

## REIGNING

Simply speaking, to reign is **to exercise authority for God**—to rule all things and in particular to deal with His enemy... The Old Testament records many instances of man since Adam reigning for God... This matter is even more evident in the New Testament. The first one in the New Testament who ruled for God was the Lord Jesus. He commanded illness to recede (Matt. 8:8-9), cast out unclean spirits (Mark 1:27), and rebuked and calmed the storm and the raging sea (Matt. 8:26-27). All these incidents speak of His reigning...

[F]rom the point of view of authority, reigning is the final goal of God's salvation. It is the summit of our spiritual experience. As for God, had He not saved us to the extent that we could reign for Him in the heavenly realm, the goal of His salvation would not have been considered fully accomplished. Furthermore, although this matter of reigning will not be completely realized until the coming of the kingdom and in eternity, yet today **God wants us to have a beginning on earth**. As for us, if any Christian has not yet reached the degree of reigning for God, he is not yet up to standard. A Christian who is up to standard has not only been delivered from sin, has overcome the world, has had his flesh dealt with and his natural constitution broken, has been filled with the Holy Spirit, and is sitting in the heavenly realm, but even more **he is reigning with Christ in all things**. Whether in God's work, in the church, at home, or in any encounter in his environment, he can reign and rule over that which God wants him to rule. There must be such people gained by God that through them the authority of God can be executed and the kingdom of God can come upon the earth. We must seek the experience of reigning. For this, two things must not be lacking.

## KNOWING OUR POSITION

**Firstly** we must know our position. We have mentioned in the previous chapter, *Knowing the Ascension*, that the basis of spiritual authority is the position of ascension. To have **power** depends on one's **condition**, but to have **authority** depends on one's **position**. A car with sufficient gasoline and horsepower will have power. This is a matter of condition. But a traffic policeman standing at his assigned post has authority to direct the cars, that they may proceed in order. This is a matter of position. Therefore, authority depends entirely on position. If we are in the position of ascension, we have authority and can reign. If we are not in the position of ascension, we do not have authority and cannot rule.

[I]f we want to be in the position of ascension and reign for God, we need to accept all the dealings of the cross, that we may pass through death into resurrection and thereby experience ascension. In other words, **the experience of reigning is the result of all the foregoing experiences**. Only after we have experienced death, resurrection, and ascension, can we obtain the experience of reigning.

Our reigning is based not only on the position of ascension, but also on the **position of order** arranged by God. Therefore, if we want to reign for God, not only do we need to be in the position of ascension, but we must also keep the position of order given to us by God—that is, to submit to the authority to which we should submit. All the authority of the traffic policeman previously mentioned depends not only on his standing at the assigned post, but also on his **submitting to his superior**. If he leaves his assigned post, he will not be able to direct the cars. If he rebels against his superior, he will lose even his official rights. Therefore, a policeman's executing of his authority depends on keeping the position of his duty on one hand, and on keeping the position of his rank on the other hand. The position of his duty is equivalent to our position of ascension, and the position of his rank is equivalent to our position of order.

Let us consider **David**. In his entire life, David submitted not only to God's authority, but also, in an absolute way, to the authority of order. He recognized that Saul was God's anointed one, that Saul was in the position of king, and that Saul was arranged by God to be his authority. He realized that he was only a subject of Saul. Therefore, no matter how Saul persecuted and hated him as an enemy, he never dared to rebel against him. In this way, he always kept the position of order and was a man who submitted to authority. Consequently, the day came when God also anointed him king, that he might reign for God in the nation of Israel.

Nevertheless, these men who submitted to God's authority had their **own blemishes and weaknesses**. It was not until the Lord Jesus came as the Word become flesh that there was in this rebellious universe a man who submitted absolutely to God's authority. In the life of the Lord Jesus, every word and action, every move and cessation, were in accordance with God's will and in subjection to God's authority.

