Authority Over the Powers of Darkness

The Authority of the Believer

These are the lesson notes for the following YouTube video(s):

Authority Over the Powers of Darkness



DIVE DEEPER
Read This Book:
Supermen

Ephesians 1:16

> *[I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the **knowledge of Him**, [18] **the eyes of your understanding** (Greek: heart) **being enlightened**; that you may **know what is the hope of His calling**, **what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,** [19] and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power [20] which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21] **far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that's named,** not only in this age but also in that which is to come. [22] And He put all things under His feet, and gave **Him to be head over all things to the church,** [23] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

This is such a rich scripture

Ephesians 2:4

> *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus […]*

Put all things under his feet – beneath his feet. Jesus exalted to the highest seat in the universe. All dominion, all authority, all power beneath his feet. He is the head of the body the church. We are His feet – He is the head. If it's beneath his feet, is beneath our feet. His victory is our victory.

Romans 5:17

> *For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

One of the most spectacular and impressive truths that the born-again Christian is privileged to discover is that, in Christ, we have been given authority over the powers of darkness. Your whole life will change when you receive revelation of this truth.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Psalm 110: 2

> *The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength **out of Zion**. Rule in the midst of your enemies!*

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

We need to learn how to rule and reign in the midst of all the enemies that rise up against us and Christianity as a whole. We have to learn how to use our authority, walk in victory and deal with our enemies.

When you get born again and enter into the Kingdom, it doesn't mean you have a life without enemies. Compare it to the journey of Israel out of Egypt. God promised them victory every time, whether they had one enemy, 5 enemies or dozens of enemies.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Psalm 23:5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You need to be able to sit down with the Lord in the midst of your enemies and in the middle of your battles.

Living in Freedom, What Does That Look Like?

Living in freedom, dominion and authority doesn't mean you don't face enemies or trouble – it means you have the power to defeat every enemy that comes against you and overcome every setback.

2 Samuel 5:17-19

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. [18] Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; [19] so David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" The Lord answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."

Prodigal son – restored to the father's house.

Received	As a sign of	Details
A welcome back into the house	**Identity**	You know who you are and whose you are.
A hug	**Intimacy**	Close personal relationship with the Father (calling)
A ring on his finger	**Authority**	The authority of God

Knowing your identity and authority is a prerequisite for walking in victory.

Acts 19:13

*Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." [14] Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [15] **One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"** [16] Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them **and overpowered them all.***

He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. [17] When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

This is a strange story, but it teaches us something about authority and us walking in our authority.

1. **Copying doesn't work.** "Jesus who Paul preaches." You need faith in authority when it comes to deliverance. You can't copy it or you can't do it because you heard/saw someone else do it. (there is a lot of imitation in the church – everywhere). even when it comes to faith. People do things – imitation instead of personal revelation. Trying instead of believing and having faith.
2. **The demon knew who Jesus was**. Demons know very well who Jesus is. They know it better than we do. The Bible says that even demons believe in God, and tremble. (James 2:19)
3. **The demon said, "I know who Paul is**. Paul had a reputation in the world of the demons, they knew who he was. They had heard of him. "But who are you?" So you see it's important that we learn who we are.
   What reputation do we have in the spiritual realm?

We Have to Understand the Spiritual Realm

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

*Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, [11] **lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.***

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 2:10 that we shouldn't be ignorant of the devil's thoughts or plans. In other words, we need to know how he works so we can respond to it.

The devil can have legal grounds to have an influence on your life: fear, unbelief, bitterness, religion.

Ephesians 4:25-27

*Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. [26] **"Be angry, and don't sin": don't let the sun go down on your wrath, [27] nor give place to the devil.***

Ephesians 6:11

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 1:19

…and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe…

What is Authority & How Does It Work?

Matthew 8:5 (ESV)

*When He had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, appealing to Him, [6] "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." [7] And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." [8] But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, **but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. [9] For I too am a man under authority,***

with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." [10] When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Assuredly, I say to you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

How did this man have such great faith, that it was enough for Jesus to just say a word? Because he understood how authority works because he had authority himself. Understanding authority causes great faith and gives victory over the devil's plans.

Matthew 8:9

I am a man under authority and I have people under me. If I say, "do this, they do it", if I say, "do that, they do it".

The man sees that he has authority over situations and over a specific group of people in the natural, but he sees that Jesus has authority over spiritual situations (unseen realm), sicknesses and demons. So, he told himself, if I speak and it happens in the natural, then it also happens in the spiritual when Jesus speaks.

Why Did the Man Have this Authority?

