

Authority of the Believer

Message Notes

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Part 1 God's Ultimate Authority

NOTE: Words in blue are on the outline

God has something for you to help you to live an effective Christian life – authority. When a Christian realizes their position in Christ and learns how to walk in their authority as His representative– they will be able to experience the purpose God has for their life and increase in their ministry for His kingdom.

I. God is the ultimate authority

God is the source of all life; therefore God has the position and the right to establish His ways for ruling His creation.

God has always been, is now, and will always be. He is the “I am.”

Omnipresent - everywhere

- [God's way is the only way.](#)
You can't make up your own rules. God made the rules.
You can't decide how life works.
You can't decide how spiritual principles work.
You can't decide that you will come to God any other way than the way He gave you.

God is the one who decided how the world would operate.
God is the one who established spiritual laws.
God is the one who set the standard for what is right.
God is the one that gave us one way to salvation.
- [You have the right to choose to yield to God or not.](#) You can decide to either yield yourself to God and have His life and His benefits OR you can refuse to yield to God and experience death and destruction. He is the ultimate authority, establishing His ways for ruling His creation. Your choice is to yield or not to yield.
- [God knows that you need Him](#)
You can't decide that you will live independently of God and still have life. He is your source of life.

[God is not only the originator of life; He is also the sustainer of life.](#)

God isn't a control freak. There is liberty with God – you are free to have peace and joy and life. You are free to love. You are free to laugh. You are free to live.

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Sin is deceptive. A person thinks that in turning away from God they will be free to do what they want, but sin will put you in bondage. Eventually the road to sin will lead you to pain and in the end, death.

[Deuteronomy 5:33](#) “You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

God’s authority is supreme.

In our judicial system, when someone loses in court, they can make an appeal to take their case to a higher court. Their appeals can continue all the way up to the supreme court. The supreme court is the final jurisdiction. God’s authority is as high as you can go in all of the universe.

Today we are starting a new series called “The Authority of the Believer.” The theme of this series is the Old West. Back in the day, the sheriff of a town was the town’s governing authority. The sheriff enforced the law. His gun was the power backing him up. His badge was his symbol of his authority, so today everyone is getting a badge to remind them of this series of messages on the believer’s authority.

[II. God has power to execute His authority](#)

[Authority is only as strong as the power it represents.](#)

[God has all power.](#)

[Psalm 62:11b](#) “... power belongs to God.”

Omnipotent – all powerful

The Holy Spirit is the executor of God’s power.

[I Chron. 29:11-12](#) Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. (12) Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.

[Psalm 66:7](#) He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. [Isaiah 40:25-26](#)

[Jeremiah 32:17](#) ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

[II Tim. 1:12b](#) ...I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

III. God has knowledge to execute His authority

God knows what is best for you.

Psalm 139:3; Jeremiah 51:15

God is not a dictator. “my way or the highway.” God is “My way is what is best for you. Please choose Me and My way.”

Psalm 139:3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

Jeremiah 51:15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.

Omniscient - all knowing

Isaiah 40:13, 14

Ps 103:14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Matthew 6:8 Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

IV. God has given authority to His Word

God's power backs up His word because of His authority.

1. God spoke the world into existence

Psalm 33:6-9; Psalm 148:1-6

Psalm 33:6-9 “(6) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ..(9) For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

Psalm 148:1-6 “...(5) Let them (creation) praise the name of the Lord, for He COMMANDED and they were created, (6) He also established them forever and ever; He made a DECREE which shall not pass away.”

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

God SAID...

Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26,29

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2. God works His authority through the words of his mouth

Romans 4:17 "...calls those things which do not exist as though they did."

3. God's Word is God's will.

II Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

If He spoke it or put it in the Bible, then we know it is God's will.

I John 5:14,15

If it is God's will, then we have the confidence that it has God's authority and power supporting it.

4. God's word is His bond

Numbers 11:23; Numbers 23:19; I Kings 8:56; Psalm 89:34; Psalm 119:89; Psalm 138:2; Isaiah 40:8; Isaiah 45:23; Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 1:12; Matthew 24:35; II Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 6:18; I Peter 1:24, 25

V. GOD WANTS YOU TO TRUST HIS AUTHORITY

1. Know God loves you
2. Know that God's way is the best for you.
3. Know the way to God is through surrender
4. Study to know the word of God.
5. Stand on the promises of God's Word.

Conclusion

He is God of the universe and He is on your side.
He has supreme authority and He cares for you.

