

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER®

For centuries, as history dictates, it seems the only authority Christians have known has been that of the physical, utilizing armies and physical weapons of war, as well as political structures to execute this carnal authority.

The early church understood and exercised the **authority of the believer**, and even then their authority seemed to be exercised in part. With the ending of early church history, the beginning of a religious history and a type of **dark ages** began for the church (although there has always been isolated outpourings of true spiritual revelation). Political and legalistic power began

to reign with the establishing of a **state church** by the Roman Emperor Constantine (325 AD).

SPIRITUAL, NOT CARNAL

However, in these latter days, **the secrets of spiritual authority are unfolding** to those who would have the desire and take the time to understand. The knowledge of God's word is multiplying in these last days, just as all other knowledge is on the increase. *Daniel 12:4, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* In examining the authority of the believer, we **must begin by understanding that**

it is a spiritual authority, not carnal or physical.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,” and “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts,” Zechariah 4:6.

It is from the spiritual realm that the physical realm has been created. Therefore, the spiritual realm is a higher plain of **authority**, *Hebrews 11:3 and Romans 4:17.* And from it,

we can counteract the laws of the natural or physical.

THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

There are **many dimensions** of authority in the church world. What we are now considering in this lesson is the authority directly given by Jesus Christ to **every believer** according to their faith, to exercise as they are led. This **authority** that we are defining in this lesson has been **given to us by God through His son, Jesus Christ**, God incarnate.

The following is a list of scriptures upon which the born again believer not only can, but must base his/her authority! We will examine how this authority works, but first, let us substantiate

it through the Word. *Matthew 16:19*, “*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven,*” and *Matthew 18:18*, “*Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*”

Commentary: The key or keys that Jesus gives to the Church is the key to the Kingdom of Heaven. The only key that could be referred to in this verse would be that of the work of Christ and our faith in that work. The work that He worked when He died on the cross, descended into hell, resurrected from the dead, and

ascended into heaven, now being seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. All authority given to the believer in Christ to bind and to loose must be rooted in the central key. Thereby we access power to lock out that which is not of God and open the door to that which is of God. Keys, in the Greek, comes from the word *kleis*, meaning locking key. Therefore we must assume that the reference and binding and loosing pertains to an ability to use a key to lock or unlock certain doors through life's journey.

We see a typological reference of authority by the giving of keys. Keys are a symbol of authority, and, of course, keys have a particular code or cut to them. In order to utilize a key it must be cut correctly. Therefore, if the believer

in Christ does not understand what this key is, he or she will not be able to (as the scripture says) bind or loose. The binding and loosing is a reference to the opening and closing of doors utilizing the aforementioned keys.

Matthew 10:1, “And when He had called unto him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

Commentary: Notice that this scripture indicates that we have the authority to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

As we understand and implement the authority
we have, people will get healed, Praise God!

Luke 10:19, “Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (authority) of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Commentary: The “power” that Jesus refers to really should be more properly translated as “authority.” We find the original Greek word to be **exousia**, which means delegated authority. Notice that the reference is to scorpions and serpents, not devils, as some have taught. If we cross-reference scorpions and serpents in this particular context, when read together, we find Jesus used these same adjectives to describe the Pharisees. **Note:** Although many teach that this refers to Satan and demons and indeed could be, it also could be taken into context as having a

direct implication on false leaders, false teachers and prophets. In either case, the believer in Christ does have authority to proclaim the word of faith and set the captives free. Finally, “***and nothing shall by any means hurt you,***” denotes to us that we can walk without the fear of being hurt when we confront the aforementioned powers.

Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Commentary: When one is exercising authority, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

they will be aided with supernatural power that will flow through their inner man to address the situation. As believers in Christ, the Holy Ghost has been shed upon us abundantly. *Titus 3:5-6, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”*

We need, as believers, to receive the fullness of this power into the entire context of our being (spirit, soul and body). Many believers today, relegate their power to the spirit man only and never open up to a baptism in the power that is in their inner man, releasing it in and through their entire being – releasing their inner man to speak and prophesy with power and authority. And, of

course, we see from this verse that the power and authority that is given to the Church is to bare witness to the world of God's only begotten Son and bring many into the kingdom using this power and authority.