1. **Because he had people under him: authority is about position.**
   He had a higher position than the people under him, so he was in command, in the same way Jesus has a higher position than demons and sickness, so He is in command.
2. **Because he himself was under authority: The centurion understood authority.**

   He had authority over others because he himself was under authority. If he hadn't been under the authority of his commander, he wouldn't have had any authority over other people. He would have been just like everyone else. He received his authority from his boss.

   Power or authority is delegated by someone. You **have authority over those over whom you are placed.**

Luke 10:19

*Behold, I **have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (exousia – authority) of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you**. [20] Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

Luke 9:1 (NASB)

*Now He called the twelve together **and gave them power and authority over all the demons**, and the power to heal diseases.*

Jesus gave you power and authority. So, you do it in the name of Jesus, not in your own name, because you only have the authority you've been given. (cf. a policeman stopping traffic).

Authority goes hand in hand with responsibility. If you have authority over something, you then become responsible for it. God gave **us** authority over a lot of things. They are not in God's hands – they are in our hands.

Authority

When we talk about authority we have to understand WHY we have authority.

God's Position

Should be clear to us all. Highest King. He is number 1: God is King over creation – sovereign. God, in His sovereignty, decided to give us His Word, Spirit and principles. etc. (Psalm 10:16, 2 Kings 20:6, Isaiah 37:16, Psalm 93:1, 95:3, 96:10, 104, 136:1-9)

God reigns. He is King over the entire universe. That said, God works through people together, since the beginning, starting with Adam. God always uses people to fulfill his plan and also to reign and rule through.

Psalm 115:15-16

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. [16] *The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's;* ***but the earth He has given to the children of men.***

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and ***the government*** *will be upon His* ***shoulder****.*

Colossians 1:18

And He is ***the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.***

Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 27

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. [14] ***Then to Him was given dominion and are a glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*** [18] ***But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.*** [27] ***Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions will honor and obey Him.***

Mankind was Made to Rule and Reign

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may ***rule*** *over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."* [27] *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* [28] *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number;* ***fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground****."*

God originally made man to rule. God gave man authority and commanded him to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). The devil and powers of darkness had no authority or power over the lives of

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

Adam and Eve, so the serpent had to *deceive* them. He had to use lies, deception and trickery to make them *hand over* their authority *themselves*. He had no right to do so, but the devil operates *unlawfully*, acting as a *thief* and *deceiver*. The devil only has authority when he deceives man and when he can cause people to doubt Gods Word.

Revelation 12:9

…that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober, be vigilant, because **your adversary the** devil walks about like a roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.***

The devil walks about *like* a roaring lion, but he is actually just a mouse / rat with a megaphone.

If he can make enough noise, people might be frightened by it and that's how he misleads and intimidates them. Peter tells us that the devil *is seeking whom he may devour*. The devil *can't* devour everyone, so he is looking for his prey.

When we learn who we are in Christ and use our authority, the devil will always stop and look for easier prey. The devil is a thief, a liar, and a deceiver. He's like a burglar who has no right to break into your house and steal from you, but he's still going to try. You should treat the devil just as you would a burglar that you catch and "help" out of your house. That's why James says that if we resist the devil, he will always flee from us.

James 4:7

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

1. It's our responsibility to resist the devil (not Gods – God help me, God do something). You need to learn how to resist and withstand the devil)
2. What will happen: he will flee from you.

You can't deal with the devil gently. So many Christians don't use their authority they are too sweet, too soft, too nice with the devil. (Father, I pray…, Lord, we bless this person and situation).

Smith Wigglesworth, a well-known faith preacher, was waiting for the bus one day when an old woman walked up with a small dog trailing along behind her. When the woman got to the bus stop, she said to the dog, *"All right, sweetheart, now turn around and go home."* Wagging its tail, the little dog just stood there looking at her. Again, she said**,** *"Sweetie, go home now."* Once again, the little dog just stood there. Suddenly, the woman got angry and stamped her foot on the ground, screaming, "HOME. NOW!" The dog turned around and sprinted home with its tail between its legs. When Smith Wigglesworth saw that, he said, *"That's how we should deal with the devil! You can't be gentle with the devil."* If we resist the devil with authority, he will *always* flee from us.

Luke 4:13

Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Several years ago, I saw an interview with the US Defense Secretary. The interviewer asked him, *"What keeps you awake at night?"* He answered immediately, "Nothing. I keep other people awake at night!". When I heard that, I thought, *that's how it should be with Christians and the devil.* All too often, I hear that Christians lie awake at night fearing demons or the devil, when it should be the other way round.

