

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

# SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY – RESTORED IN CHRIST

### 2026: The Year of the Turning Point

Based on the message by **Pastor Chad Everett**

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## OVERVIEW

Pastor Chad Everett declares 2026 as a **Year of the Turning Point**—a moment where God interrupts the momentum of the enemy and reverses outcomes through obedience, hunger, and spiritual response. This message is not focused on learning new concepts, but on **engaging what God is already speaking** and refusing to carry old weights, lies, and patterns into a new season.

Using Luke 4, Pastor Chad shows how Jesus modeled authority **in action**—through fasting, hunger, resisting temptation, and answering the enemy directly with Scripture. This study guide is designed to move believers from awareness to **activation**, from silence to **response**, and from spiritual pressure to **spiritual authority**.

This guide is meant to be worked through slowly and honestly, allowing Holy Spirit to expose what must be emptied, strengthen what must be confronted, and awaken fresh hunger for God.

**If children are present in your group**, leaders are encouraged to simplify questions and invite children to participate by answering in their own words. Including children in discussion helps reinforce biblical truth at an early age and reminds the whole group that discipleship happens best in community and conversation.

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## HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

**Hear → Answer → Act**

Each section begins with a focus statement drawn from the sermon. Open your Bible and read the passage aloud. Engage the questions honestly. Do not rush to “correct” answers—allow Scripture and Holy Spirit to bring clarity and conviction.

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## SECTION 1 — A TURNING POINT REQUIRES A RESPONSE

“2026 was going to be a year of a turning point.”

### Focus

A turning point does not happen automatically. It requires agreement with what God has said—and resistance to what the enemy has been doing.

### READ

Open your Bible and read: **Genesis 50: 20**

### RESPOND

1. What does this verse reveal about the difference between human intent and God’s purpose?
2. How does this passage redefine seasons where it looked like the enemy was winning?
3. What does it mean for God to *turn* something rather than simply remove it?

### REFLECT

- Where have I accepted defeat instead of expecting God to intervene?
  - What situation from the last season needs to be placed back into God’s hands?
  - What would agreement with God’s promise look like in my life right now?
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## SECTION 2 — PRAYER AND FASTING CREATE A SHIFT

“We’re not just subtracting food—we’re feeding on something else.”

### Focus

Prayer and fasting are not religious requirements; they are **spiritual responses** that shift authority by weakening the flesh and sharpening the spirit.

### READ

Open your Bible and read: **Luke 4: 1–2; Matthew 6: 17–18**

### RESPOND

1. Why was Jesus fasting as He entered the wilderness?
2. What does Jesus assume His disciples will do in Matthew 6?
3. How does fasting reposition attention, dependence, and desire?

## REFLECT

- What has been feeding my flesh more than my spirit?
  - What might God be asking me to temporarily lay down in this season?
  - How could prayer and fasting realign my focus and direction?
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## SECTION 3 — HUNGER IS NOT THE PROBLEM

“Hunger reminds us that something is empty.”

### Focus

Spiritual hunger is not weakness—it is an invitation. God often allows hunger to surface so we recognize what truly needs to fill us.

### READ

Open your Bible and read: **Luke 4: 2; Matthew 5: 6**

### RESPOND

1. Why is it significant that Scripture notes Jesus was hungry?
2. What promise is attached to hunger for righteousness?
3. How does hunger expose misplaced cravings?

## REFLECT

- When was the last time I was truly hungry for God?
  - What cravings have been competing with spiritual hunger?
  - How might God be using hunger to invite deeper dependence?
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## SECTION 4 — THE ENEMY SPEAKS THROUGH DOUBT

“If you are the Son of God...”

### Focus

The enemy’s primary tactic is to attack identity by planting doubt—especially right after God speaks clearly.

### READ

Open your Bible and read: **Luke 4: 3; Luke 3: 22**

## RESPOND

1. What had God just spoken over Jesus before this temptation?
2. How does the enemy attempt to undermine that truth?
3. Why is identity often the first target?

## REFLECT

- What thoughts have caused me to question who God says I am?
  - Where have I allowed feelings to override truth?
  - How can recognizing the source of a thought change my response?
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## SECTION 5 — SILENCE IS NOT NEUTRAL

“The devil said... but Jesus answered.”

### Focus

Unanswered lies gain influence. Spiritual authority is exercised when truth is spoken in response.

## READ

Open your Bible and read: **Luke 4: 4; John 8: 44**

## RESPOND

1. How did Jesus respond to temptation?
2. Why is Scripture the correct response to lies?
3. What happens when lies go unanswered?

## REFLECT

- What lies have I tolerated instead of confronted?
  - What Scriptures do I need to know well enough to speak?
  - How might speaking truth out loud disrupt ongoing patterns?
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## SECTION 6 — ACTIVATION: IT IS WRITTEN

“We don’t just think truth—we answer with it.”

### Focus

Spiritual authority is activated when believers respond intentionally, consistently, and verbally with God’s Word.

### READ

Open your Bible and read: **Deuteronomy 8: 3; Galatians 5: 24**

### RESPOND

1. What does it mean to live by every word of God?
2. How does crucifying the flesh differ from pacifying it?
3. Why does obedience strengthen spiritual authority?

### REFLECT

- Where do I need to stop managing the flesh and start surrendering it?
  - What truth do I need ready for immediate response?
  - How is God inviting me to live differently moving forward?
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## UNIFIED ACTIVATION PRACTICE (FOR THE WEEK)

### 1. Identify the Lie

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal one recurring lie, fear, or accusation.

### 2. Find the Truth

Search Scripture until you find a clear answer to that lie.

### 3. Speak It

Say the truth **out loud**, beginning with *“It is written...”*

### 4. Act on It

Take one practical step that aligns with what God has said.

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**A turning point begins when believers stop absorbing pressure and start answering it. As we pray, fast, hunger for God, and respond with His Word, authority shifts—and what the enemy meant for evil is turned for good.**

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