1. If you haven't made Him the Lord of your life, do it today.
2. If there is a sin in your life that you haven't turned over to Him, do it today.
3. If there is something that He wants you to do, and you haven't done it, commit to obey Him today.

Part 2 God's Delegated Authority

1. God is the ultimate [authority](#)

Isaiah 44:6b "...I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God."

We are in a series of messages on "The Authority of the Believer." These messages build on one another, so if you have not heard the previous message, we encourage you to either order the CD or listen to our podcast online.

2. God delegated authority to [mankind](#)

Genesis 1:28 "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue** it; have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

Genesis 2:15 "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."

Genesis 2:16-17 Instruction about the choice to obey or disobey, to rely upon God or to turn away from God.

God made Adam the sheriff of the earth.

As long as a person is in a physical human body on the earth, he or she has the ability to operate in authority in the earth.

As long as you are in an earthly body, you have the right to choose to surrender to God or to turn away from God. **Once you die, once you leave your physical body, you no longer have the right to choose between life and death.** A person's eternal destiny is determined while they are living in their human body.

While you are in a physical body, you have tremendous ability to influence the world around you. This is one reason why God wants His Spirit to live within you, empowering you to do the will of God. You should also be aware that this is why demons want to possess a person or to see them give away the control of their bodies through substance abuse of drugs or alcohol.

Take care of your body. It is the dwelling place of God through the Holy Spirit. Your body belongs to Him. The longer you are on the earth, the better the quality of life that you have, the more you can do for Him. What you eat, how you live, etc. isn't just your business – it's God's business.

3. [Adam allowed sin and death into the world](#)

Not only is God the originator of life, He is also the sustainer of life. He is your source and your supply. As long as you are in position with Him, you can draw from His life.

God knows that we need Him.

Genesis 3

Should have thrown Satan out of the garden. God told Adam to tend and keep the garden.

Adam tried to be independent of God. He twisted away from his position with God. Separation from God is separation from life. When Adam turned away from God, sin and death entered the world and the human race.

[Romans 5:12](#) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-“

Sin brought separation from God, separation from life. Death entered the world. [Isaiah 59:2a](#) “But your iniquities have separated you from your God...”

The Bible refers to something called the law of sin and death. This is to describe the effect and the working of sin in the earth.

Separation from God has changed the human condition. Separation from God has changed the condition of the earth. Because of sin, the human race now experiences sickness, deformity, poverty, etc. It's not God who brought sin into the earth, it was Adam.

Don't blame God for cancer or hurricanes or famine. It's not His fault when bad things happen. It's not the law of life that rules the earth, it's the law of sin and death.

4. [Satan was authorized to rule this world](#)

Through the law of sin and death, Satan was authorized to rule in this world.

[II Corinthians 4:3,4](#) “(3) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

Satan isn't a god in the deity sense. Satan is referred to as a god to describe him as a governing authority in the earth.

The word “god” is used to describe a governing authority.

If you want to see loved ones come to Christ, first bind the devil from blinding their minds in Jesus' name.

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In fact, not only is Satan referred to as a god, or governing authority in the earth, you are.

John 10:35 Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6 when some of the Jews were offended that Jesus made Himself out to be God. Jesus turns and says, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'You are gods?'"

Psalm 82:6 "I said, 'You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.'" The Hebrew word here means "judge" again referring to a governing authority.

You aren't god. You aren't deity. You are a governing authority. Satan has also been able to rule over sinful hearts, hearts that are not yielded to God.

John 12:31 "the ruler of this world will be cast out."

Luke 4:6 ".. for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."

5. Jesus defeated death and restored authority

A. Jesus restored authority over Satan

Colossians 2:14-15 "(14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

Ephesians 1:19-23 "(19) and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (20) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Under His feet. Christ is above.

Genesis 3:15b...He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

B. Jesus restored authority over sin and its effects

Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

The effects of sin are death, sickness, poverty and the like.

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Galatians 3:13 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree).”

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 gives us the description of the curse of the law which includes poverty and sickness, direct consequences of sin.

6. Jesus delegated authority to the church

Ephesians 2:5-6 “(5) Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

Eph. 1:22-23 Jesus is the head of His body, the church. The enemy has been put under His feet, under us as well. Satan under us, power of sin under us.

Romans 16:20a “And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” Under your feet.

Matthew 28:18-20 “(18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

YOUR POSITION TODAY

1. You have authority in the earth.
2. Christ restored your authority over Satan.
3. Christ gave you authority over sin and its effects.

Part 3 Jesus' Earthly Authority

1. Jesus represented [His Father](#)

Jesus acknowledged God's authority over Him.