You should "keep the devil awake," instead of the devil keeping you awake! Smith Wigglesworth also told a story that he woke up one night because he felt a strange presence in his room. When he opened his eyes and turned around, the devil was standing at his bedside, looking straight at him. Smith Wigglesworth said, *"Oh, it's just you."* and turned over and went back to sleep. We all need to be like that! There's no need for us to marvel at the power of the devil, but we should definitely marvel at the power of God.

All Power and Authority, Given to Christ

To understand the authority we have been given, we must first understand the authority that Christ has been given. When Jesus rose from the dead, He said this,

Matthew 28:18

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.***

It's very simple. If Jesus has *all authority* in heaven and on the earth, the devil has *no power* in heaven and on the earth. You may now be thinking, *how come the devil still causes so much misery and problems, if he doesn't have any power anymore?* You don't have any authority or power in someone else's house, but you can still cause a lot of misery and problems there, illegally (through stealing, deceiving, lying, pretending, intimidating…).

Very many Christians are just not aware of the authority they have been given, so they don't use that authority, thus allowing the devil to do as he pleases. That's why the Bible says, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6).

When Jesus rose from the dead and was placed at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms, the devil was completely humiliated, disarmed, and stripped of his power. The following passage from Peter may be a little difficult to understand if you are unfamiliar with the subject, but it is an essential text on the authority of Christ.

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NIV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. [19] After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – [20] to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, [21] and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Peter first explains that Jesus has forgiven our sins and brought us to God. Then Peter says that Jesus, after *"He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit… went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits*. What did Peter mean by this? Peter was referring to the story from Genesis 6, where we read that there were angels[20] who rebelled and disobeyed God, coming to earth to have make children with the women. (Genesis 6:1- 2). This was so evil in the eyes of God that it led directly to the Great Flood. The angels who rebelled against God at that time were imprisoned by God and are being held until the final judgment. Although most of us are no longer familiar with these topics, Jude and Peter write about such things as self-evident truth.

Jude 1:6

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

Although it isn't within the scope of this teaching to explain in detail what happened here, it is important to understand the essence of this story. What was the devil trying to do here? God had prophesied in Genesis 3 that the offspring of the woman would crush the devil's head (Genesis 3:15). The devil did everything he could to prevent this, so in Genesis 6 he tried to create an unclean, mixed race of people, mixing humans and fallen angels, so that the Messiah couldn't be born. God prevented the devil's plan by saving Noah (the only one who found grace in the eyes of the Lord) and his family from the flood. What's more, God locked the fallen angels away in prison to await the day of judgment. When Jesus died, He went to these fallen, spiritual beings to "preach" (NKJV), or to "make proclamation" (NIV) (1 Peter 3:19). When Jesus rose from the dead, He went to these fallen angels and proclaimed His victory and the fact that He was the offspring of the woman who had crushed the head of the devil and reconciled man to God. The devil's plan had failed; God's plan had succeeded. Peter then immediately made the link with water baptism, as you have already read. Just as Noah was saved from the devil's plan back then by the coming of the great flood, we are saved from the devil's power today through being baptized and born again. After Jesus proclaimed His victory over these fallen, spiritual beings, He took His seat at the right hand of God, and all *angels, authorities and powers* are under Him.

1 Peter 3:21-22 (NIV)

…by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

By rising from the dead and forgiving the sins of man, Jesus triumphed over the devil and all other angels, authorities, and powers. Paul says in his prayer of revelation in Ephesians 1 that God **seated Jesus "*at His right hand*** *in the heavenly places,* ***far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named,*** *not only in this age but also in that which is to come"* (Ephesians 1 :20-21).

Everything is under Jesus, and Jesus has been exalted far above all *principality* and *power* and *might* and *dominion*, and every *name* that's named. The difference between the power and strength of Jesus and that of the devil isn't tiny, but gigantic.

Jesus has been exalted far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that's named. Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God. In the Bible, the right hand of God always refers to the "hand" by which God intervenes, by which God saves, and to which *God's power, authority and provision* are attached (Psalm 16:11, 20:5-8). Jesus is now seated at God's right hand. God thus chooses to use Jesus' victory to bring salvation to us and share His power and authority with us. Psalm 110 is among the most-cited Psalms in the New Testament, because it is a prophetic psalm about Jesus.

Psalm 110:1

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Sitting at the right hand of God is also a position of *honor*. The person who sat at the king's right hand was the most honored person in the kingdom. God has exalted Jesus, raising Him up to this position and giving Him a Name (authority) above every other Name.

