

## The Authority of the Believer

With correct belief we can move in the authority Jesus has given us  
- correct belief comes by understanding and applying authority scriptures.

Why can't the Lord exercise His authority without us? The Father could have created a clockwork world where everything is under His control but this would not be a real world in which we could develop faith and learn from our mistakes. We would not be human with freewill but robots. Instead the Father has chosen for his children to be the body of Christ (1 Cor 12) and Christ is the head of the church (Eph 5:23). A head can't function without a body and a body can't function without head.

Firstly, we need to know when it is time to exercise authority and when it is time to ask God to intervene. In Acts 12 the church was earnestly praying for Peter in jail, having just lost James, and Peter was released - a miraculous intervention. In Acts 16 Paul says "*I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!*" - speaking to the demon in a girl that predicted the future. Paul was exercising authority. We use a mixture of prayerful intervention and direct command depending on the situation.

Jesus said in **Matt 28:18** *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.*

Our ability to make disciples is dependant on our ability to realise that we are commissioned by Jesus. We have authority to make disciples because we have been commanded to do so.

The early church was launched because Peter took authority over nature by commanding the sick physical body of a beggar to be healed. This grabbed the attention of the people.

**Mark 16** *In My name **they will** drive out demons;.... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well."*

This subject is not reserved for 'big' names on platforms or for elders or any other title but for every believer. Our faith should rest on this word of God. Jesus has told us to do it so we should do it expecting power to be released because it is the word of God.

We need to appreciate that our authority is a legal right to command demons to leave and also for nature to conform. Eg healing and walking on water.

## The Fall and The Restoration

By choosing to obey Satan rather than God Adam lost Gods' blessing and accepted Satan's council. The impact of Satan's victory was huge for the human race as Adam had chosen Satan over God. The Lord removed His blessing saying '*the ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life*' **Genesis 3:17**

For those who have chosen Christ the effect is huge, undoing the work of Satan.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be **made alive**.*

Paul uses the strong words '**made alive**' to show the comprehensive nature for Christ's victory in our lives. Other strong words like a '**new creation**' have been used to show us the difference.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away, and look, **new things have come**.*

Not only have we been made a new creation but the old things have passed away and we need to realise and accept that they have passed away and that we have passed into a new order. - '**new things have come**'.

Paul describes another powerful concept which shows the effect of the cross.

**Col 2:14** *He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly**.*

Adam had armed the rulers and authorities. Christ has disarmed them for those who choose Christ. By taking up the cross the Lord made a public declaration trading His innocence for our sinfulness. He disgraced the rulers and authorities because He stripped them of their right to rule over us. This is a vital foundation for our understanding of the authority of the believer.

### **Moving into your Authority**

Believing that you are a new creation with your sins removed, bought at the highest price - is just the starting point. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. The following scriptures must become a part of us and Luke 10:19 is especially a key scripture.

**Luke 10:19** *I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over **all** the power of the enemy; nothing will ever harm you.*

The use of snakes and scorpions tells us that the enemy has the ability to harm and induce fear. The Lord is saying that we have authority to trample on them and that they will not harm us. The enemy has power to harm us but when we stand in the name of Jesus we have

the full authority of the Kingdom of God behind us. A policeman holds his hand up to stop the traffic and has the full backing of the government behind him. When we hold up our hand against the enemy we have the full backing of the Kingdom of God behind us. In fact we don't even have to lift a hand, the finger of God pointing at the demon is enough (Luke 11:20 ). Paul describes the power of this kingdom as *the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe* (Eph 1:19). Fear may be a temptation but is not justified. However many Christians have been harmed because they have not stood in the authority that the Lord has given!

According to **Luke 10:19** I declare that I have authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and that I have authority over **all** the power of the enemy.

We **have** been given authority and this authority ...

**Eph 1:3** *Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.*

What are these spiritual blessings? Forgiveness, protection, power to heal and deliver, revelation, wisdom, understanding, spiritual gifts etc. The Lord has provided it all for us. There is a temptation to gloss over this verse with 'that sounds very nice'. We must thank the Lord for this blessing and expect to move in it. Don't forget to personalise - Lord I thank you that you have blessed me with 'every spiritual blessing in the heavens' for my life. I ask you to release that blessing on my life as I put my faith in You.

One of the main blessings that Paul talks of is '*wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*'.

There are many natural things for which we could seek revelation for but Paul is talking about spiritual wisdom and revelation. If your mind is elsewhere, on things other than the greatest issues then you can't expect to be moving in His revelation. This seeking needs to be focused, sincere and sustained.

**Eph 1:17** *I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

Some of this wisdom and revelation is for the demolition of strongholds and arguments.

**2 Cor 10:3** *For though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ.*

The revelation we need is about having the right words and understanding at the right time to be able to defeat the enemy.

Some of this revelation is needed to bring freedom into our lives.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

**John 8:32** *You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

Another blessing that Paul prays for the Ephesians is that they would be 'strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit'. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our deepest thoughts. Those thoughts that make up who we are and what we do.

**Eph 3:16** *I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit.*

If we don't spend time allowing the Holy Spirit to strengthen our inner man then we can't expect the revelation needed to release the power of His Spirit. This issue peels down to the core of who we really are. Life and different issues can easily tangle us up so that we become bound up with a weak spirit. Part of the work of the Holy Spirit involves untangling us with revelation as to who we are in Christ.

We also need to understand that the Father is the highest authority in the universe and He exercises that authority through Christ who has delegated it to the church - the body of Christ..

**Eph 1:20** *God seating Jesus at His right hand in the heavens— far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given.*

**Eph 2:6** *God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus*

This '*seated us with Him in the heavenly realms*' is another text which is easy to pass over with 'that sounds very nice' and fail to stop and realise the implications. What does it mean? What an incredible statement! This is a strong graphic statement which illustrates how important it is for us to realise our authority. This powerful picture of us being seated with Christ shows us the absolute authority that we have been given by the Father. Thank you Father that I am seated with Christ in heavenly realms.

## **Exercising Authority**

We must not use disrespectful words in anger. It is easy to become angry at what the enemy is doing but we must respond and not react. Use commanding words, not insulting or belittling words, to instruct the enemy what to do.