John 14:28b "...My Father is greater than I."

God is the ultimate authority. Jesus respected God's authority. He positioned Himself underneath God's authority.

Satan tried to exalt himself above God's authority and look at what happened to him. Luke 10:18 Jesus said, "...I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." It is better to recognize who God is and honor His position over us.

Jesus joined Himself to God

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

You are on God's team.

If someone came against Jesus, they were also coming against God, the one He represented.¹

Jesus did not come with His own agenda.

John 5:30b "...I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

Jesus was the ambassador for God. Jesus was sent to the earth with a mission.

Jesus knew that God was backing His position in Him

John 8:54a "Jesus answered, 'If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me...'"

No one could take away the delegated ministry that God had given Jesus.

No one could kill Him. Luke 4:29-30 They led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way."

¹ John 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father."

John 8:42 "Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.'"

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John 10:18 “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

No one could take away any follower who was in God’s hand.

John 10:29 “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

No one could stop Him from preaching, teaching, healing, raising the dead, performing miracles, casting out devils, etc. God backed His ministry because His ministry belonged to God.

a. There is authority in [submission to God](#)

Jesus knew that His ministry was God’s ministry.

Everything that Jesus said and did was in submission to His Father, His authority.

Jesus [said nothing](#) on His own authority.

John 12:49 “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”²

Jesus [did nothing](#) on His own authority.

John 5:19 “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’”³

b. There is power in [submission to God](#)

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”⁴

² John 12:50 “And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak. “

³ John 8:29; John 10:37

⁴ John 5:36; John 6:44; John 14:10

Authority of the Believer

2. Jesus ministered [in authority](#)

Jesus operated as a man anointed by God on the earth.

Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18

a. Jesus [taught with authority](#)

Matthew 7:29 "...for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

b. Jesus commanded [demons](#)

Matthew 8:28-34 Gadarenes
Matthew 17:18

c. Jesus commanded [nature](#)

Mark 4:39 the storm
Mark 11:11-25 the fig tree

d. Jesus commanded [healing](#)

Matthew 8:5-13 The Centurion's servant
Matthew 8:3 leper "be cleansed"
Matthew 9:6 paralytic "Arise"
Mark 7:34 deaf and mute "be opened"
Luke 4:39 "He rebuked the fever and it left her."
John 5:8 Infirmity by pool "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Sometimes He touched them and the anointing healed them. Sometimes He said your faith has healed you. One time He made clay from His saliva and healed blind eyes. Sometimes He gave instruction, and as they obeyed, they were healed. 10 lepers. Other times He merely spoke with authority.

Be dependent upon the Lord. You can't receive from Him by following a formula.

e. Jesus commanded [miracles](#)

John 11:42, 43 Lazarus
Luke 7:12-15 Widow's son "Young man, I say to you, arise."
Mark 5:41 "Talitha, cumi" Aramiac "Little girl I say to you, arise."

f. Jesus defeated [Satan](#)

Colossians 2:14, 15

3. Jesus commissioned [His followers](#)

John 20:21b "... As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

There is authority and power in submission to God.⁵

We are sent to do the works that Jesus did

Luke 9:1,2 "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases (2) He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

This was before the cross. They were submitted to Him, so they were able to walk in His authority.

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. "⁶

CONCLUSION

Like Jesus:

- [Acknowledge God's authority over you.](#)
- [Join up with God](#)

When we're submitted to an authority, we're on their team.

John 14:20 "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'"

- [Follow His instructions](#)

Submission to authority means that you are obedient to their instructions. When you obey God, you are yielding yourself to His authority.

⁵ Acts 2:33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

⁶ John 15:15 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

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John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

- Know that God will [back your position](#)

John 12:26 “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

Part 4 Our Authority in Christ

Jesus received authority to minister from God. Jesus also took back authority over Satan His death and resurrection.

1. Jesus delegated His authority to us

Matthew 28:18 - 20

8 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore^[a] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Ephesians 1:19-23

19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2. We have been positioned in Christ

Ephesians 2:4-6 "(4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Our authority is based on our position. Our position is one of dependency. God is our continual life source. God is our loving Father. He is the ultimate authority. The way to know Him is through a humble surrender to His authority and love. He will not force us into submission. The way to God is through a yielded heart.

When we say that we are "in Christ" we are referring to our position in Him. Because He made the way, removing the penalty of sin, our relationship with God can be restored when we are in union with Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith (dependency) in the Son of god, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

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The way to be positioned in Christ is seen in water baptism.