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, ***[10]*** ***that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth,*** ***and of those under the earth,*** ***[11]*** ***and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

Man was stuck, trapped under the power of satan, sin, death and the curse, and far removed from unity and peace with God. Satan was also trapped but didn't know it. If he allowed Jesus to do as He pleased on the earth, multitudes of people would be freed from demons, be healed of diseases, and follow the Son of God, but he didn't realize that his solution i.e., killing Jesus, would lead to his own defeat once and for all.

Nevertheless, that was exactly what God had prophesied after the fall of man, when God said to the serpent, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15).* The devil thought that he would solve his problem by crushing the heel (body) of Jesus, but he didn't realize that, in so doing, he was crushing his own head (dominion). God knew this, and it was a *set-up* that the devil walked straight into. That's why Paul said that the crucifixion and the power of the Gospel, was *"a wisdom which none of the rulers of this age knew;* for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Corinthians 2:8). If the devil had known that by killing Jesus, he would corner himself in a checkmate, he would never have done it, but he didn't know it, so he urged the religious leaders to betray and surrender Jesus. Satan was the initiator behind the crucifixion and murder of Jesus. It was satan who prompted Judas to betray Jesus and hand him over to unrighteous people (Luke 22:3). Satan took the initiative and didn't realize that in doing so, he was fulfilling God's master plan.

Acts 2:22-23

Jesus of Nazareth… ***[23]*** *being delivered by* ***the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God****, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.*

God had already come up with a plan to redeem mankind Himself as the Son of God, by suffering and dying on the cross for them. God's plan was brilliant, because God knew that the devil would do this, and He knew that it would be a big mistake. The devil *unlawfully* killed and condemned someone who was *righteous* and *holy*. Jesus voluntarily went to the cross in obedience to the Father. Jesus Himself had never sinned and was completely holy in every way, yet He was condemned, accused, spat upon, tortured, and crucified. Jesus' physical body was destroyed; holy, blameless, and righteous blood flowed, and His mutilated body was laid dead in the grave, but death couldn't hold Him.

Acts 2:2

God raised Him up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Although the devil had killed Jesus, death had no right to Jesus, because Jesus had never sinned. For death is the consequence of sin (Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23), but now Someone who had never sinned had been condemned, punished, and killed. That meant that the devil had no right or power whatsoever to kill Jesus or hold him there; the devil had done something entirely unlawful.

John 14:30 (NIV

…for the prince of this world is coming. ***He has no hold over me.***

In allowing all this to happen, Jesus *gave Himself voluntarily as a sacrifice to God*. Jesus' body had been killed, His blood had flowed, but His Spirit couldn't be held by the power of death. When Jesus died, He went to the Father in Heaven and arrived there with His holy, innocent, and blameless blood as a sacrifice on behalf of sinful man and so, the Father's plan was fulfilled, and Jesus became the Mediator between God and man.

Hebrews 9:12, 14-15, 24-26

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but ***with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all****, having* ***obtained eternal redemption****.* [14] *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit* ***offered Himself without spot to God****, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* [15] *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant,* ***by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions****…*[24] *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God* ***for us****;* [25] *not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another –* [26] *He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared* ***to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself****.*

Colossians 2:10

and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 2:9-15 (NIV)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [10] *and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.* ***He is the head over every power and authority.*** [11] *In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands.* ***Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,*** [12] ***having been buried with him in baptism,*** *in which you were also* ***raised with him*** *through your faith in the working of God****, who raised him from the dead.*** [13] *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh,* ***God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*** [14] ***having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*** [15] ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

I'm sure you've seen at least one paralyzed person. Their heads often work perfectly well and can come up with all sorts of ideas, but their bodies don't carry those plans out, because the connections between the head and the body are broken. When we, as a body, don't do what the Head says, i.e., preach the Gospel, baptize people, heal the sick, and set people free from evil spirits and demons, *the body is paralyzed.*

The Head, Jesus, has come up with all the plans, but the body has to carry them out. Unfortunately, some parts of the body are busy having theological discussions, or just don't believe what the head says. It's now the time for the body, the church, the believers, to rise up and go forth in the authority and Name of Jesus. Have you ever noticed that although Jesus was on earth for forty days after His resurrection, He didn't perform many public miracles to convince people that He was risen?

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

Acts 1:3

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them ***during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.***

Jesus stayed with the disciples for forty days after His resurrection but didn't perform any public miracles. Why not? Because the time of the church, the time of His body, had come, so Jesus just explained to them how the Kingdom of God works. From the times of the book of Acts on, the body worked the miracles on behalf of Jesus. This was the command Jesus gave to His followers from the time he rose from the dead.

What Do Believers Have Authority Over?

Some people use authority inappropriately. Authority always works with spheres of authority and influence.

