

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY – RESTORED IN CHRIST

Return in the Power of the Spirit

Based on the message by **Chad Everett**

YouVersion Sermon Notes: <https://www.bible.com/events/49561590>

STUDY OVERVIEW

This message challenges how we respond after encountering God. Jesus didn't just overcome temptation—He **returned** from it. And when He returned, He didn't come back the same. He **returned in the power of the Spirit**.

In Luke 4, Jesus models what spiritual authority looks like in real life: listening to God's Word, staying hungry, honoring what God is doing, and exercising authority through the Holy Spirit—not just talking about it.

This study invites students to move beyond church attendance and into transformation.

The question isn't just *Did you show up?*

The question is: **How will you return?**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each section follows this flow:

Biblical Principle → Read → Respond → Reflect

- **Read** grounds you in Scripture
- **Respond** helps you understand what the Bible says
- **Reflect** helps you apply it to real life—school, friendships, online spaces, and decisions

Have your Bible open. Let Scripture lead the conversation.

SECTION 1 — HOW WILL YOU RETURN?

“Are you going to return the same way you came, or are you going to return in the power of the Spirit?”

Biblical Principle

Spiritual encounters are meant to change us. Authority is revealed not just in moments with God, but in how we return to everyday life.

READ Luke 4: 14–15

RESPOND

1. Where did Jesus return to after the wilderness?
2. How does Scripture describe *how* He returned?
3. What does it mean to return in a “different condition”?

REFLECT

- Where do you return to every day (school, home, friend groups)?
- Do people see the same version of you—or a changed one?
- What would it look like to return in the power of the Spirit this week?

SECTION 2 — AUTHORITY FLOWS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Biblical Principle

Jesus did not operate in authority because of position or title, but because He was empowered by the Holy Spirit.

READ Luke 4: 14 and John 5: 19

RESPOND

1. Where did Jesus’ power come from?
2. What does this show us about dependence on the Holy Spirit?
3. Why is it important that Jesus didn’t rely on His own ability?

REFLECT

- Where are you tempted to rely on yourself instead of God?
- How does depending on the Holy Spirit change how you respond to pressure?
- What would trusting the Spirit look like in a tough situation right now?

SECTION 3 — FAMILIARITY CAN BLOCK HONOR

Biblical Principle

Being familiar with God—or with people God uses—can dull our ability to receive what He wants to do.

READ Luke 4: 16–22

RESPOND

1. Why did the people in Nazareth struggle to receive from Jesus?
2. What distracted them from the truth of what He was saying?
3. How did familiarity affect their response?

REFLECT

- Do you ever tune out because something feels “normal” or familiar?
- How can familiarity block hunger for God?
- What does it look like to listen with honor instead of judgment?

SECTION 4 — AUTHORITY IS EXERCISED, NOT DISCUSSED

Biblical Principle

Spiritual authority isn’t proven by words—it’s revealed through action empowered by the Spirit.

READ Luke 4: 33–37 and Luke 4: 38–39

RESPOND

1. How did Jesus respond to demons and sickness?
2. What did He command—and who did He speak to?
3. What does this teach us about authority in God’s Kingdom?

REFLECT

- Do you believe God’s power is meant to be experienced today?
- Where do you need God’s authority to overcome something in your life?
- What holds you back from believing God can work through you?

SECTION 5 — TEACHING THAT TRAINS, NOT IMPRESSES

Biblical Principle

Jesus taught to equip people to live out God's Word—not to impress them with information.

READ Luke 4: 31–32 and James 1: 22

RESPOND

1. How did people respond to Jesus' teaching?
2. What made His teaching different from others?
3. Why is instruction meant to lead to action?

REFLECT

- Are you more focused on listening or obeying?
- What truth do you already know but haven't practiced?
- How can you take one step of obedience this week?

SECTION 6 — HUNGER DETERMINES WHERE GOD MOVES

Biblical Principle

God moves where people remain hungry, humble, and open to His work.

READ Matthew 5: 6 and Luke 4: 28–31

RESPOND

1. How did the people respond when Jesus challenged them?
2. Why did Jesus move on to those who were hungry?
3. What does Scripture promise to those who hunger for righteousness?

REFLECT

- What competes for your hunger right now?
- Are you more focused on comfort or transformation?
- How can you stay hungry for God instead of just routine?

WEEKLY STUDENT APPLICATION

“How you return reveals what you believe.”

Anchor in Scripture

Choose one passage to read daily this week:

- Luke 4: 14–15
- Luke 4: 32
- Matthew 5: 6

Read slowly. Ask what God is showing you.

Write a Truth Statement

Write one sentence that answers this question:

How do I want to return differently?

Example:

“I choose to return to my everyday life led by the Spirit, not my habits.”

Pray and Listen

Ask the Holy Spirit:

- “Where am I returning the same instead of changed?”
- “What do You want to strengthen in me?”
- “What step of obedience are You inviting me to take?”

Act Intentionally

Take one clear action this week:

- Obedience
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Repentance
- Boldness

Authority grows when truth is lived, not just learned.