

# Truth and Spirit Ministries

## The Restoration of Women In Christ Part I

By Denise Bostic

There has always been great conflict regarding the status of women since sin invaded the lives of the first man and woman created by God. This conflict continues to this very day with the majority of people lacking understanding regarding our Creator's original purpose and intent. There are many today that have a warped sense and view of God, His purpose and plan for women, even by some in the Church of Jesus Christ. Daily, we see the subjugation of women in many parts of the world as a result of what took place by the first inhabitants of the Garden of Eden. The results of the disastrous decision that Adam and Eve made in disobeying God still affect the thinking of millions around the world. The lack of understanding the mind, will and purpose of God has caused untold suffering among the female gender throughout the ages. As we will see, this was the plan of Satan to cause such a wide rift between God, man and woman so that he could thwart God's plan and cheat them out of their God-given authority to rule together in the earth. Divide and conquer is the enemy's plan against the human race. Separating people from God and one another, the devil seeks to attack and devour those who are not standing on a united front. Jesus said that if a kingdom or house were divided, it would not stand or last. (*Mark 3:24-26*) Not only did Satan seek to divide God's Kingdom, but the house of man and woman as well.

Although it may well look as though his plan has succeeded, we find instead that he was completely defeated in the redemptive work that Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross. It is so important that we understand what this redemptive work consists of if we are to receive all that Christ died to give us and obtain the victory over Satan. We are indeed destroyed for lack of knowledge. What we don't know will hurt us and ignorance is not bliss. In this study there will be a revealing of what has been hidden to many whose minds have not yet been renewed with the Word of God and the mind of Christ. With godly knowledge comes power to overcome the lies of Satan and to live by the power of Christ.

Women of God, be encouraged that the God who created you loves you and made you a woman for a purpose. To have understanding of God's plan in our lives is exciting and liberating. There is Good News regarding what God has done to reverse the terrible consequences of the sin of the first man and woman. We find in the Word of God a redemptive work done by the Lord Jesus Christ that is a work not only of salvation but **restoration** as He came to restore what the first humans had lost. In Genesis 3 we are told of how Adam and Eve had abdicated the power of dominion in the earth that had been given to them by God to Satan the devil.

In what is commonly referred to as the story of the fall of man, God Himself foretells the devastating consequences of their decision to disobey Him and the suffering that they will experience as a result. (Genesis 3:16-19) There are those who teach that these are commands of God not only for Adam and Eve to obey, but also for all men and women to obey down through the ages. A particular statement that God made to Eve is one that is used by many to keep women under the subjugation of men. "**And your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.**" (*Genesis 3:16 KJV*) Was God giving Adam a command to rule over his wife as some teach? The word rule in the Hebrew is *mashal* and means: **to have dominion, governor x indeed, reign, bear rule, have power.** [4910] This same Hebrew word *mashal* also means: **apparently from 4910 in some original sense of superiority in mental action.; prob. a pithy maxim, usually of a metaphorical nature; hence like a simile.** [4912] [*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.*] As seen here, after sin entered Adam and Eve's lives, Adam would now rule over Eve in an attitude of superiority instead of them ruling over the earth together in equality. In other words, God gave Moses a figure of speech here to compare Adam's relationship to Eve both before and after the fall. Adam did not have this attitude towards Eve before they sinned because he did not have a

sinful nature. According to this meaning of the word rule, we can understand that these were not commands from God but **consequences** from the result of sin. God was telling Eve that now her relationship with Adam would change in a negative way and that it would not be as it was before. Now there would be enmity between the man and woman because their authority to take dominion in the earth would now be perverted by the sinful nature, as Adam would now seek to dominate Eve instead of them both taking dominion together as God had intended. (*Genesis 1:26-31*)

The purpose and will of God is not tainted with the sin of the fallen human condition or the nature of Satan. God is light and has no darkness in Him. (*I John 1:5*) When Adam and Eve took of the fruit of the tree that God had commanded them not to, they had taken on a nature that is earthly, sensual and *devilish*. (*James 3:15*) God had warned them that if they ever ate of that tree, they would surely die. Their sin had separated them from their perfect union with God and caused them to be banished from the unspoiled paradise of the Garden. (*Genesis 3:22-24*) They were reaping the wages of sin (disobedience to God's commands). (*Romans 6:23, Galatians 6:7-8*) God knew now that they no longer had His nature but an ungodly one. Not only would Adam and Eve not be in right relationship with one another, but also the rest of humanity would also follow in their footsteps of walking in the sinful human nature. They had not only opened the door for the kingdom of darkness to come into their own lives but in effect had also opened the door for the whole human race.

Today we see the terrible effects that Adam and Eve's sin has had on women in the world. In many parts of the world women have been under the oppressive domination of men with very little or no freedom for themselves. In many countries and cultures, there are men who have ruled over women in an attitude of superiority and women are treated as being inferior, subhuman even, and their lives of little value or worth. This is not a reflection of God and His thoughts towards women, but is of the sinful nature of man that has been influenced by Satan and his dark kingdom. This can be traced back to what happened in the Garden of Eden and explains what we see going on around us today.

We can clearly understand from this story that what happened after they had sinned was a very different outcome than the one that God had intended for them to begin with. We must understand that how Adam and Eve were after the fall was not the way that God had originally created them in the beginning. Jesus came to restore what was once lost. He came to restore us to our rightful place by giving us a godly nature once again by making us new creatures in Christ by the regeneration of His Holy Spirit. (*John 3:3-8, Romans 8:9-17, II Corinthians 5:17-18*) Having this understanding tears down the strongholds of our minds that hold us into bondage, changes our way of thinking and leads us into the glorious liberty that is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ. (*II Corinthians 3:17-18*)

Let's get back to our previous question. Did God give Adam a command to rule over Eve? If this was a command from God for husbands to rule over their wives as some claim, then why didn't Adam and Eve have this type of relationship towards each other before the fall? The fact is that they did not have this relationship before the fall as proven by the original command for **both** to have dominion in the earth. It does not say anywhere in scripture that God told man to have dominion over woman before they fell from glory. Their relationship had not yet been spoiled by a fallen sinful nature. They bore a godly image and nature before this devastating event took place. God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our own likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over cattle and over all the earth...**" (*Genesis 1:26*) The very next verse explains who man is, "**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them.**" (*Genesis 1:27*) The word for man here in the Hebrew means *mankind* or *human beings*, which would include male and female.

In the beginning, God called both of them **Adam**. (*Genesis 5:1-2*) God had created both to rule over creation, not over one another, which is later, confirmed in the New Testament by Jesus when He taught His disciples, "**You know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**" (*Matthew 20:25-28*) We are to serve one another in the spirit of humility and love.

Since Jesus (God Himself) set the example for us and humbled Himself to serve us and even to die for us, how much more should we follow in His footsteps? The original will and purpose of God then is that women rule and serve alongside men in the earth, serving under the authority of God in His Kingdom and according to His will. Even though Satan tried to foil God's plan, we find in the Bible that he did not succeed. God's original purpose has not been thwarted, as evidenced in the One that came and conquered sin, death, Satan and hell.

Within the sacrifice of Christ is not only eternal life for all those who believe, but also the restoration of all things as purposed by God since the very beginning. When Jesus came to restore all things, this included restoring women to their rightful place in God. Jesus came to dwell among humanity as God in the flesh. (*John 1:1-14*) He came to reveal God's true attitude, purpose and destiny about women. With Jesus' atoning work on the cross, He brought men and women back on equal footing before God, just as it was before the sin of Adam and Eve. He set women back into their rightful place alongside men as taking dominion in the earth once again. God gives women the status of kings and priests as well as men in the Church and in Kingdom of God. (*Revelation 1:4-6*) Kings denote ruler ship; priests denote men and women representing the people before God. He has restored women to a position of ruler ship once again and makes no distinction between the genders, races, slaves or those that are free. God is no respecter of persons and gives His inheritance to all those who are in Christ. (*Acts 10:34, Galatians 3: 26-29*)

Where is the proof of what I am teaching? Let's fast forward to the New Testament. In Acts 3, Peter is preaching the Gospel of Christ in Solomon's porch at the Jerusalem Temple. One powerful truth that Peter preached regarding the Gospel is located in verses 20-21, the restitution (restoration in the Greek) of all things. **"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."** (KJV) What does this mean? What is God restoring? A study in the Greek reveals this magnificent answer. In *Joseph Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, this word restoration means: **"the restoration not only of the true theocracy (God rule) but also of that more perfect state of things which existed before the fall."** The Lord Jesus and the New Covenant are accomplishing God's original plan through the atoning work of the cross! As a result of the fall, all mankind received death, but through the sacrifice of Christ, we all may receive eternal life in Him.

When Jesus came to earth and accomplished a redemptive work on the cross, He came to restore us back to a right relationship with God as being His sons because this is what He had originally purposed before the fall of man. (*Romans 5:12-19*) The Lord came to restore His rule among men once again. Jesus came to restore that which was lost by the first Adam. He became the second Adam in order to accomplish the Father's will and to establish the dominion of God's Kingdom in the earth **of which we are now part of if we are in Christ Jesus**. Remember that God originally named both male and female Adam and it was to them that He gave the authority to have dominion in the earth, so it is to both male and female that Kingdom authority is restored. (*Genesis 1:26,27, 5:1-2, Romans 5:17*)