Simple example: I have authority over my own children but not over your children. Why? My children come within my sphere of authority, but your children don't come under my authority or responsibility UNLESS you give it to me through custody or whatever.

1. Our Own Area of Influence

Genesis 1:26

And God said: Let Us make man in ***Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion*** *over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle,* ***over all the earth*** *and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth!* [27] ***So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him;*** *male and female He created them.* [28] ***Then God blessed them****, and God said to them,* ***"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;*** *have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

God puts people in specific places.

You are responsible for your area of influence.

- Your own life.
- Your flesh
- Your family
- The place where you work.
- Your finances.
- Your place in the church.
- Your marriage
- Your relationships
- Your emotions.
- Your job.

In short, the things you face in life, and you have both authority over them and responsibility for them.

2. The Devil / Evil Powers

Luke 10:19

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

We have authority over the enemy.

- Demons
- Sickness
- Sin (in our own lives)
- Shortages
- Storms and spiritual attacks.

I repeat: authority goes hand in hand with responsibility. You can't make a big mess of your finances or health and think that you have authority in that area. Also be aware of the devils' tricks and strategies.

3. But NOT Over Other People

We don't have any authority over other people. The only way that we have authority over other people is if they willingly submit to us.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), [3] "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Titus 3:1

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, [2] to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

1 Peter 2:13

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, [14] or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. [15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

If we do have authority our interaction is very important, otherwise we end up manipulating people. People are *always* free to make their own decisions, even decisions you don't want them to make.

Each time you try to have more influence over someone's life than the person has value/respect for you, you are manipulating them. We are called to lead by example.

How to Exercise Your Authority

We have authority, God has given us authority and responsibility but how do you exercise it ?

1. Stand for Gods Truth and Principles and Obey Them

This deals with 95% of the problems. When you look at the issues people face in life, not all of them have to do with the devil, demons, curses, or witchdoctors. A lot of things have to do with things that overcome everyone in life. Somethings just happen, other things are consequences of our own personal choices and behavior and some other things happen because other people do them to us.

- Emotions
- Relationships
- Work
- Finances
- Health
- Family
- Marriage

These things are not just spiritual – they're of both the spiritual and natural realms.

We're under authority. We have to submit ourselves to Gods authority. He is God, Lord, King so we do what he says. It's hard to use spiritual authority (breaking curses, speaking to the mountain, praying in faith, speaking in tongues, fasting, or praying) when you don't obey the Word or make wrong decisions in your life.

2. When Faced With Spiritual Problems, Exercise Your Authority

1. Know your identity and authority in Christ.
2. Have a personal relationship with God.
3. Be spirit LED (can also save you from a lot of trouble).
4. Exercise your spiritual authority.

Jesus Both Prayed and Exercised His Authority

When we study Jesus' prayer life and look at all the times when Jesus prayed and how He prayed, we see that Jesus didn't use prayer as the main way to change circumstances right there and then.

Jesus used prayer to talk to His Father and ask for things, but He used His authority to change circumstances right there and then, when He had to deal with the devil.

Jesus didn't use prayer when He had to deal with the devil or with demons; he used authority. Jesus used His authority by speaking in faith and issuing *commands*. As God spoke and it came into being, so Jesus spoke and it happened. He commanded circumstances to change and they *always* obeyed. When Jesus was confronted with opposition or works of the devil, He used His authority.

- Jesus didn't pray before the storm, He **spoke against** the storm.
- Jesus didn't pray for deliverance, He **commanded** the demons to get out.
- Jesus didn't pray against the fig tree, He **spoke against** the fig tree.
- Jesus didn't pray to raise the dead, He **spoke** to raise the dead.
- Jesus didn't pray against the devil in the desert, He **spoke** against the devil.
- Jesus didn't pray for the sick, He **spoke** against fever, deafness, blindness, and paralysis.

Mark 11:23

*"...he will have whatever he **says**.*

Numbers 14:28

..."As I live," says the LORD, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you."

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

People who pray for something but say the opposite are making a costly mistake. They don't understand that God has placed exactly the same amount of authority on the words they say to Him in prayer and as He has on the words they say to others.

Therefore, whatever you pray for, you should also say that you are going to receive it. Some unemployed people pray for a new job, but in the meantime they tell the people around them:

- I'm applying for jobs in a very difficult market.
- They aren't hiring people my age.
- I always have bad luck with job applications.
- They are bound to hire a younger person.
- The good jobs are always snatched away right from under my nose.
- I will never have it as good as I did in my last job.
- And so on.

These people completely undo what they had prayed for with the words that they speak. That's why we shouldn't contradict ourselves, but make sure the words we say line up with what we are praying for. Start saying the following about that job: