

The Call to Walk in Authority: Understanding Your Spiritual Power

Have you ever read John 14:12 and wondered if you're truly living up to Jesus' promise? "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

This powerful scripture challenges us to examine our lives. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons, and set people free. Are we, as believers, walking in that same level of authority and power?

What's the Difference Between Authority and Power?

To understand our spiritual calling, we must first understand the difference between authority and power - two distinct concepts that work together in the spiritual realm.

In Luke 10:19, Jesus says, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you."

Understanding Spiritual Authority (Exousia)

The Greek word for authority in scripture is "exousia," mentioned 103 times in the New Testament. Authority is:

- The obvious supernatural force of the highest judicial control
- The law that supersedes every other law
- The power and ability to rule and reign

Kings rule with authority. Jesus rules with authority. When Jesus encountered the demon-possessed men in Matthew 8:28-32, the demons recognized two things: Jesus was the Son of God, and Jesus carried authority. They obeyed when He commanded them to leave.

This reveals a crucial truth: demons don't obey power; they obey authority.

Understanding Spiritual Power (Dunamis)

In Acts 1:8, Jesus promises, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." The Greek word for power here is "dunamis" (where we get our English word "dynamite").

Power is:

- Miraculous and creative at its source
- Something that noticeably changes or recreates
- The mighty works of God through the Holy Spirit

We see this in Luke 17:11-19 when Jesus healed ten lepers. All ten were cleansed (authority removing the disease), but only one returned to thank Jesus and was made whole (power restoring what was lost).

Why Do We Need Both Authority and Power?

Kings rule with authority, but they conquer with power. As believers, we need both.

When we get saved, we are given authority. We step under God's authority, and in doing so, we gain authority ourselves. This is what the centurion understood when he told Jesus, "I too am a man under authority."

What Happened to Satan's Authority?

Satan once had both authority and power as an angelic being. When he rebelled against God, he was cast out of heaven. God stripped him of his authority, but he still retained power.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were given authority over the earth (Genesis 1:28). When they disobeyed God and obeyed Satan, they handed that authority over to the enemy. This is why Satan could tell Jesus in Luke 4:5-7 that all the kingdoms of the world had been given to him.

How Did Jesus Reclaim Our Authority?

Jesus came to reclaim what was lost. Through His death on the cross, His blood became the currency that paid for our sins. Blood is a spiritual currency - the life is in the blood.

When Jesus died, He descended into Sheol and confronted Satan. Because Jesus was sinless, Satan had no claim on Him. Jesus took back the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18) and declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).

How Can We Access This Authority?

Authority is not a gift - it's directly related to our relationship with Jesus. We will never have authority greater than our relationship with Him.

Authority is absorbed through:

- Close proximity to the King
- Relationship and intimacy with Jesus
- Having nothing in us that relates to darkness

We cannot walk the line between darkness and righteousness. When we flirt with sin, we give the enemy authority over areas of our lives.

How Can I Walk in Greater Authority?

The key to walking in greater authority is obedience born out of relationship. John 14:23 says, "Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"

Jesus' love language is obedience. Authority starts with obedience, which comes from relationship.

We see this in Philippians 2:6-11, where Jesus' obedience led to the highest authority. Conversely, in Acts 19, the seven sons of Sceva tried to use Jesus' name without knowing Him, and they were overpowered by the evil spirit. The spirit said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"

Are We Ready to Impact Our Communities?

If we're going to impact our communities, it starts with walking in the authority God has given us. The spiritual realm is very real, and there are people everywhere who need freedom.

Two important truths to remember:

1. It's about relationship and intimacy with God
2. We don't have to beg God to act - He wants to do what His people ask (John 14:13-14)

A Personal Testimony of Deliverance

For years, I struggled with crippling nervousness when speaking in public. My mind would go blank despite feeling called to preach and lead.

During a moment with the Lord, I felt led to renounce everything negative I had been speaking over myself. I had been saying, "I can't do it," "It's too hard," "What will people think?" These words were giving power to the enemy.

That night, I had a dream where I encountered and cast out a demon. I woke up a different person. By renouncing those negative words, I had removed the legal right for the enemy to have authority over that area of my life.

Life Application

This week, examine the areas of your life where you may have surrendered authority to the enemy through disobedience, negative self-talk, or compromise with darkness. Take back that authority through:

1. Deepening your relationship with Jesus through daily time in His presence
2. Identifying and renouncing any agreements you've made with the enemy
3. Speaking God's truth over your life instead of negative words
4. Practicing immediate obedience when God speaks to you

Ask yourself:

- In what areas of my life am I giving the enemy a foothold through compromise?
- Am I speaking words that align with God's truth about me, or am I agreeing with the enemy's lies?
- How quickly do I obey when I feel God leading me to do something?
- Am I seeking comfort more than relationship with Jesus?

Remember, you have been given authority in Christ. It's time to walk in it fully and see the "greater things" Jesus promised become reality in your life.