Back in the creation account, God said that what He had created was good. (*Genesis 1:31*) This would include his decision to give man and woman dominion in the earth. This is by God's plan, purpose and design. Because the work that Jesus finished on the cross restores us back to being sons of God, we now have all the inheritance rights as sons. Because of what Jesus has done for us we are now heirs and joint-heirs with Christ! (*Romans 8:14-17*) Does this include women as well as men? Of course! Salvation is available to all. Are we excluded from the inheritance, which is in Christ because we are female? Absolutely no! The redemptive work that Jesus accomplished was not only for salvation **but also for everything that accompanies salvation**. (*Hebrews 6:9*) In Christ, all believers are kings and priests. (*Revelation 1: 5-6*) Kings have authority given to them to rule. This includes women who are believers in Him. How can a king rule without the authority to do so? The distinctions that man makes are taken away in Christ. **"For you are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** (*Galatians 3:26-29*)

Women as well as men have been given power and authority in the name of Jesus. It is how we use this authority that is important. Jesus taught his disciples how to exercise dominion and made it clear that it was not to be over one another. (*Matthew 20:25-28*) Women and men are not to dominate or rule over one another, but to submit to, serve and love one another. (*Ephesians 5: 21-25*) Submission is not what many have made it out to be. Submission is a voluntary act of yieldedness, not forced obedience. God does not force our obedience and neither should we force each other to obey. God has given all people freedom of choice and so we must give each other that same option. God wants us to follow Him willingly. He wants us to be one with Him in will and purpose.

We should submit to one another because we are first submitted to God. We are told to submit to one another in love. Love does not seek or demand its own way. (*I Corinthians 13: 5*) Wives are to submit to their husbands in a yielded spirit even as they would unto the Lord and men are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. (*Ephesians 5:21-25*) Much like believers are to cooperate with the Holy Spirit for the good of accomplishing God's will for His Kingdom, we need to cooperate with one another for this same reason as well. We are to be like Christ, walking in the fruit of the Spirit. With God's Spirit dwelling in us, all of these things are made possible as we yield to Him. (*Romans 6:19*)

Knowing that a woman is restored to the things of the Kingdom of God, how does this apply to controversial subjects such as women in ministry and their role in the body of Christ? Does God prohibit women from being in the ministry? The answers may surprise you as we look into the word of God. We will address the most common passages that are seen as barriers for women that want to serve God in ministry.

*Ephesians 4:11-12* lists the gifts of the ministry in the body of Christ. Many interpret these scriptures automatically as the domain and territory of men exclusively. To understand what Paul is saying here, we must go to the Greek meaning to know what Paul understood and taught. "It was he who gave *some* to be apostles, *some* to be prophets, *some* to be evangelists, and *some* to be pastors and teachers..." In *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, the word "some" in the Greek includes **the feminine**, both **he and she**. This is the same word used in *I Corinthians 12:28* which is speaking on diversities of gifts in the body of Christ.

We all know that according to God's Word that He poured out His Spirit and gifts upon women as well as men. (*Acts 1:8, 13-15, 2:1-18, I Corinthians 11 and 12*) So we understand that women are not prevented from standing in these New Testament ministries according to God's Word. Who gave the authority for these gifts to be exercised? The Lord Jesus Himself. This is a very important key to exercising authority. We can receive no higher authority than that which is given by God. *Man cannot usurp the authority of Christ (the Head of the Church) and deny authority to those to whom He has given authority.* Those in the body of Christ can only confirm what God has established by knowing His will as revealed by the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 9:26-27, 13:1-4, II Timothy 1:6*)

Walking in the ministry gifts that the Lord has given us in the Church is directly connected to the restoration of all things in Christ- the dominion of not only God's theocracy, but His divine government that is represented in the earth through the Church as well. God's people are citizens and representatives of that heavenly Kingdom and exercise divine authority in the earth. God's government is set up in His Church and is clearly stated in the New Testament as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders, deacons and the priesthood of all believers. We rule and reign with Him in the earth today under the authority of God and His Kingdom. Jesus is our Lord and King. The citizens of the Kingdom have no authority to deny other citizens their rights; this is only by the exclusive power of the King.

**True authority is God given.** We need to grasp this truth if we are to understand and move in faith with God's word. When we receive authority from God, we are coming under proper authority. The Centurion amazed Jesus with his understanding of true authority when he said, "**But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.**" (*Luke 7:1-10*) This Gentile man had a greater understanding of true authority than all of those in Israel! There were many in Israel at the time that rejected Jesus simply because they did not recognize that Jesus'

authority had come from God in Heaven, the Highest authority in the universe. In turn, Jesus has given authority to believers to do the will of God in His Kingdom. (*Matthew 28:18-19*)

We need to be responsive to God's voice and obey what He says because we are under His authority. If we do not understand true, God-given authority, we cannot operate in the power of His Kingdom. God originally gave both man and woman the authority to have dominion in the earth. According to the Greek definition of restoration, Jesus came to restore all things back to the way they were before the fall of mankind and this includes dominion over the things in the earth, *but again, not over one another*. In light of what we have learned about true authority and dominion, we can shed some light on the Apostle Paul's meaning in I *Timothy 2:12* when it seems as though he is banning all women in all times from the teaching ministry.

Please go to [Part II](#).