- a. Go under the water – die to self like Jesus died. Surrender.
- b. Rise up out of the water and live in His new life.

The way to be empowered in Christ is seen in the fire baptism.

- a. Go under the fire – surrender our own way of doing things.
- b. Rise up and live in His supernatural power.

3. We represent [Jesus Christ on the earth](#)

- a. We are to reign in this life.

*Romans 5:17b "...reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."
Revelation 1:6b "...made us kings and priests."*

The world isn't perfect. Life isn't perfect. Families aren't perfect. Church isn't perfect. But we can rise up and take our authority over the areas that Christ has given to us to rule over.

Jesus wants us to reign in life. To reign means that we rule over. We rule over the enemy. We rule over bondages. We rule over sin, sickness and lack. We rule over oppression, depression, and obsessions. We rule over our emotions, we rule over temptations, we rule over a carnal mind.

- b. We are to carry out Christ's mission.

II Corinthians 5:20a "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us..."

An ambassador does not represent himself or herself. An ambassador represents the one who sent them.

- They go in their delegated authority
- They go with their power backing them up

We have been authorized by Jesus Christ to accomplish His mission.

Authority of the Believer

4. We have been authorized to use the [name of Jesus](#).

Jesus has given us the power of attorney in His absence. We are acting on His behalf. We have the right to use His name to accomplish His purpose.

a. We are authorized to [pray](#) in His name.

John 14:12-14; John 16:23, 24

John 14:13 “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 16:23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”

b. We are authorized to [act](#) in His name.

Mark 16:17, 18
Acts 3:1-9

Jesus said we were to do His works, and greater works, because He left to be with His Father. If He did not leave, He would not be able to send us the Holy Spirit.

[New Testament Examples:](#)

We encourage you to look up these references at home.

- a. [They preached](#) in the name of Jesus. (Acts 5:40; 9:27)
- b. [They risked their lives](#) for the name of Jesus (Acts 15:26; 21:13)
- c. [They were baptized](#) in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5)
- d. [They were filled with the Spirit](#) in the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17, 18)
- e. [They cast out devils](#) in the name of Jesus (Acts 16:18)
- f. [They had signs and wonders](#) in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:30)
- g. [They healed the sick](#) in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:6)
- h. They made the name of Jesus [famous](#) (Acts 19:17)

His name represents His person.

Philippians 2:9-11

5. [We are responsible to use our authority in Christ](#)

Just because we have been given authority doesn't mean that every Christian is taking their authority. God wants us to rise up and take our place in His kingdom!

We always go to God and ask for His hand to move. There are times when God puts the ball in our court, and says, "Authority has been given to you. Power has been given to you. You do something." People wait on God and wait on God, and God is waiting on you!

[Take Your Authority](#)

a. [Surrender to God.](#)

Die to self. If we are not walking in our authority over sin, we cannot expect to walk in the power of God.

Submit to God. Yield your life. You can increase or decrease in your effectiveness based on your heart's position.

b. [Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.](#)

Jesus followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. The apostles followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. We aren't authorized to represent ourselves and promote ourselves. We are authorized to accomplish God's purpose.

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God will always agree. If it is a promise in the Bible, we know that we have authorization. The Holy Spirit will never go against the Word of God. It's important that we study the Bible to know our authority.

c. [Use the words of your mouth.](#)

God used His words with authority when He created the world.

Jesus used His words with authority when He healed the sick and raised the dead.

We are to use our words with authority and command God's will to come to pass in the earth. Use the name of Jesus.

d. [Expect God's power to back your authority](#)

CONCLUSION

1. If you have not made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life and received His salvation, you are not in right position with God. You can do that today.
2. If you have been positioned in Christ, you have authority to walk in dominion in the earth. You can make that turn around today.
3. If you want to have God's power in your life, you can be filled with His Spirit today.

Part 5 Authorized to Command

Commanders in Authority

1. God gave commands.
2. Jesus gave commands.
3. The disciples gave commands.

a. Peter

Acts 3:1-10; Acts 9:32-34; Acts 9:36-42

- Peter

Acts 3:1-10 Last week we saw where Peter commanded a paralyzed man. “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Peter did what He saw Jesus do. Peter did what Jesus told him to do. Peter commanded the man to be healed.

- Peter

Acts 9:32-34 Peter commands Aeneas, a man paralyzed for eight years in Lydda, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.”

