

The Authority of the Believer

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

- A. The gospel has qualified us to freely receive God’s love, power, favor, and many other benefits. We experience these benefits by having faith—confident agreement—in Jesus’ work on the cross.
- ¹⁶***...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation [from the penalty and power of sin and Satan] for everyone who believes... (Rom. 1:16)***
- ¹⁸***For the message of the cross...to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18)***
- B. Paul’s dramatic declaration that we have become a new creation in Christ, with all things becoming new, has vast implications. The “he” that is a new creation is our born-again spirit.
- ¹⁷***If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...²¹that we [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)***
1. ***Old things passed away:*** We were under *condemnation* and *powerless* to resist the devil.
 2. ***All things are new:*** We are *accepted and enjoyed* by God and have the *authority of Jesus’ name* and the *indwelling Spirit*, which enable us to resist sin, sickness, and Satan.

II. AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

- A. On the cross, Jesus gained victory over Satan for us, removing his *legal right* to torment us.
- ¹⁵***Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [His death and resurrection]. (Col. 2:15)***
- ⁸***For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn. 3:8)***
- B. We have been transferred to God’s kingdom and qualified to freely receive new benefits.
- ¹³***He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom... (Col. 1:13)***
- C. Jesus gave authority to His Church over the works of Satan. Authority is delegated power. A police officer stops a car by the authority of the government (backed up by the military).
- ¹⁹***I give you the authority...over all the power of the enemy... (Lk. 10:19)***
- ⁴***He [Jesus] who is in you is greater than he [Satan] who is in the world. (1 Jn. 4:4)***
- D. We have been raised up to sit in heavenly places with Christ. We have been given access to God’s throne. We have authority to bind (stop) Satan’s power and to loose (release) God’s power.
- ⁶***...raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ... (Eph. 2:6)***
- ¹⁹***“I will give you the keys of the kingdom...whatever you bind on earth will be [shall have been] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be [shall have been] loosed in heaven.” (Mt. 16:19)***

- E. We use our authority in Christ to resist Satan’s “breaking into our house” to steal and destroy God’s blessing in our life through fears, addictions, sickness, emotional or financial oppression, or broken relationships. We must enforce our rights by resisting Satan as an intruder. Four primary ways in which Satan attacks God’s people are through deception, accusation, fear, and oppression.
¹⁰***“The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” (Jn. 10:10)***
- F. Satan’s attacks will continue unless we resist them using our authority in Christ. It is not enough to know about our authority; we must take action with it by faith. We take our stand against the devil, resisting him by speaking the Word to him. We base our faith on what the Word says, not on what we see or feel. When circumstances do not instantly change, do not give up or give in.
⁷***Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jas. 4:7)***
⁸***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith... (1 Pet. 5:8-9)***
- G. Walking in victory includes an element of “wrestling” in our resistance of Satan’s attacks. We must maintain the ground we take from the enemy, knowing that demons often return to attack again (Mt. 12:43-45). We employ the *shield of faith* and the *sword of the Spirit* by consistently speaking God’s Word against the enemy’s attack and dark activities.
¹²***We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...in the heavenly places...¹⁶taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one...¹⁷Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Eph. 6:12-17)***
- H. ***Darts***: Satan’s fiery darts (flaming missiles) can strike people as irrationally heightened feelings of fear, anger, lust, oppression, anxiety, etc. We resist demonic influences by declaring the Word.
- I. Our problems are often the result of several factors working together, including *psychological* issues (our mindset, belief systems, and life choices), *physiological* issues (diet, drugs, alcohol, chemicals, etc.), *sociological* issues (what others do to us), and *spiritual* issues (demonic attack). By using our authority, we can remove the added pressure that demons bring to our problems. This makes it much easier to solve physiological, psychological, and sociological problems.
- J. The primary way Satan tries to gain access to people is through their mind. The degree to which people yield to Satan in this affects how much Satan is able to oppress them.
- K. Transformation begins by *knowing* who we are in Christ and about our authority in Christ. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior and circumstances change.
²***...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)***
- L. Our mind and mouth are deeply connected to what happens in our emotions and circumstances. If our words agree with Satan’s lies, then we allow darkness to continue. Many have “faith” in the devil’s words. The war of words determines who has dominion in our heart.