



AFM Luton

2020

The Year of

“Authoritative Commanding”

Faith

Mark 11:20-23



Rev. E. & Mrs C. Mbizi

(Resident Church Minister)



2020: THE YEAR OF “AUTHORITATIVE COMMANDING” FAITH

(Mark 11:20-23, AMP)

²⁰ In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”

²² “Have faith in God [constantly],” Jesus answered. ²³ “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart [in God’s unlimited power] but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them [in accordance with God’s Will].”

Definitions

AUTHORITATIVE: having the weight of recognizable and respected authority, with self-assured confidence that one is in control in the expectation to influence the outcome of situations – *adjective*.

COMMANDING: dominating from a position of supreme jurisdiction, with a clear and superior perspective – *adjective*.

The faith that we, as Christians, have been empowered by the Holy Spirit enables us to directly tap into the authoritative self-awareness of sovereignty that Jesus Himself has and exercise it as our own. In other words, this particular brand of faith moves us from one level of glory to an even higher level of glory, whereby our dominion cannot be challenged, questioned or debated! We speak a word and it comes to be; we walk, and our presence shifts situational outcomes and atmospheres; we touch, and lives begin to change with immediate effect. This is the ultimate Will of our Lord Jesus for us, His offspring.

Now brethren, this new season of “authoritative commanding” faith depicts the very essence of God Himself, thus necessitates that we consume the Word of God regularly and thoroughly and ultimately digest it with the divine revelation



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

of the Word's practicality; by doing this, we are well-equipped and prepared to exert authority in all things as a sheer result of the self acknowledgment of superiority bestowed within us through Christ dwelling within us.

In the following section are 10 individual attributes distinctively dedicated as a 'blueprint' for operating with optimal proficiency throughout the year 2020. Each attribute is defined, presented with scriptures which evidence biblical examples of the attribute and thoroughly explained in relation to the Word of God with practical instruction relevance to our lives as Christians.



ATTRIBUTES

Day 1: 2 January 2020

FORGIVENESS

Definition: The deliberate decision to cease feelings of resentment or vengeance toward one who has caused offence.

Scriptures: **Matthew 9:3-8; Ephesians 4:31-32; Matthew 18:21-35; Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14-15**

To forgive is to directly operate and function in the rights and prerogatives of God; such is the authority that He has delegated unto us to exercise. In the field of law, there is such a thing called 'delegated legislation', which is law that is made by an executive authority granted with the decision-making power to implement and administer requirements of pre-existing 'primary legislation'.

Thus, we are the 'executive authority' of Jesus Christ, granted with the authority and power to forgive; in doing so, we administer the one key requirement of the Word - that all people not just hear the Grace and Good News of Christ, but experience it. By implementing our decision-making power to forgive, we subsequently present others with the opportunity to experience God's complete forgiveness by way of their faith.

Prayer Points:

- For God's Grace to enable you to forgive **all** wrongs without making any exceptions (**Genesis 50:17**).
- To be filled with so much Grace to let God be the judge between your adversary and yourself (**1 Samuel 24:9-12**).



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

Day 2: 3 January 2020

SPEAKING FAITH

Definition: Speaking forth and verbally declaring the existence of what one hopes for with full assurance and conviction, without current visible evidence.

Scriptures: Mark 11:20-23; Matthew 8:7-10; 2 Corinthians 4:13; Romans 10:8-10

The faith of Jesus during His time on this earth was authoritative and it was commanding; He always used His mouth as a distribution channel for faith. Similarly for us, the mouth must be used to speak forth the Word from within in the form of commands, confessions and declarations; the more of the Word that is stored inside one's self, the greater the stream of faith-infused words that flow from one's mouth for one ultimate purpose: to seal and confirm the inward conviction of the commanding authority that Jesus has bestowed unto us.

Prayer Points:

- For the Holy Spirit to inspire you to speak forth words of faith in all challenging life situations (**Acts 9:40; John 16:24**).
- For you to exercise the authority of the Holy Spirit by controlling the nature of your spoken words (**James 3:10-11**).

Day 3: 4 January 2020

SUBSERVIENCE

Definition: To willingly obey unquestionably, in the consideration of another's wishes over one's own in a manner of humility.

