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Spiritual Authority According to the Bible

By Jimey Grant

The Systematic Substitute

In the modern ecclesiastical world, the seminary degree has become the gold standard for leadership. We have been conditioned to believe that a three-year master's program and a systematic understanding of church history are the primary credentials for pastoring a flock. However, as we stand in the spiritual turbulence of 2026, we must ask a critical question: Does the institution produce a man of God, or does it merely produce a religious administrator?

I am openly against the current model of seminary schooling for pastors and church leaders. My opposition is not rooted in a disdain for learning, but in a conviction that seminary has become a substitute for the holy spirit. It is a system for leaders who may be religious individuals, but who lack the actual indwelling power of the holy spirit. It is a structure that teaches the natural order while remaining functionally blind to the spiritual reality.

Decency vs. Discernment

The common defense for the systematic operation of the church is found in the mandate that "all things be done decently and in order." While this is scripturally sound, we must distinguish between Physical Order and Spiritual Discernment. Seminary teaches a systematic structure of operation—how a board should meet, how a budget should be run, and how a sermon should be rhetorically crafted. This is order from a natural, governmental perspective.

However, 1 Corinthians 2:14 reminds us that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God... because they are spiritually discerned." You cannot organize your way into a miracle. You cannot "systematize" your way into a breakthrough. When the church operates solely out of a systematic structure, it becomes a "form of godliness that denies the power

thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5). True order is not found in a handbook; it is found in the leading of the Spirit.

The "Unschooling" Credential

The Bible provides a different accreditation model. In Acts 4:13, the religious elite of the day were astonished when they saw the courage of Peter and John. The text notes that the leaders realized these men were "unschooled, ordinary men." They didn't have the rabbinical degrees of the Sanhedrin. Yet, the elite were forced to take note of one thing: These men had been with Jesus.

Being "with Jesus" is a qualification that a university cannot bestow. 1 John 2:27 tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you have no need for a man to teach you in the way the world teaches; rather, the holy spirit himself teaches you, leads you, and guides you into all truth. This is the difference between a "systematic school" and the "school of the spirit." One gives you a diploma; the other gives you deliverance.

The Curriculum Gap

Let us be honest about the heart of the matter. If we look at the standard seminary curriculum, there are massive, gaping holes where the most vital spiritual truths should be. Does seminary teach you who the true people of God are according to the bible? Do they teach the nationality and the cultural significance of the 12 Tribes of Israel? Do they teach you how to deal with the dark night of the soul—the true Gethsemane experience of purging the will?

In the arden of Gethsemane, Christ did not rely on a syllabus; He wrestled with the cup of the Father's will. This "crushing" is the only true accreditation. While seminary rewards the gathering of information, Gethsemane requires the surrendering of the self—a curriculum of isolation that no institution can simulate or survive through intellect alone.

Furthermore, does the "system" prepare a leader for the reality of spiritual warfare? A degree cannot teach you how to break a generational curse, how to identify witchcraft, or how to dismantle the kingdom of darkness. They do not teach you about the water kingdom or the operation of spirit husbands and spirit wives (Incubus and Succubus spirits). They do not teach you how to apply the blood of Jesus as a weapon in the spirit realm. Seminary prepares you to run a building; it does not prepare you to damage and penetrate the kingdom of darkness.

The Keys of the Kingdom

The true "Keys of the Kingdom" are found in spiritual authority, not academic tenure. Seminary is a systematic governmental structure that attempts to manage the things of God through the intellect. But the spiritual realm does not bow to an intellect; it bows to an anointing.

As we move forward in these end times, we do not need more religious administrators. We need men and women who have been purged in the garden and taught by the spirit. We need leaders who understand that spiritual weapons are not carnal. It is time to step out of the systematic structure and back into the spiritual perspective. True authority is not earned in a classroom—it is forged in the fire of a personal relationship with the Living Christ. This forged authority is the only shield capable of standing against the digital and spiritual storms of 2026.
