

The Authority of the Believer

Authority: Designated right to rule, combined with the power to act.

When we see ourselves as God says it provides the strength and confidence to act.

Authority is meaningless without the strength and confidence to act.

Why do people remain silent when they have the authority to speak?

Why do people hesitate in a crisis when they have the authority to act?

Acting on authority brings power to bear to correct problems.

Luke 4:18-19 ESV The purpose of God's authority is to bring freedom.

In Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus with power, and he acted.

Matt. 28:18-20 ESV God has delegated authority to us.

Authority is given to set others free, resist evil, protect and nurture those in our care, accomplish God's purposes in our life, and proclaim to the world, their debt of sin is forgiven.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 NKJV Identify the battlefield where the authority is to be used.

Though we walk in the flesh, our battle is not with the flesh.

Our battle is not with people, especially other Christians. Isaiah 58

The weapons of our warfare are mighty in God to pull down strongholds

Strongholds are patterns of thought and behavior built over time.

Strongholds are Satan's counter to meditating the scriptures.

Only spiritual weapons can tear down Satan's strongholds.

We overlook them because we are focused on fighting natural battles.

2 Cor. 5:21 ESV God's Righteousness

The great exchange: God took everything that devalued us and exchanged it for his righteousness which gives us our standing with God.

Eph 6:14b ...having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

The breastplate protected vital organs.

Righteousness protects the conscience of the inner man.

Hebrews 10 tells us that by one sacrifice, Jesus has perfected forever those who are sanctified, and that once cleansed, we are to have no more consciousness of sin.

A clear conscience is essential in having the confidence to act.

Righteousness is the inner verdict of "Not Guilty" that releases you from the outward offenses that you have committed.

Righteousness reminds you that your offenses have been paid for and are no longer "on the books."

Righteousness is the reminder that at the last judgement, when the deeds of all men and women are judged, you again will hear the verdict of "Not Guilty".

How much time do we spend thinking about our mistakes, in comparison to thinking about our savior who paid for them?

God's righteousness is your status as a member of God's family and the protection for your inner man during life's battles, not a claim of how good or holy your behavior has been. God's righteousness is not about your behavior.

The Shield of Faith (Eph 6:16) extinguish the fiery darts of the enemy.

Satan can't touch you; he can only throw darts at you.

Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God.

Faith is how all transactions with God are consummated.

The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Eph 6:17b)

Jesus used the Word during his temptation in the wilderness.

There is a power developed by knowledge and understanding of scripture.

"It is written" is not a magical incantation, it comes from our inner most being, out of the abundance of the heart.

At age 12, Jesus astounded the scholars and leaders of the temple with his knowledge and understanding of scripture.

Praying in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication. (Eph 6:18)

Pray scriptures where God's will is known.

Pray in the Spirit where God's will is unknown.

