

ALL AUTHORITY

1. The Authority of Christ was given by God the Father

Matthew 28:18, ***“All authority (‘exousia’) is given unto Me in heaven and earth.”*** The word ‘exousia’ means *“delegated authority.”* Jesus, the Master of the Universe, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Creator of all living things has all the authority in the entire Universe. And God gave that authority to Jesus. That is delegated authority. Jesus had authority (exousia) when He was on earth, and the reaction was that the people were totally in awe when they saw the authority that Jesus had. ***“The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does His works”*** (John 14:10-11). Everything Jesus did and said, He executed with the authority that God gave to Him - both His words and His works were given to Him by God the Father. And because we are the Body of Christ, and Jesus is the Head of the Body, we carry His Authority with us everywhere we go. It is not Jesus who is physically walking on the earth today, but you and me. So God wants us to know that the authority He gave Jesus Christ is now walking with us and working through us.

2. The Authority of Christ includes Heaven and Earth

Matthew 28:18, ***“All authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth.”*** And Philippians 2:10 says, ***“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”*** That authority given to our Lord Jesus Christ is not just for the period of history when Jesus was walking on the earth more than 2000 years ago. It is for the NOW. And it includes all heaven and all earth.

There is no place anywhere that the authority of Jesus does not apply. But what does Authority that includes the Heavens mean? It means:

(a) Authority over angels: Hebrews 1:6 says, *“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”* All of God’s angels obey Jesus and the words of Jesus. Satan is a fallen angel – he also must obey - he also will have to bow his knee and worship Jesus.

(b) Authority over Principalities and Powers: Ephesians 1:20 says, *“God raised Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power (authority), and might, and dominion...”* Satan is called the *“god of this world”* and the *“prince of the power of the air.”* That means Satan is under the feet of Jesus and must submit to the authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus made a public show of the defeat of Satan. Colossians 2:15 states, *“Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross.”*

So many Christians live in fear of the devil – afraid of what the devil will do to them. Instead they should have the fear of God. They should be walking in righteousness and holiness before a great and a mighty God. Many of the religions of the world today centre around the fear of what their gods (the devil) will do to them if they do not perform certain rituals. But God came to set us free from the fear and bondage of the devil; and to live in liberty and freedom through the cross of Jesus Christ. So, make a decision to walk 100% under the authority of Jesus. Break away from the umbrella of the authority of the devil and satan will have no more hold over your life. Walk in the fear of God.

What does Authority that includes the Earth mean? It means:

(a) Authority over the church. Colossians 1:18 tells us that “*Jesus is the head of the body, the church.*” We as the church of Jesus Christ are under Jesus authority. We are not under Satan’s authority. We are not under the control of superstition, curses, charms, horoscopes or dirty spirits in this world. Satan is the god of this world. He uses these to control the world not us. He used to do that but not anymore. In the name of Jesus we can break Satan’s hold over us because we are under a new authority. We are under a new Government. The Government of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus has already defeated Satan. That means Jesus has all the authority over satan. We, the church, share the same authority of Jesus. We are the body – and we follow the head. Note, the body cannot go in one direction, and the head in another direction. Remind yourself that: (i) The church is not defeated. (ii) The church is not ineffective. (iii) The church is not powerless. Rather, it is victorious!!

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus declares, “*Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” According to Matthew, the church should be breaking down the gates of hell. Invading the territory of the devil. We must be on the offensive and not the defensive. The church must have the mindset of an army and not the mindset of a hospital.

3. The Authority of Christ is for All Believers

The key to having and exercising spiritual authority in our lives – is not head knowledge but a passionate heart knowledge of the Authority of Christ.

- It is like a fire in your heart
- It is a zealous passion in your life.
- It is an inward conviction of your spirit.
- It is an inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

Note, faith is one of the three things (Faith, Hope and Love) that will remain. And faith is the key to drive out the enemy and release the power of God in our lives. A strong faith comes from a constant and abiding fellowship in the presence of God. Remember, to be Much for God, we must be Much with God! A living and vibrant faith comes from knowing God. And knowing God comes from spending time with Him. We all need to find those intimate moments in Christ. Moments when we can be nourished and strengthened!

In Ephesians 1:19 Paul says, ***"I pray that you'll begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power."*** Just prior to this he said, *"I pray that a spirit of wisdom and revelation will be given to you,"* and he was praying that it would happen in three areas. One of the areas had to do with the **power** of God....

"I pray that you'll begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power for us who believe. This is the same mighty power which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:18-22).

How is it that we can live the life that Jesus lived - with the authority that Jesus had?

Paul says, ***"I pray that you'll gain insight and understanding. I pray that you'll get revelation into the surpassing greatness of the power of God that's at work in you."*** Later in Ephesians 1, Paul says that the power at work in you is the very power that raised Jesus Christ from death. How many of us have ever thought of our bodies being vessels that carry the power of God, the very power that raised Jesus Christ from death? Let's say this aloud together: "The power that raised Jesus from death is residing in me." Amen!

However, there is a difference between authority and power. Authority is the capacity we have due to our position. I have the authority of God in me due to my union with Jesus Christ. Authority is an absolute that we have in Christ! All of us have received this authority. This is demonstrated in Jesus' earthly ministry when He gave the disciples authority in Luke 9:1. He called His twelve together, and He said, *"I want you to go out and do ministry. You've been following Me long enough; you can now go out and do it yourselves! I'm breaking you up two by two, and I'm giving you authority and power. I want you to drive out demons. I want you to heal the sick. I want you to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom."* The disciples must have thought, "I didn't know that's what this was about! I thought we were here to watch you do it." And so Jesus gives them **authority** and power, and they go out, and what do they do? They drive out demons, heal the sick, proclaim the gospel of the kingdom, and announce the presence of the kingdom.

This very same thing happens to 72 people in Luke 10. They gather together, and Jesus goes through the same routine with them. Look at their response to being sent in His authority to cast out demons and heal the sick. Luke 10:17 says they "returned with joy." They were elated.

They said, ***"Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name."*** Are you rejoicing at the results of the **authority** you have exercised in the name of Jesus! Psalm 8:6-8 says that when God created mankind, He put the earth under human authority. We're created just a little lower than God and greater than angels. When we became believers, we recovered this status and authority. Unbelievers don't have that authority. They're under the influence of the enemy. So living free means being set free from the power and authority of satan, and being released to live and operate in the power and authority of Christ - given to us at salvation.

Remember, authority is meant to be used against all the works of the devil. ***"And Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil."*** Demonic manifestations happen when a person prepares to do some type of ministry that's going to infringe upon the territory of the enemy. Demonic spirits aren't going to lay back and say, "This is really interesting." No, they're going to oppose. Eighty years before Moses began to lead Israel out of Egypt, he was almost killed as an infant. Jesus lived thirty years before He began His earthly ministry and He too had an attempt on His life as an infant. The enemy is malicious and relentless enough to know his kingdom is going to be compromised by those who call themselves Christians. The enemy will oppose and resist one way or another. So be prepared - use your authority! Your authority is as absolute as Christ's authority was!

Didn't Jesus say, ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father"*** (John 14:12).