Mark 16:17-18, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

Commentary: Now here we have a direct reference to authority being given to cast out devils as opposed to scorpions and serpents.

This is a direct delegation of authority to believers to have this ability. Although this verse is not contained in some of the earlier manuscripts, it is widely accepted as being part of the body of the Holy Scriptures given to the Church. It says, *“they shall speak with new tongues and they shall take up serpents,”* and again, this can be taken as a reference to agents who operate on behalf of the enemy in the Church world to nullify the Word of God and His power. *Mark 7:13, “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye,”* and *Romans 4:14, “For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect.”* We also find in the verse that we have power and

authority over nature itself in certain given moments, to do and to convey from the Holy Spirit gifts, signs, and wonders.

Mark 13:34, “For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.”

Commentary: Here we see, through this parable, a direct reference of the giving of authority to God’s servants – His Church. He gave authority and a job to every one of His servants. This, again, is simply another confirming verse that authority has been given to the believer by God, through Jesus Christ, to expedite His will.

Mark 11:23, “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Commentary: In this verse the Lord is indicating to us that it is **through the mouth** that authority is exercised and **should not be underestimated**. The power that can be exercised in Christ through the authority of the believer should not be limited by one’s thinking. Here we see Christ actually saying that you could cast a mountain into the sea. Whether you believe it figuratively or literally, the connotation

is given that mountain moving authority can be released through a command as a result of our faith in God.

Luke 17:6, “And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Commentary: This parable gives us an illustration of the authority to exercise power through a word spoken **with faith** in God. The unique element to this parable is the concept of one’s faith beginning as a seed that is germinated concerning a particular area of life. And even as a seed, it contains within it the pure DNA to

replicate itself. So also, does the seed of faith germinate in the soul of the believer. Do you have good ground for the seed to be sown into? The scripture says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, so we see that the Word is like unto a seed. Scripture reference: *Mark 4:31-32, "It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it,"* and *Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

EXERCISING AUTHORITY

The authority of the believer is exercised simply through the words that are spoken in faith by the one who is speaking in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When scripture refers to the phrase, "**in the name of Jesus Christ,**" it should be understood that the meaning is that the believer has an abiding position in Jesus Christ while speaking with authority by the power and unction of the Holy Spirit.

When a born again, spirit-filled believer speaks a word in faith, **unmingled with any doubt** to a particular situation, to demon spirits, etc., it **releases energy or power from the Holy Spirit** through the one who is speaking through faith in

the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 3:6*,
*“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none;
but such as I have give I thee: In the name of
Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”*

Angels are also activated through a faith-spoken
word. *John 1:51*, *“Hereafter ye shall see
heaven open, and the angels of God ascending
and descending upon the Son of man.”*

Whenever we've seen Jesus throughout the four
gospels healing or casting out devils, in most
cases we will notice that He is speaking at or
commanding the individual to be healed or a
devil to go out from an individual.

Additional scripture references follow:

Matthew 8:8, “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed,”

Matthew 8:16, “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick,” and

Luke 4:32-36, “And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou

art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

We must understand that behind the scenes, as one speaks a word in faith, they release a command backed by heaven itself. *Matthew 16:19, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

The development of faith in the soul of a born again believer must occur, prior to the exercise of authority and this may take a period of time – weeks, months, and, yes, even years – as we are unraveling a program of doubt in our soul that did not exist in Christ. *Mark 11:23, “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”*

Of course, the way that faith is developed is through meditation on the scriptures that pertain to the area in which you are needing faith.

Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Through the word of faith, Christ crucified and risen from the dead, a word of faith can be spoken to heal the sick or cast out devils, but it also can develop one's environment for abundant living through a general good confession such as, **"I am healthy," "My life is prospering," "God uses me to win others to Christ," "My family is blessed,"** etc. Adversities can be subdued through the utterance of a word spoken with total faith or trust in God, because power and authority is released through a faith spoken word against the circumstances that are opposing the believer. *Mark 4:39, "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace,*

be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

A key factor in exercising this authority is to not utilize the natural, conscious mind to try to figure out how the things we are speaking are going to occur. *Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

We must remember we are moving according to the spiritual dimension that does not, for the most part, align itself with the natural or physical dimension. *1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the*

Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned,” and 1 Corinthians 14:14, “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

We must assume the same attitude when exercising authority as we do in prayer. Many times in prayer, if we do not release a matter from our conscious mind, our faith will not begin to operate. We must learn to cast our cares upon God while exercising authority, even as when praying according to *1 Peter 5:7*, “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*”

THE BASIS OF AUTHORITY

Before the born again believer can effectively exercise their authority, he or she must understand the basis of their authority.

