

## **Performing the Law vs. Performing Spiritual Authority**

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Broadcast Dates: 10/1/20 & 10/2/20

Message Date: 6/5/19 • 7:00 P.M.

### **Scripture References**

Matthew 10:1, 7, 8

Luke 10:19

Luke 10:19, *AMPC*

2 Corinthians 10:5

James 4:7

Proverbs 18:21

Isaiah 54:17

### **Summary**

*There is a difference between performing through our own self-effort and performing in faith, to activate the power the finished works of Jesus has made available to us. God supplies the power; our belief flips the switch and puts it to use. The top reason behind unanswered prayer is because we ask God to do something that He has already given us the authority to do ourselves. The average Christian approaches Him as if they are powerless; under the covenant of grace, this approach is wrong. We have been authorized to execute spiritual laws, and we must stand on that authority. The power of God gives us the ability to get the job done and see results by speaking His Word over any situation that arises. As believers, we must never be afraid to walk in our authority.*

#### **A. Christians have the same power and ability to defeat the enemy as Jesus Christ.**

1. Believers have been given the authority to enforce spiritual laws. This is why it is so important to rightly divide the Law of Moses from the law of Jesus.
  - a. Our acts of faith activate the spiritual laws that are in force. We take authority over the devil this way.
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. Power is defined as the ability to get the job done. *We* have that power.
  - b. The world does not think raising the dead and casting out evil spirits is possible anymore. However, the implication with this Scripture is that *we* do these things.
  - c. This power can be used anytime, not just in church.

#### **B. Our spiritual authority empowers us to overcome the devil. He is no match against us.**

1. 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).
  - a. The first use of the word “power” means authority; the second use means ability.
  - b. To tread on something is to have absolute mastery over it. “Serpents and scorpions” refers to demon spirits and forces.
2. Behold! I have given you authority *and* power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you (Luke 10:19, *AMPC*).

- a. We have the authority over all of the enemy's ability.
  - b. Jesus has already beaten the devil; the only thing the enemy has left to use against us is the power of suggestion.
  - c. Our minds are the battlefield. We must know the Word well enough to resist any suggestions the devil makes.
  - d. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
  - e. We cast down the enemy's suggestions by opening our mouths and declaring the Word.
- C. We can use our authority to verbally cast down anything that contradicts God's Word.**
- 1. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).
    - a. In this context, to resist means to actively fight against. We have the authority and the power to make the enemy flee.
    - b. We can speak to situations and change them with our spiritual authority. If we do not speak, nothing changes.
    - c. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof (Proverbs 18:21).
  - 2. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD (Isaiah 54:17).
    - a. When we hear someone say something contrary to the Word, we must speak out and condemn it. This is to prevent fear from taking hold in us.
    - b. The weapon this refers to is formed when the tongue rises up in judgment.
    - c. We must not tolerate fear; it will contaminate our faith.

Category: righteousness/salvation

Keywords: law, authority, faith, power, belief, authorized, ability