Scriptures: Romans 6:15-18; 1 Peter 1:14; Philemon 1:21; Isaiah 1:19; John 14:15

What distinguishes 'subservience' from its more basic form, 'obedience', is that the latter involves one merely complying to instructions or duties, whereas the former outlines a distinctively deeper component: one's willingness. When one is willing to obey the ultimate Will of Jesus by making His Kingdom the center of all life endeavours, it elicits wholehearted subservience, also known as the 'Grace-era obedience' and eliminates the 'law-era obedience' that is induced by the fear of consequences.



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

Unlike the 'law-era obedience' (e.g. the 10 commandments), this 'Grace-era obedience' of subservience is inspired by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us; this is where our willingness to obey originates. When one is continuously saturated with the Word of God, subservience to the things of God becomes natural and something one wills to do, rather than externally forced.

Prayer Points:

- For the Holy Spirit within you to urge the willingness to do God's Word without reservations (**Genesis 12:1-3**).
- To maintain laser-like focus on doing God's Word, irrespective of challenges and perceived impossibilities (**Daniel 6:12-16**).

Day 4: 5 January 2020

BOLDNESS

Definition: The capacity to act innovatively with confidence and courage, despite risks, challenges or danger.

Scriptures: Joshua 1:9; Acts 4:13-22; Ephesians 3:11-12; Acts 4:29-30

To be bold in behaviour and speech as Ambassadors of Christ derives from one thing: the confident expectation that the glory of the Good News of Jesus Christ is richly infused with an eternal, permanent and organic life-changing essence – Grace! Unlike with the law of Moses, when one possesses a true and deepened revelation of Grace, one flows with a certain level of boldness, especially in circumstances that are against one's favour.

Boldness sets us apart as experts and authoritative figures in fields in which we have no expertise and identifies us as Jesus' teknon (Greek for 'a fully dependent child/product'; where the word 'technology' derives). Thus, the trait of boldness is alike to a stamp of authenticity found on electronics to show that the product is a genuine product of a manufacturer. Similarly, a genuine Christian is bold and distinctly identifiable from the 'fake' Christians. It is through boldness that the Glory of God will be rendered impossible for others to deny.

Prayer Points:

- To continually exert innovative confidence as carriers of Jesus Christ, despite criticism (**Hebrews 13:6**).
- To not be limited by social qualifiers and the 'status quo' in what you aim to do and in living the Word in particular sectors of life (**1 Corinthians 16:13**).



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

Day 5: 6 January 2020

PERSEVERENCE

Definition: The continual and consistent effort in a course of action in spite of resistance, opposition or failure.

Scriptures: Galatians 6:9; James 1:2-4,12; Hebrews 10:36; 1 Timothy 4:16

It is a common error to mistake 'perseverance' and 'boldness' as being one and the same; however, there is a key difference. 'Boldness' is to do with the initiating of a courageous act, whereas 'perseverance' is regarding the endured consistency of that act.

Persevering in our efforts for the Kingdom of God during the most difficult of times endows us with invaluable spiritual experience; experience necessary for growth in the functioning of our spirits and the levels of our achievements. Consider a toddler learning to walk: they continuously stumble and fall flat on the floor, however they persevere with their attempts and through such relentless determination to continue in their efforts to walk, they subsequently gain the substantial experience needed to improve their walking ability.

Prayer Points:

- To not desist in exercising your faith as ambassadors of Christ (**Colossians 1:11**).
- That you endure right up to the end (**Revelation 3:20**).

Day 6: 7 January 2020

DAILY DEVOTION

Definition: The consecrated, precious and dedicated time one sets apart to commune with God on a daily basis.

Scriptures: Luke 2:37; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 86:2-3

Devotion to God on a daily basis is synonymous with intelligent worship, as highlighted by Paul. This is simply because to purposefully dedicate one's self and time daily to spend time in worship requires a certain level of applied revelation: that the more time spent in communion with Jesus Himself enables one to focus and align with His character, values and attitudes.



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

It is through such focus and alignment that we subsequently operate in the mind of Christ (a renewal of our own minds); when this occurs on a daily and frequent basis, there is a process of progressive spiritual maturity that spurs from the inside-out – spiritual metamorphosis!

