

# Focused LIVING

Concept: Four Postures of Authority

LEADER | **Breakthru**  
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# LEADER | Breakthru

**Because you don't get to clarity alone.**

## **Our Mission**

To see leaders breakthrough to live out their God-ordained destiny. We exist to fuel the passion within a leader, to be and to do that for which God has authored their existence.

## **What We Do**

Leader Breakthru trains, consults, and coaches leaders just like you. Our commitment is to deliver the best in leadership development resources. We help move leaders beyond breakthroughs in their development, and onto new behavior.

Additional resources on this same topic featured on the **Leader Breakthru website>>**

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## Spiritual Authority

Spiritual Authority spiritual power and influence God grants to His followers for the purpose of extending His purposes and sovereign plan.

Spiritual authority is a by-product of a Christ-followers personal life with God, and a sovereign God who grants authority to whom, and whenever, He chooses.

We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens--always full of the joy of the Lord, always thankful to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins. (Col 1:11-14)

I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven, And God has put all things under his feet and made him the supreme Head of the church--which is his body, filled with himself, the Author and Giver of everything everywhere. (Eph 1: 19-20)

Far, far above any other kin or ruler or dictator or leader. Yes, his honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come. (Eph 1:21-23)

Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan.

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil ruler of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge number of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

So use every piece of the God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up. (Eph 6:10-13)

So, what is the posture of a leader or Christ-follower whose desire is for God to use their life? What position can we as committed followers put ourselves in order for God to do His work? There are at least four postures.

### Four Postures

Each of the four postures runs in direct opposition to that which comes "natural" for most leaders. In every case it is easy to minimize our personal tendencies instead of seeking to embody these attitudes.

#### 1. The Posture of Surrender

- o Surrender stands in direct opposition to our desire to be in control; our fear of releasing control.
- o It is all about who reigns and about our willingness to trust the King.
- o The challenge of surrender means admitting that just like Adam in the garden, my deep desire is to be like God, to be the ruler of my own domain.

o The key question of Surrender is, "Who is in control?"

## 2. The Posture of Alignment

- o Alignment confronts the fact that we love our own ideas, and we love to do things our way.
- o After surrendering control, the challenge is to align ourselves with His plans.
- o We love to make plans, devise schemes, and then ask God to bless them.
- o Sometimes we present our plans to God, invite Him to share His thoughts with us and then act as if it is time to negotiate. (Which in reality means asking the King of the universe to compromise His plans by adopting ours)
- o When we act this way we are in effect saying to God, "Follow me."
  - o The challenge of alignment means admitting that I really do believe my ideas can accomplish kingdom work. That I really do want to do God's work my way.
- o The key question of Alignment is, "Who follows who?"

## 3. The Posture of Brokenness

- o Brokenness is being released from dependence on giftedness and competency and ministering in absolute dependence on God for anything of significance.
- o The process of brokenness is one of separating a leader from their security and reliance on abilities, skills, giftedness, competencies, plans, notebooks, etc.
- o It is Acts 3... learning that the needs of people go beyond the silver and gold they ask us for and which feels so great for us to give.
- o It is the upside down message of Paul throughout 1 and 2 Corinthians... the gospel of foolishness... this treasure in jars of clay (chamber pots)... so that I might know His all-surpassing power.
- o It is the realization that it is not me at all and that the Kingdom is not a matter of words, or tools, or fads, but the power of God.
- o It is about freedom from the need to be known "for my stuff."
- o The challenge of brokenness means admitting that I want people to be impressed with me. That I want to deliver ministry from a posture of positional and experiential authority.
- o The key question of brokenness is, "What do I rely on? What do I bring to the table, expertise or desperate dependence?"

## 4. The Posture of Vulnerability

- o Vulnerability admits that I need those I am here to serve, as much, or more than they need me.
- o It is the demonstration that I am not someone who has arrived, or mastered the life. I am a servant, in dependence and partnership with Jesus.
- o Transparency is the process of letting people see into my life; it is letting them know about weaknesses and our needs.
- o Vulnerability is the willingness to let these same people minister to those points of weakness and need.
- o Transparency says, I understand, I am like you.
- o Vulnerability says, I need you... probably more than you need me.
- o The challenge of vulnerability is not only admitting that I have needs, but releasing the last vestiges of that desire to impress people. It is about confronting the sin-based lie that pretends ministry flows out of what I do.
- o The key question of Vulnerability is, "Will I admit I need You? Will I choose distance (sanitary safety,) or relationship? Will I allow people into to the process of God's work in my life?"

These FOUR POSTURES open the door for the building of greater spiritual authority into a leader's life.

Assuming these postures is not a formula, but leaders willing to assume these postures

do see ministry flow out of beingness, as oppose to natural abilities, expertise or position.