



BY WHAT
AUTHORITY

Matthew 21:23-27

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching, and said, “by what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” “And Jesus answered and said to them, “I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

Matthew 21:23-27

“The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?” And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the crowd; for they all regard John as a prophet.” And they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” He also said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

By What Authority?

- By what authority do you live your life?
- By what authority do you serve in the church?
- Are you fully submitted to God?
- Are you fully submitted to the authority in the church?

Spiritual Authority

- A divine power from God to lead, teach, and influence others to grow.
- God commissioned Jesus to come to the earth with authority to destroy the works of the devil.
- We can't be commissioned until we come under submission to the primary mission.

Watchman Nee

”The Lord continued his teaching on the matter of authority. He called his disciples together and instructed them about future things in glory. He said that, among the Gentiles, men seek for authority in order that they may rule over others. It is good for us to seek for the future glory, but we ought not have the thought of ruling or lording it over God’s

Watchman Nee

Children. To do so would cause us to fall into the state of the Gentiles. To exercise authority and to rule are the desires of the Gentiles. Such a spirit must be driven from the church. Those whom the Lord uses are the ones who know the lord's cup and the Lord's baptism."

Luke 10:19

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

3 Keys for Spiritual Authority

- Submit yourselves
- Humble yourselves
- Seek authority

Charles Spurgeon

- "It is, perhaps, one of the hardest struggles of the Christian life to learn this sentence: not unto us, not unto us, but unto your name God be the glory."

1. Submit yourselves

- James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- Submit to God
- Hupotasso- to come under one in higher authority voluntarily.
- Submit to your leaders

Hebrews 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

2. Humble yourselves

- James 4:10 - humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
- Humility is a proper perspective of oneself in reference to God.

Andrew Murray

“The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised while he is forgotten. He has received the spirit of Jesus, who pleased not himself, and who sought not his own honor. Therefore, in putting on the Lord Jesus Christ he has put on the heart of compassion,

Andrew Murray

Kindness, meekness, long-suffering, and humility.
Humility is something we should constantly pray for, yet
never thank God that we have.”

Matthew 3:13-15

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

3. Seek authority

- A leader is always under authority.
- Jesus sought authority before being released into ministry.
- The main reason we have authority is to lift others up.

Matthew 11:11

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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