

Understanding Authority Part 3: The Authority of a believer
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In our series in Authority, we've covered some important points so far: That God and His Word are the ultimate authority in our lives. That there is an umbrella of authorities in our lives that God has established and they are for our provision and protection. He desires our submission to that end, that He may accomplish His will in and through our lives and that He may advance His Kingdom through us; Submission to God first, God-ordained authorities second. We can't truly walk in authority, unless we are walking under authority.

God wants every believer to walk in His power and authority (Commission in the Garden, to the Great Commission of Jesus) because He wants to reclaim what was lost in the Garden and we are a part of His spiritual army to fight with Him in these spiritual battles, in order to become victorious in this overarching spiritual war. And we are in a spiritual war.

[Recap pics: Power & Authority]

“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.” -Luke 10:19

We operate in power because the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and operates in us and through us.

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to

your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” -Romans 8:11

You have resurrection power living on the inside of you! No one does anything supernatural or miraculous in and of themselves. We can only operate in the power of God through the Holy Spirit. This was true even of Jesus in His earthly ministry:

Jesus declared in **Matthew 12:28**, ***“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”***
(emphasis mine)

But as I said earlier, we need both authority *and* power [Remember the picture examples]. We know where our power comes from, but where does our authority come from?

Firstly, we have “Positional authority” in the Kingdom: **Ephesians 1 & 2**: We are seated spiritually in heavenly places, far above all rule, power, authority and every name that is named. If it is under the feet of Jesus, it is also under our feet, because we are seated with Him. In **Ephesians 1**, the Word tells us that Jesus was raised up and seated next to the Father; in **Ephesians 2**, the Word tells us that we were raised up and seated in Christ.

Secondly, God has given us power and authority in and through the name of Jesus.

“These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” -Mark 16:17, 18 ***(emphasis mine)***

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” -Acts 4:29-31 (emphasis mine; cf. v.10)

The Name of Jesus is above every other name (**Philippians 2:9-11**). It's not a 'magic word,' but it carries weight, power and authority. There is power in the Name because of Who it represents. [**2 older brothers example; Jesus is our big brother**]

Thirdly, we have power and authority through the Word of God. The Word of God is described as a weapon (Ephesians 6:17/Hebrews 4:12) and with it we can demolish strongholds of the enemy (**2nd Corinthians 10:3-5**). This is why it's very important that we are daily reading the Word of God, meditating on the Word of God, memorizing the Word of God, Praying the Word of God, speaking out and declaring the Word of God.

In **Luke 1:37**, when the archangel Gabriel is delivering the message to Mary that she will conceive a son, she asks how will this come about? He says something that is poorly translated in most modern English Bibles *“Nothing is impossible with God.”* But a better translation in the original Greek would be: *“No Word of God is without power.”* And her response is *“May it be done to me according to Your Word.”*

Finally, we have power and authority as His Church when we are unified. Individual believers have power and authority, but we can accomplish more damage to the realm of darkness when we operate together in unity. The Early Church understood this and took pains to make sure there was no divisions amongst them. This applies to both inside of the local church as well as the larger body of Christ. Are you promoting unity or disunity and division within the church?

Are you aware of the daily spiritual warfare that is around you every day? Do you feel like you keep losing spiritual battles in your life? How are you attempting to fight these battles? Are you even fighting? Or do you take the hits and assume that 'God is trying to teach you something' in the midst of hardship? Jesus told us *"In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* We sing 'Victory in Jesus,' do we believe that we can achieve it? The Word of God refers to us as 'more than conquerors' and 'overcomers.' Every believer has power and authority available to them. The Holy Spirit lives in you; you have the Word of God; you are able to declare the Name of Jesus. You are seated in Heavenly places, far above all rule, power, authority and every name that is named. Are you going to live as a victim or be victorious?