

Encounter Church
Wednesday January 10, 2024

The Authority of the Believer

1. What is Authority

Every Christian, every disciple of Christ, has authority in this world. However, many believers either do not realize that they have this authority, or they simply do not operate and it.

WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER?

Authority- (Greek *Exousia*- 92 verses in the New Testament use this Greek word)- *the power or ability to do something given by, conferred upon or derived from a higher authority. It is the warrant, right, power, or ability to do something. POWER TO ACT!*

POWER TO ACT! The right to exercise power. Authority is the right to command or exercise power.

WHAT IS POWER

Power- "the ability to act or produce; strength."

Therefore, authority is the right to exercise the ability to act, or the right to exercise strength.

Without authority you have no right to use power.

Without power, your authority is meaningless; you have no ability or strength with which to produce something.

Luke 10:17-20- "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."

DON'T GET HAUGHTY!

We are not to think too highly of ourselves – pride, but we should also not think too lowly of ourselves – false humility.

We are not to be filled with pride and come across as egotistical and cocky, **but not to be confident in what the Holy Spirit has called us too is an insult to God.**

Romans 12:3- “Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.”

BUT, if we have been called and gifted in a particular area, we must assert our authority in that area!

This is not pride because I know without Him I would not be able to do anything.

Not to step forward in the confidence and authority God has given me would be a slap in His face. This is false humility and pride in reverse.

2. All Authority has been given to Jesus.

Matthew 28:18- “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

That authority to exercise power, given to Jesus, covers all of heaven and earth.

Ephesians 1:19-22- “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.”

Jesus is in the position of authority above all principalities, powers, might and dominion in this world and in that which is to come.

Jesus has all authority because he is in the position of authority over all of heaven and earth!

3. There is Authority and Power in Jesus Name.

Philippians 2:9-11- “Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

4. When you are in Christ you have Authority.

Romans 10:9-13- “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

You are in Christ. You are part of His Body, the Church.

Colossians 1:15-18- “Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.”

YOU HAVE A POSITION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST!

Ephesians 2:4-6- “But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 2:10-12- “So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”

As the Head of the Body and the Body itself are part of each other, when Christ Jesus was raised to the right hand of God, the body was also raised!

Right now, you walk on earth for a period of time, but your position in the family of God is sitting with Jesus at the Father's side and walking boldly in the authority that belongs to Him.

YOU CAN USE THAT AUTHORITY HERE ON EARTH BECAUSE OF YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST!

YOU HAVE THAT AUTHORITY NOW!!!

5. Jesus expects you to do his work with his authority.

Mark 16:17-18- “These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

2 Corinthians 5:20- “So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

There is great power in His name!

You as a believer have the authority (the right) to exercise the power that is in the name of Jesus.....DOING HIS WORK!

John 14:12-14- “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

This is not referring to just praying anything! This is referring to doing the work of Jesus and using the power of His name!

6. You Defeat the Enemy with Christ Authority.

John 10:10- “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Satan is not nice. He is intelligent. His plans are subtle and not always easily identified, and they are hellish.

Jesus Christ DEFEATED Satan and his evil spirits -

Colossians 2:14-15- “He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

Because you are in Christ, you participate in His victory. You live in Jesus Christ and use the power of His name, the enemy cannot defeat you.

He cannot devour the Christian who uses the powerful name of Jesus to resist him!

ATTENTION:

You cannot use your authority against people. That does not work.

Ephesians 6:12- "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

You know, Jesus didn't die so we could all be pitiful and pathetic and weak and wimpy and moan and groan and complain and murmur all the time and be afraid of everything.

He died so that we could have a powerful, bold, amazing, fruitful life so we can reach out to other people in love, helping them to find their way to Christ.

In Ephesians 1:19, the Apostle Paul prayed for the church, and he said,

"I pray that they would know the power that's available, the surpassing greatness of His power, that is available to those who believe".

Now, that doesn't mean that nothing will come against you, but it does mean that even if you go through the fire, you'll come out and not be burned. If you go through the flood, you won't drown. If you go through problems, you won't be overwhelmed.

So, the good news for you tonight, and please take this, no matter what's going on in your life right now, no matter how impossible your situation might seem, you are going through. **YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE IT!**

You're not stuck in the middle. If you have taken hold of the hand of Christ, you are going through, and you will come out on the other side and you won't even smell like smoke!

PRAISE GOD!