power and strength.
  - In humility, we can and do walk in God's authority.
- Now, imagine stepping into that kind of authority, holding your shoulders straight, not in arrogance, not in defiance, but in the assurance that you ARE a son or daughter of the Most High God — now speak those WORD weapons to the enemy of your soul and strike literal terror into the core of him.
    - In that authority, with full humility, we can boldly say, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20.
- Now, when we still have iniquity — strongholds — in our lives, we cannot fully live in Christ's identity and walk in His authority. Satan knows this, so he hides those strongholds well.
    - Have you ever noticed that you have a sin, whether it is in your thought life or in action, that you cannot seem to be free of? Let me list a few sins, not for condemnation, but for clarity — gossip, slander, speaking words of death not life, sexual immorality (watching it on tv and movies, video games, magazines or living it out), lying, envy, jealousy, stealing, murder, abuse, pride, arrogance, rage, hatred...
    - If any of these are a part of your life, and you have tried to truly be free of them, you have a stronghold of iniquity connected to one or several of them. The only way to be truly free is to fully yield to Holy Spirit and ask Him to help you be free. Now, some of us need another person who walks in God's authority to pray over us, to speak deliverance from the stronghold. When God removes the stronghold or strongholds from our lives, then we truly understand the amazing scripture, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:36.
- How do I know that if we are in Christ that we are no longer subject (under the control of) sin? Because Jesus cancelled sin's hold on us, past, present, and future. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. And Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit." John 19:30.
  - So, sin is not our issue — our flesh, our own carnal desires — are the issue. We are free. But we have work to stay free. Freedom is a gift, and it is a choice — both in the natural and in the spiritual. But, if we don't protect that freedom, we can and will lose it.
  - The Bible is full of scriptures of warning and helps to live in freedom — Satan will tell us, and does tell us, that those scriptures are trying to control us, but the TRUTH is — living outside of God's perfect covering is what brings our lives torment and pain. Satan is the bondage keeper; he KNOWS that all sin leads to death.
  - Now, if we have Jesus as Savior, Satan cannot take our eternity with Jesus away by drawing us into sin, but he knows that all seed has a harvest, and if all sin is a seed, and all seed leads to death in harvest — then, with each seed of sin, there will be some kind of death.
  - Examples — a sin seed of adultery could lead to the death of a marriage — the sin seed of gossip could lead to the death of a friendship — the sin seed of anger and rage could lead to the death of many relationships and probably jobs — the sin seed of hate leads to the death of a full life.
  - The GREAT NEWS is, ALL of those sin seeds can be repented of, can be forgiven, and God can heal and restore life where death was planning to grow up.

- Remember when I said that God is love (1 John 4:8)? “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8 and “he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:20.
- For every diabolical plan of Satan, GOD always has an answer, a way into FREEDOM!
- This is truly what this whole devotional series is all about, helping people find true freedom, revealing all the tactics of the enemy, and equipping us to fully walk in the FREEDOM Jesus died to give us — This is about LIFE and LIFE ABUNDANTLY!!
- “The thief does not come EXCEPT to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I [JESUS] HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.” John 10:10
  - That is a promise!! And just to let you know God is driving that verse home with the 10:10 - 10 has to do with timelines and God carrying out His perfect plan. It is the number where God reveals His plan and sets things in order according to it. (Taken from Troy A. Brewers book, Numbers that Preach).
- Be blessed and of good cheer for God truly loves us and ONLY has good planned for us!!