All authority comes from God and the basis of authority is the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh and **we must learn to abide in Him when exercising authority.** The Holy Scriptures give us the written basis for that authority but even they must be opened up to us by the Holy Spirit. This is the result of abiding in Jesus Christ as even Jesus, Himself, said that He could exercise no authority except from His abiding position in His Father. *John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I*

judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

When taken into our spirit the seed of the Word will generate faith to believe that the things we say will come to pass. In *Mark 11:23* “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*” Jesus said that we could speak to the mountain and it shall be removed if we do not doubt in our inner man. In *Matthew 17:20* “*And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye*

have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you,” He was implying that faith must develop as a seed, that the evidence of faith might come forth. **Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."**

The human, conscious understanding is not the place wherein faith is developed, but rather the human spirit, for the Word is spirit. **John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."**

Through meditation on the scriptures, they are internalized into our spirit and our faith becomes

operative. Although all the information is already written in our spirit through regeneration, they become activated through internalizing it in our soul, and the soul and the spirit agree, and there is a release of the power that worketh within us. *Ephesians 3:20, “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*

Much the same in a court of law, if one does not understand their rights, they will find themselves inhibited and intimidated and lacking natural confidence in the natural realm. Likewise in the spiritual realm, if ones does not understand their spiritual rights they will lack spiritual confidence or supernatural faith. It is imperative; therefore,

that one develop a spiritually discerned knowledge of the Word of God, rightly dividing it and thereby develop spiritual confidence and faith. *2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

HOW DOES IT WORK

How it works can be understood by an observation of the authority backing the President of the United States, and the leaders and/or authorities in other governments. Under the powers given to him by the Constitution, he can exercise certain authority. As the Commander in Chief of the military, he has the

entire armies of the United States of America backing him, enough power to destroy the entire world! Without this backing, his authority would be hollow when confronting an aggressive nation that might have it in mind to attack us. If an enemy ship were to invade the territorial waters of the United States, they might be told to leave those waters or we would use force. The thought of force backing those words to an aggressor will be a deterrent to them and more than likely, rather than engaging in a battle, they would probably withdraw knowing they could very well be destroyed. No other force need be used other than words. **"Leave our waters or we will destroy you!"** The thought or the knowledge of our military force is enough to let that one ship know that they should leave. Also,

if it were necessary to use force, it would all begin with verbal commands.

Likewise, when we speak a word of authority, we have the standing armies of heaven, angelic hosts, backing us. It must be noted though, that the words we speak in **authority** must be spoken in a state of **faith**.

The centurion, whose servant Jesus healed simply by speaking a word, understood this authority and caused Jesus to marvel and make a comment concerning the greatness of his faith.

Matthew 8:5-13, “And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy,

grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. . . . And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou has believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.” The centurion understood that when Jesus said

something that He had authority and things happened. Jesus spoke to Nathanael regarding angels in *John 1:51*, “*And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*”

The angels that Jesus was referring to were the ones coming from and going to Heaven dispatching gifts and carrying out orders given through the words that Jesus spoke as He ministered. In addition, He said, I could call upon my father and He would send me 12 legions of angels to defend me. *Matthew 26:53*, “*Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more*

than twelve legions of angels?” Although He did not do so because it was His plan, with the Father, to give Himself as a ransom. Through our words, angels can be activated. ***Hebrews 1:14, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”***

THROUGH FAITH WE **UNDERSTAND**

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed and brought into existence through the spoken Word of God. ***Hebrews 11:3, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”***

In *Genesis, Chapter 1*, we see the creative force of God being exercised simply by commands such as, “*Let there be light,*” and “*Be fruitful and multiply,*” and nothing more. Note: the result of some commands occurred immediately and some have been occurring over a period of time. Therefore, we must not put time frames on our statements of authority but rather stay in a state of trust or faith in God concerning them.

