



Title: The Authority of the Believer

Main Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

**Jesus takes care of an unclean spirit ...**

(Mk 1:34, 9:17-18; Mt 8:28)

**Because He has complete authority and ...**

(Jn 10:10)

**Gives us spiritual authority.**

(Mk 4:37-41, 5:34, 41; Phil 2:9-11; Eph 1:20-23; Mt 28:18-20, Rev 20:10)

## How to Become a Follower of Christ

1. Acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that you need Him in your life.

John 14:6, ... "*I [Jesus] am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*"

2. Be willing to turn from the things that God would not approve of as outlined in the Bible, and instead, decide to live according to His Word; honour Jesus Christ by how you live your life. (Repentance)

1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins to him, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and accept His payment on your behalf.

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life. Expect the Holy Spirit to live with you, live in you and give you power to live His way.

This prayer enables you to live eternally with Christ in heaven.

*Lord Jesus,*

*I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and I trust in You alone for my salvation. I choose to turn away from the things in my life of which You don't approve and now surrender my life to You. I invite You to come and reign and rule in my heart and life and open my spirit. Establish Your presence within me. I want to know the power of the Holy Spirit working in me and live forever with You in the Kingdom of God. I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

# “The Authority of the Believer”

January 14/15, 2023

The Small Group Sermon Study | Mark 5:1-20



**Opening Prayer:** *Father, we thank You for all you have done for us. We pray in Jesus' name that You would work in our hearts and minds today. Holy Spirit, we invite You into this place today as we read and discuss the topics pertaining to the war that is raging in the spiritual realm. We pray you would protect our hearts and our minds as we enter into this conversation today.*

## Ice Breaker:

When you think of the word “authority” do you feel a positive or negative response, and why?

**Read the key passages of Scripture and review the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:**

1. Pastor Al asks the question, “Do we realize that Jesus is the ultimate power who is present with us?” Consider this question for a moment. Where are you at in your own understanding of this, and how does that impact your times of prayer, both personally and as a group? Does this impact your life on a daily basis in other ways? How?
2. As you consider your rhythms of prayer lately, do you find yourself mindlessly going through the motions of prayer, or deeply connecting with Jesus in these times? Do you feel satisfied with where your prayer life is at? Why or why not?
3. Consider the people who begged Jesus to leave their region after He cast the legion of demons into the pigs. We too are faced with choices in our lives that either invite the presence of Jesus or cause us to naively co-exist with or tolerate the presence of demonic forces. Have you considered the reality of this before? How does knowing this change the way you consider the choices and situations that come your way, and ultimately, the decisions you make?
4. Pastor Al says, “The world is a testing ground. Jesus encourages us to pick up our weapons, build our faith and mature.” What are the weapons we have as believers in Jesus? How can we use them? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and discuss how engaging with these weapons can help bring victory to you personally, and to your group.
5. Pastor Al emphasizes that all authority has been given to Jesus, and we are told to walk in that authority. The battle itself is real, but we can either walk in defeat or authority. Considering where you're at right now, would you say you are walking in defeat or authority? How can you take steps to walk in authority in the areas that may feel more like defeat?

**Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.**

1. Is there something you need to surrender to Jesus? Take a moment to respond to what Jesus is showing you.
2. What word, phrase, verse or challenge do you need to take with you this week? Is there an action step the Holy Spirit is leading you to take? Ask for his help with this.

**Prayer:** *Spend some time praying for one another. Pray that you would each know and believe the truth about who Jesus is in your daily lives, even when outside forces may be causing you to question what you know is truth.*