

The Christian's Authority

1. What do we mean by authority? The delegated power or right to act or to carry out one's actions in a particular manner or fashion; the delegated right to give orders or commands unto another, and to see that they are carried out or obeyed. Authority represents a legal right, rather than physical power. One can have very little physical power, but yet have very much legal or delegated authority. The word authority comes from the Greek word exousia (ex-oo-see-ah); meaning a privilege or power, which is delegated or assigned by a higher authority (God). Anything which God gives us the authority to do, He also gives us the necessary power to perform the task, whatever it may be; just as He done with his Son; Jesus.

2. All Christian authority comes from God. Romans 13:1 tells us: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

3. When Jesus was upon the earth, He had authority which was delegated from the Heavenly Father. When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, he told Jesus: "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." (John 3:2) We also read in John 5:36: "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."

4. Jesus was given the authority to:

A. Forgive sin. We read in John 5:22-27: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honor not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent Him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man."

B. Raise the dead. We read the story of Lazarus in John chapter 11. In verse

14: "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." And in verses 38-45 we read: "Jesus therefore again, groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him."

C. Cast out demons. Luke 4:33-36 tells us: "And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out." And Mark's gospel tells us, in Mark 1:27: "And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? For with authority commandeth He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him."

D. Perform miracles. We read in Matthew 14:15-21: "And when it was evening, his disciples came to Him, saying, This is a desert place, and time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to Heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all

eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.” We also read in John 2:1-11: “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.** His mother saith unto the servants, **Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.** And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, **Fill the waterpots with water.** And they filled them up to the brim. And He saith unto them, **Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.** And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, **Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.** This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on Him.”

E. Heal the sick. We now go to John 5:1-9, which tells us: “After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus said unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed and walk.** And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath.” We also read in Matthew 8:16-17: “When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it may be fulfilled

which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” It was prophesied of Jesus, by Isaiah the prophet: “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isa. 53:5)

5. Jesus stripped Satan of all his power and authority forevermore. Luke 10:18 tells us: “And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” Jesus acknowledges the fall of Satan as the lightning falls from heaven; so suddenly; as the gospel is preached; as we go forth in his mighty name; in the delegated power and authority which He has delegated unto all believers.

6. Jesus also had power and authority over the forces of nature. We read in Matthew 8:23-27: “And when He was entered into a ship, his disciples followed Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. And his disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!” Greek-seismos (sice-mos): a great storm, with much wind; similar to a tornado; with even the signs of an earthquake; causing much agitation or trembling. This was surely an act of Satan, in an attempt to destroy Jesus and his disciples. Yet Jesus had complete power and authority over it. He immediately put a stop to this destructive act of Satan. Satan will also attempt to destroy us, if we choose to live for Jesus. But we also, have been delegated the power and authority through Jesus name, to take complete control of any act which Satan might attempt to bring against us; even those which might come through the powers of nature. We must truly walk in the power of God’s Holy Spirit; that we might be able to recognize the tricks and snares of Satan. Many times we may think that things which come upon us, may be no more than the natural process of nature, when they may be destructive attempts by Satan, to destroy us; just as he attempted to do unto Jesus and his disciples.

7. Jesus has given the Christian, complete power and authority over Satan, and over his total kingdom, forevermore. We read in Luke 10:19: “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

A. Power-Greek-exousia (ex-oo-see-ah): privilege, force or ability, delegated influence, liberty or right.

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B. Tread-Greek-pateo (pat-eh-o): trample, tread down under foot; a violent movement or blow, as one causing harm or defeat unto another; an action which brings total victory over another (Satan).

C. Serpents and scorpions. Figuratively speaking of the all evil forces; Satan, demons, and all evil spirits.

D. Over all the power of the enemy. We have been given complete power and authority over Satan forevermore; and over all evil forces and powers.

E. Nothing shall by any means hurt you. No act of Satan, or by any of his delegated forces, shall ever be able to hurt any child of God; if they will just accept by faith, the power and authority which He has delegated unto every one of his children. However, there is a very important point that every Christian must remember, when it comes to walking in that authority which Jesus has given unto us. Most of the time, Satan and his demon forces will flee without second thought, when we command them to do so in the name of Jesus. But there will be rare occasions, when Satan and his evil forces will refuse to obey our commands. The best way to demonstrate these rare occasions, is to use the example of a police officer. An official police officer has been given the authority to enforce the laws of cities, our states, and of our nation. In most situations, the citizens will obey the officer's commands. But there are times, when the citizens refuse to obey the officer's orders. On these occasions, the officers must go to higher authorities, and get the backup which they need, to make the ones who will not obey their orders, to have a change of mind, and obey their orders. This is just like the situations which Christians sometimes face, when the devil and his angels refuse to obey their orders, which they are authorized by Jesus Christ, to enforce. When this happens, we, as Christians, must go to the higher authority over us, to get the help which we need, to get Satan and his demon spirits to obey our orders. Who is our higher authority which we must go to? No one else but Jesus Christ! When Jesus speaks to Satan, you can rest assured, Satan will listen, and will not have a second thought about obeying Him. We are told in John 10:10: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." The only purpose that the devil has, is to steal the joy of every Christian; and to literally kill them, any way he can

find to do so. Whether it be by putting his lying symptoms of sickness and disease upon them, or by leading them into a situation, that he knows will eventually cause them to come to physical death; or even in many situations, making them so miserable that they eventually take their own life. All Satan desires to do, is to destroy your life; any way that he possibly can. But Jesus came that every person, might have the most abundant life possible; not just when they get to Heaven, but while here on this earth. And the way that every Christian accomplishes this, is by walking in the authority that Jesus has given us, through his mighty name.

8. If we will walk in our Christian authority which every one of us have been given, then nothing which Satan shall ever attempt to do to us, will be successful. We are also told in Isaiah 54:17: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

A. No weapon shall prosper. Hebrew-tsalach (tsaw-lakh): to be effective, or successful.

B. Every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. Hebrew-rasha (raw-shah): to declare wrong, or to stop the effects or successfulness of (Satan's lies).

C. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. Hebrew-nachalah (makh-al-aw): an inheritance; a privilege in this case, which is received from our Savior Jesus Christ; which gives every Christian the right to walk in total authority over Satan and every one of his evil forces; inherited by believing upon Jesus, and being washed from sin in his precious blood.

9. Jesus told us in the gospel of Mark, chapter 16, verses 17-18: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Who did Jesus say these signs would follow? Them that believe. Who is He talking about? He is speaking of any Christian who will simply believe his Word and step out in faith; not just preachers, teachers, or evangelists. If we will just begin to put our faith into action, we will begin to see mighty things happen. We already have the power and authority within us, by God's Holy Spirit, who lives within us. We just need to learn to start acting on the authority which God has given to every one of his children.

So many people are waiting on God to do so many things for them, when He

has already placed the power within every one of us, to cause it be done immediately, if we will only believe.

Conclusion:

God has given all power and authority over Satan, and over all of his evil forces, unto every Christian, who will just believe, and accept it by faith. The only way which Satan can regain any power at all, is by Christians giving it back unto him. How do we give the power back to Satan? By listening to his lies, and failing to walk by faith; by refusing to accept the power and authority which Jesus Christ has delegated unto us, through his mighty name. We can walk in total victory over Satan while we are on this earth, or we can walk in total defeat. The choice is up to us. What will your choice be?
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