In *Romans 4:17*, “(As it is written, *I have made thee a father of many nations,*) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were,” the Word says that God calls those things that are not as though they were. In other words, the things that we see in

the natural can be altered by a command from one who is acting from a spiritual vantagepoint, while in a state of faith.

Many of the prophecies of the Old Testament are being fulfilled today as a result of the command that exists in the prophecy given. They were inspired by God's Spirit and He is seeing to it that His Word, spoken by the prophets, is doing that which it was sent forth to do. He has set His agreement upon His Word from heaven, that has been spoken on earth by men and women of God, and is watching over it to bring it to pass.

Isaiah 45:23, "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear," and ***Isaiah***

55:10-11, “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

An example of this can be found in Ezekiel's prophecy to the valley of dry bones. This was not only a prophecy but also a direct command of authority given by God through Ezekiel (*Ezekiel 37*). Ezekiel was told to command the gathering of bones and flesh into an army. Afterward, he was told to command the four

winds to come together and fill them with life.

We are seeing this prophecy/command coming to pass as the nation of Israel gathers back to their homeland.

The formation of many spirit-filled churches unifying as soldiers in a vast spiritual army could be the spiritual counterpart to the natural part of that prophecy/command.

UTILIZING AUTHORITY

If we do not exercise the authority we have, the Word of God says that authority will be taken away. The parable of the talents (*Matthew 25*) is an example of spiritual authority. If we do not utilize the authority we have, Jesus said it will be taken away, but if we utilize it, it will increase.

Matthew 25:29, “For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.” If you will learn to exercise your authority on a regular basis, you will find that your faith will multiply concerning this ability and privilege. Paul said our senses are exercised by reason of use. The more you stay in a dimension of a good confession of faith, that is to say, speaking good things continually and dwelling on good things, confessing the work of Christ on a regular basis, the more your faith will multiply and develop.

I must caution you at this point that it is because of the **work of the cross** that you have any spiritual authority at all. Otherwise, as many

Christians have done, you may find yourself trying to utilize this authority from an egotistical standpoint of self and find yourself being entangled with over-exertion or **positive thinking based on self**. The seven sons of Sceva experienced the negative results of the aforementioned scenario (*Acts 19:14-16*).

Your faith will grow day by day, step by step. *James 1:4, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing,"* and *2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."* Do not try to reach out beyond the proportion of faith that you are at. *Romans 12:6-7, "Having then gifts differing*

according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching.” Trying to exercise more authority than we actually have (being that authority is based directly on the amount of developed faith of an individual), will only result in damage to one's faith and a healing will be needed.

Be prayerful about the utilization of your authority and exercise it on a regular basis. Don't do it too much and don't do it too little. But rather **learn consistency** in your attitude and confession. Some examples of this kind of confession are as follows: "**I am dead to sickness and resurrected to health upon my**

**body," or "Be blessed and multiply," and
"May the peace of God be multiplied unto
you."**

Following are just a few of the confessions,
professions, and blessings as found in the New
Testament:

*Acts 20:32, "And now, brethren, I commend
you to God, and to the word of his grace, which
is able to build you up, and to give you an
inheritance among all them which are
sanctified."*

*2 Corinthians 13:11-14, "Finally, brethren,
farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of
one mind, live in peace; and the God of love*

and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with an holy kiss. All the saints salute you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

Colossians 3:12-17, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of

Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

2 Thessalonians 3:16, “Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”

1 Timothy 4:12-16, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect

not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

2 Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Jude 1:2, “Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.”

Jude 1:24-25, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

These are all expressions of the authority we have. Much of this can be exercised in our own prayer closet. Some things are exercised in the presence of other believers. Of course, discretion must be used.

A general good confession does not necessarily have to be unctioned or inspired. It is already in the will of the Father to give us good things and for us to be a blessing to others. There will be specific instances where we will have a direct

utterance from the Holy Spirit, such as in the casting out of demon spirits or taking dominion over an illness, etc. Again, you will have to learn by reason of use and grow in the exercise of the authority of the believer.

