

The Authority of the Believer

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Scripture References

Matthew 18:18	John 10:10
Philippians 2:9	John 10:10, AMPC
Luke 10:19	Psalms 89:34
Ephesians 6:12	Hebrews 1:3
Matthew 10:1, 7, 8	Hebrews 2:1
Acts 1:8	Acts 3:4-8
Luke 10:19, NLT	Mark 11:20, 22-24
John 15:4, 5	2 Corinthians 4:13
Hebrews 13:5, AMPC	Luke 6:45
Ephesians 1:19-21	Proverbs 18:21
James 4:7	James 1:6-8

Summary

*When life gets crazy, we must remember that in the midst of everything, believers are still the ones who have authority from God. Authority is defined as the right to command. We do not have to tolerate sickness, disease, fear, or any other kind of evil present in the world. Christians actually have the power to enforce in the world what is already in place in heaven. When change for the better is needed, it will be made not by earthly authorities, but by the worldwide church of Jesus Christ. As believers, we must not be afraid to acknowledge that **we** possess the ability to get the job done. It is time to execute our God-given authority; by doing so, we release healing and win at spiritual warfare.*

A. We must release the power and authority that God gave us. We do that by speaking out.

1. God has ultimate power, and believers are authorized to use it. We can speak to sickness and disease, and order it to leave, in Jesus' name.
 - a. Whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Matthew 18:18).
 - b. We use our authority by opening our mouths and speaking God's Word. We can call every disease by name, and subjugate it.
 - c. The name of Jesus is higher and greater than any other name (Philippians 2:9).
 - d. Prayer carries tremendous power; when we pray, things change.
 - e. We have already received authority and power over evil spirits, municipalities, powers, and wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).
2. And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease... And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give (Matthew 10:1, 7, 8).

- a. The number one reason behind unanswered prayer is that people ask God to do something that He has given them the authority and power to do themselves.
- b. The average Christian approaches God as if he had no authority; that needs to change. Some things will never change unless we walk in our authority.
- c. We are fighting a spiritual fight; we will not know *how* to fight unless we are born again.
- d. We cannot depend on the unsaved world to fix the problems, because they have not been issued the power to handle the situation. Born-again Christians are the ones who *do* have the power.
- e. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you... (Acts 1:8).
- f. Power is the ability to get the job done. We have the same power that Jesus has.

B. When we are in Christ, there is nothing that can overcome us. We have strength in Him.

1. We have power directly from God; this is something we cannot ignore. We do not have to beg and plead with Him to heal; He has already authorized us to bring healing to others.
 - a. 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 (Luke 10:19).
 - b. 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 (Luke 10:19, *NLT*).
2. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing (John 15:4, 5).
 - a. The branch cannot produce fruit by itself. Likewise, the power to heal is not ours; it comes from God.
 - b. Real results only come through a relationship with God.
3. Let your character *or* moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you *nor* give you up *nor* leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless *nor* forsake *nor* let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] (Hebrews 13:5, *AMPC*).
 - a. No matter what happens, believers are never on their own. God is committed to us.

C. God gave us His power to use, but we must take responsibility for flipping the switch.

1. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:19-21).
 - a. Our authority is even greater than Adam and Eve's. They only had authority over the earth; we have authority on earth, in heaven, and in hell.
2. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).
 - a. To resist is to actively fight against. It is not God's responsibility to resist the devil for us; we must do this for ourselves.

3. 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 (John 10:10).
 - a. Some people do not even believe the devil exists; this leaves them wide open to his attacks. Sickness and disease come from the thief.
4. The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows) (John 10:10, *AMPC*).
 - a. Jesus wants us to enjoy life; fear and sickness prevent that. God does *not* send sickness. We do not have to tolerate it.

D. God will never go back on His promises to us of protection, deliverance, and healing.

1. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips (Psalm 89:34).
 - a. A covenant is an irrevocable pledge, promise, or vow between two parties to do what was agreed upon.
 - b. God said He has given us authority; He cannot take back what He has already given us.
2. Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).
 - a. God has given us His Word concerning the authority we have. He will never go back on His Word by doing something that *we* should do.
 - b. God wants us to be well. Sickness is from the devil, and God specifically told us to resist the devil. If we fail to do this, our healing is not God's responsibility. Many people do not understand this.
3. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (Hebrews 2:1).
 - a. We must not forget God's Word on healing. In the midst of a situation, we have authority on this planet.

E. We have the same authority that Jesus and the disciples had. We activate it by faith.

1. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God (Acts 3:4-8).
 - a. Expectation is the breeding ground for miracles.
 - b. Peter used his authority to heal—we can use our authority to do the same thing.
2. And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots... And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:20, 22-24).

- a. Our faith is powerful. We have the authority to cast out sickness and to have whatever we say. We can emphatically declare healing.
 - b. The results of prayer are not always immediately evident to our physical senses; we may not see anything right away. However, power always goes forth when we pray in Jesus' name.
 - c. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak (2 Corinthians 4:13).
 - d. We must believe in the finished works of Jesus.
 - e. ...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh (Luke 6:45).
- F. Our words carry great power. Speaking in faith helps us to win at spiritual warfare.**
1. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof (Proverbs 18:21).
 - a. If we speak in faith with no doubt, then the miracle we are waiting for is in our mouths.
 2. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:6-8).
 - a. Our faith must be constant, not wishy-washy. If we cannot make up our minds about what we believe, we become ineffectual.
 3. There are some practical ways to stand on our authority.
 - a. Speak directly to the problem.
 - b. Do not speak to God about the problem; speak to the problem about what God already did.
 - c. Speak to the mountain and cast it into the sea.
 - d. Remember that religion will not mention the believers' authority, because having no authority means that we do not have to hold ourselves accountable.
 - e. Instead of asking God to heal and deliver us, we should thank and praise Him for having already provided healing and deliverance.

Category: righteousness/salvation

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