Prayer Points:

- That you seek after God and you set apart intimate time with God on daily basis (**Ephesians 6:18**).
- The wiles of life shall not deter you from your daily devotion (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

Day 7: 8 January 2020

TRUST

Definition: One's assured reliance and confidence in the honesty, strength, integrity, ability and surety of another.

Scriptures: Nahum 1:7; Romans 15:13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20:7; Psalm 9:10

Trusting Jesus cannot occur in the absence of thorough knowledge, acknowledgement and recognition of Him. By way of daily exposure and digestion of His Word, one is able to download thorough knowledge of Jesus' honesty, strength, integrity and above all, His assured ability.

However, do not be mistaken; trusting Jesus does not depict merely taking a 'back seat' whilst possessing knowledge of His reliable traits with the idle expectation that He will do all the work for us. On the contrary, trusting Jesus is acquiring the knowledge of who Jesus is for the purpose of replicating His character in our own actions and behaviours. In the scientific field, an experiment can only be classed as 'reliable' if it is able to be replicated to produce the same result continuously; in the same manner, to trust and rely on Jesus is to replicate His insight, understanding and faith-inspired perspective of any situation in order to produce the same results that Jesus Himself produced.

Prayer Points:

- Your trust and reliance on the Good News of Christ is not shaken by human precepts (**Proverbs 3:5**).
- You are rooted in Christ and your trust is solely in Him (**Psalm 20:7**).



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

Day 8: 9 January 2020

SAGACITY

Definition: Keen intellectual discernment and far-sightedness in circumstances requiring one to be practically wise and judicious.

Scriptures: Proverbs 3:21-23; Ephesians 5:15-17; James 1:5-7; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Sagacity is one of the many types of wisdom accessible to us as Christians. However, sagacity is only accessible when one exerts faith in the Lord as the sole manufacturing supplier who has generously given us authority to be recipients of such an acute level of wisdom.

With this, we are equipped with the ability to discern business and investment opportunities, devise more socially and culturally relevant strategies for soul-winning and discern the right time to take spiritual action against any interruptive attempts by the enemy.

Prayer Points:

- For spiritual insight; your eyes must see beyond what is in your focal range (**Ephesians 1:12-23**).
- For sound judgement and acute wisdom (**Psalms 119:66**).

Day 9: 10 January 2020

STERIGMOS

Definition: Greek word meaning to be set firmly and established in a manner of fixed stability.

Scriptures: Philippians 1:27; 2 Peter 3:17-18; Mark 13:13

Being established is not merely enough for us as Christians, for it is possible for one to be established in sinking soil. Rather, we must ensure that we are established firmly on a stable foundation. How is this achieved? Well consider the human body; when food enters, it is digested by the digestive system to extract all nutrients and produce waste in a healthy manner. When the food is not digested successfully or there is an error in the digestive system, necessary nutrients are not able to be extracted and utilised, thus causing a negative effect on one's physical health.

Similarly, the Word that we hear is digested by our 'faith-system' for spiritual nutrients to be extracted and practically utilised in our daily lives for spiritual growth. A malfunction in one's 'faith-system' will lead to no production of Word-inspired results



APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

due to wavering and unstable faith – spiritual malnutrition! Hence, *sterigmos* (stability and firmness) in our faith in Jesus is the most essential part of being a proof-producing Christian; a Christian of demonstrative results and not just mere words.

Prayer Points:

- You are immovable from your faith (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).
- That you remain steadfast regardless of circumstances of resistance (**Psalm 125:1**).

Day 10: 11 January 2020

MILITANCY

Definition: The state of being vigorously active and combative, using violence in support of a cause.

Scriptures: **Matthew 11:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Luke 10:19; Ephesians 6:13-17**

Do not mistake this 'violence' for tyranny or terrorism. The Greek word used for 'violent' in Matthew 11:12 is the word *biastés*, meaning 'to be in eager pursuit with positive assertiveness'. This positive assertiveness is a result of our inward conviction inspired by the Holy Spirit, who commands and charges us with a mandate to act fervently by the revelation of His Word; similar to the way a military captain briefs his soldiers on the objective of a 'seek and capture' mission.

Prayer Points:

- For the Holy Spirit to teach you the art of strategic spiritual warfare (**Psalm 144:1**).
- That you be clothed with the correct and full armour of faith necessary for spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6:11-17**).