Learn to be wise. Ask God for wisdom and He will not withhold it. *James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Question & Answer Section

Q. Why do I, as a born again believer, need to understand spiritual authority?

A. Because once one becomes a born again believer, they come under the attack of the wicked one and the believer must understand his position in Christ and his or her authority. The whole world is being held captive by Satan's forces through false leaders, prophets and teachers. Now, as a born again Christian, you have entered warfare. *Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against*

powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*” Paul calls us soldiers in 2 Timothy 2:3, “*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ,*” who fight the good fight of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12, “*Fight the good fight of*

faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

Q. What must I do to be able to work these works of authority?

A. Jesus said the work of authority begins with believing on Him. *John 6:28-29*, “*Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*” If you will exercise your faith in Jesus Christ as the one who ultimately paid the penalty

for your sins that you might have life, the rest will follow as you learn God's word.

Q. Is it important for me as a believer to be full of the Holy Ghost when exercising authority?

A. Yes, it is of the utmost importance. Examples in scripture of believers exercising authority were always accompanied by the infilling of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 13:9-10, "Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to*

pervert the right ways of the Lord?”

Being full of the Holy Ghost is important because it consolidates a oneness about being that is essential in releasing power from our inner man. *2 Timothy 1:7*, “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind,*” and *Luke 4:18*, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*”

Q. What gives me the right, as a born again believer, to exercise authority over sickness, poverty and demonic power?

A. First of all, the fact that you have been justified by the shed blood of Jesus Christ through your acceptance of His sacrifice for you. Secondly, that he was raised from the dead. *Romans 8:30, “Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified), destroying him who had the power of death,”* and *Hebrews 2:14, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also*

himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Jesus Christ was also manifested for this purpose to destroy the works of the devil. *1 John 3:8, “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* Thirdly, the written Word of God gives you this authority.

Q. Why is it important for me, as a believer, to learn my rights and exercise my authority?

A. Because through the work of the cross, we have been put in right standing with God, our Father, and have been given the privilege of being joint heirs with Christ and as an heir of his Father. ***Romans 8:17, “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”*** These rights are being challenged by the powers of darkness and by the world in general around us. If we do not understand the authority we have, we will not be able to exercise those rights - rights to peace, joy, love, prosperity, healing and the blessings of Abraham, etc.

Q. Do I have to be ordained or a special person with a degree in order to exercise spiritual authority?

A. No. The only criteria that you need to have for exercising the believer's authority is that of being a believer in Christ who is in right-standing through the shed blood of Christ made right and standing in a position of righteousness with our heavenly Father. This is the privilege of every believer, but it is up to the believer to learn and exercise this privilege.

Q. What is the reason for having such power and authority?

A. Jesus said in *Acts 1:8*, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,*” that we might be witnesses for Him. That is the first reason. The second is that we might take our stand in receiving the benefits of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ in our lives and for our loved ones. *Ephesians 6:12-13*, “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual*

wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Q. Does the authority of the believer apply to material things as well as spiritual, physical and mental things?

A. Yes. The spiritual dimension is a higher order of authority and supersedes all other dimensions. From it, everything material has been created. *Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Study Guide

1. Spiritual authority can counteract the laws of the _____.
2. Jesus Christ has given authority to _____ according to their faith.
3. The authority of the believer is substantiated by the _____.
4. The believer's authority is simply exercised through the _____ that are spoken in faith in Jesus' name based on the Word.
5. Our spirit-led, Word-based commands are backed by _____ itself (*Matthew 16:19*).
6. One can develop an environment for abundant living through a _____ confession.
7. Adversities can be subdued through the utterance of a word spoken with _____ faith or _____ in God.
8. When the Word of God is taken into our spirit, the seed of the Word will _____ faith to believe that the things we say will come to pass.

9. Through internalizing the Word of God, our faith becomes _____.
10. According to **Matthew 10:1**, the believer has the _____ to heal all manner of sickness and disease.
11. Faith is developed through _____ in the scriptures that pertain to an area in which you are needing _____.
12. According to **Mark 13:34**, He gave _____ and a _____ to every one of His servants.
13. _____ hosts and the standing armies of heaven back faith-spoken words.
14. If we utilize the authority we have, it will _____.
15. We must base our authority on the work of the _____ and not ourselves.
16. If we do not exercise the _____ we have, the Word of God says it shall be taken away.
17. If we do not base our authority on the work of the cross, we will find ourselves operating on our own strength from a _____ standpoint.

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