## DESIRING TO REIGN

**Secondly**, we must have the desire to reign. This means that we must positively and actively reign for God, ruling over all things. Once we have the position of ascension and order, we may reign. If our experience has reached this stage, we ought to reign. Some brothers and sisters, however, have neither the thought nor the desire to reign. Their spirits are **loose and lazy**. They neither care for the difficulties arising in the church, nor inquire about the problems springing up in the Lord's work. They simply allow Satan to work and destroy at will. Hence, though according to their growth of life they are able to reign, yet in reality, due to their laxity and unwillingness to reign, they still cannot obtain the experience of reigning. Therefore, if one desires to reign, his spirit must not be lax or timid, but willing to exercise God's authority and positively and actively deal with all the works of the enemy. Thus, God's authority will immediately be manifested in the church, and many rebellious and unlawful matters in the church will be **subdued**.

In the church today, we lack the kind of people who desire to reign. Therefore, many situations which should not exist often arise. For example, some of the fellowship and breaking of bread meetings are weak and confused. Some of the brothers and sisters should have prayed, but they didn't; some should have spoken, but they withheld from speaking. On the contrary, many unnecessary prayers and meaningless testimonies were released. The meetings thus are disturbed, and the brothers and sisters are not edified and lose heart toward meetings. This condition is mainly caused by those who **should have reigned but did not reign**. They have just behaved like bystanders, allowing others to act in the meetings in whatever manner they chose. They even regard such a way as being very spiritual, not by man's doing, but by the Spirit's move. As a result, they cause the church to suffer great loss.

We often say that certain meetings are very dead and depressed. This kind of depression comes from Satan, because Satan is the devil, who has the authority of death. Therefore, whenever a meeting is dead and depressed, it means that Satan is reigning there as king. At that time, someone should rise up to reign for God, either by a word, a hymn, or a prayer to control the meeting, change the atmosphere, and release the life of God, thereby swallowing up Satan's death.

Satan works not **only in meetings, but also in many lives**. Sometimes he sends **unnecessary poverty** or **sickness**. If we live in the realm of ascension, we can tell which poverty and sickness is permitted by God and which is inflicted by Satan. Once we have discerned the matter, we must learn to reign by denying and opposing the poverty and sickness inflicted by Satan.

Furthermore, if we have had some experience in spiritual warfare, we can see that all things tending either to disrupt God's works or disturb the church are the deeds of demons. For example, sometimes in the meetings some are **dozing**, others have wandering thoughts, or children are running around. All these are the work of the demons. Even some prayers and messages are also the works of demons. Actually, anything in this world, except that which is moved by the Holy Spirit, can be said to come from evil spirits, that is, from demons. Hence, **how we need men** who are willing to rise and stand in the position of ascension and order, men who will positively and actively exercise authority for God to rule over all the confused and lawless situation and destroy the antagonistic works of the enemy!

In order to reign, we must express our attitude in **three directions: firstly**, toward God; **secondly**, toward Satan; and **thirdly**, toward persons, events, and things. Take for example a brother in the church who does not behave properly. The reigning ones need to go before God and express their attitude, saying, *"Lord, concerning this brother who misbehaves in such a way in the church, we neither agree nor approve."* Then they need also to declare to Satan that this comes from his disturbance, and they are opposing and judging it. Finally,

if necessary, they still need to solemnly express their attitude toward the persons, events, and things concerned, saying, *"We do not agree and will not allow this matter to take place."* When we express these attitudes, God will work and manifest His authority. Many times God's working depends on **our attitude expressed toward Him**. When a person lives in sins and the world, God will not respect his opinion. But when one has reached the position of ascension, his opinion will be greatly respected by God. When one reaches the realm of ascension, his opinion is almost the same as the mind of God. Therefore, he can be active and express his attitude, and God will respect him and trust him and reign through him.

Therefore, with regard to the goal of God's salvation, we need to reign for Him. With regard to our growth in life, we also need to **reach the stage of reigning**. With regard to Satan's unlawfulness, we need even more to rise and reign. In view of this we ought to take heed to learn this lesson well. Although this experience is considerably high and deep, yet since we already have some beginning in the second and third stages, if we continue to seek diligently, **the Lord will bring us into the realm of reigning**. May the Lord be gracious to us!