- Peter

Acts 9:36-42 Peter raises Dorcas from the dead. “Tabitha, arise.” The Greeks called her Dorcas. The Jews called her Tabitha.

b. Paul

Acts 14:8-10; Acts 16:16-18

- Paul

Acts 14:8-10 A cripple in Lystra healed. Paul said, “Stand up on your feet.”

Notice in verse 9 that Paul made an observation and saw that the man had faith. You don’t see faith with your physical eyes. He perceived by the Holy Spirit that he was to take his authority and heal this man.

There are times when we pray and ask God to heal the sick. James 5:14-15 “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...The prayer of faith will save the sick...”

There are other times when the anointing is on to command healing. Paul didn’t pray, “Lord heal this man.” He simply told the man, “Stand up” and the man did.

You aren't working on your own. Be led by the Holy Spirit. Pray when He leads you to pray. Command when He leads you to command. You require the anointing to be effective, so follow the anointing.

- Paul
Acts 16:16-18 Paul casts out a devil. "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."

4. [You are authorized to command.](#)

Sometimes people are not walking in God's best for their lives – there could be several reasons why, but **one reason could be because they are "asking" when they should be "tasking."**

It's like playing basketball. Some players just keep feeding the ball to God and wanting God to make the moves. However, God sent Jesus to restore authority to us. As we grow spiritually, He'll want us to walk in that authority. He'll pass the ball back to us; He'll want us to make the shot.

Words spoken in authority have power

Jesus cursed the fig tree and it died. Then Jesus said...

Mark 11:22-24 "(22) So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. (23) For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea, ' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says, (24) Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.'"

1. [Hear the Word](#)

a. Our authority is [dependent upon God](#).

Faith is more than just believing; faith is reliance.

When you are reliant on God, you depend upon the will of His word to you like you depend upon the food you need to live each day. Faith can begin when the will of God is known.

b. Faith begins [where the will of God is known](#).

Faith comes by hearing. You know God's will when you hear God's word.

[Romans 10:17](#) "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

2. [Believe the Word](#)

I John 5:14,15 “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

God’s word is God’s [will](#).

Sometimes you know God’s will just **because you have read it in the Bible**. Sometimes you know God’s will **because the Holy Spirit reveals** it to you about a specific situation.

Know it. Know that you know that you know. **Sometimes people think they know**, but they obviously didn’t know. They thought it was right, but it wasn’t. That’s all right – humble yourself. Learn from it. Grow from it.

3. [Speak the Word](#)

Luke 17:5,6 “And the apostles said to the Lord , ‘Increase our faith.’ (6) So the Lord said, ‘If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, ‘ and it would obey you.’”

It’s not the amount of faith that you have, it is what you [do with what you have](#).

Taking your authority through your **command is doing something**. We **sometimes call it your confession**. Once you know what God wants, you can use your authority to command His will to be done.

Can people take this message to an extreme? There have been people who have abused this doctrine – commanding things that God never led them to command. But that doesn’t mean that there isn’t truth in it. The Bible says that everything should be established by two or three witnesses-so we’re giving you lots of scripture to know your authority and how to use it.

Deloras was a woman with a heart condition. God told me to go up there and speak to her body to be healed. I walked up, put my hand on her chest, in a normal voice commanded the heart condition to be healed. She told me that she felt the power of God go into her body when I commanded that thing to go. She went to the doctor the next day and the doctor said that he must have made a mistake because the blockage was no longer there and she didn’t need the procedure. I followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and God healed her.

4. [Receive from the Word](#)

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

You are nothing without God. **You don't have the power.** God has the power. You are to be dependent upon Him and the leading of His Spirit. You need to know what He wants, how He wants it, where He wants it, when He wants it, and who He wants it for.

Faith isn't about you fulfilling your own desires and getting what you want. Faith isn't about getting attention or having people think highly of you. Faith is not about manipulating God into doing something that you want Him to do. Faith is relying on God so that His will can be done.

Align yourself to receive the anointing of God.

You cannot have faith in something that is not God's will for you. You have to line yourself up with God. It's a position thing – **like a pipeline**. Its also a **hearing thing**. You have to grow spiritually in order to hear from God. **Spiritual growth and maturity is a key to walking in the anointing of God.** Sometimes people who are young in God think they've heard from Him, but they haven't. God can't trust them with an increase of anointing. He'll test you. Did you wait when you were supposed to wait? Did you go when He told you to go, even when others didn't want to go with you? **As you grow, you'll be able to walk more in the anointing.**

Words have power

Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

1. [Words that tear down](#)

Numbers 16

- a. [Words that criticize](#)
- b. [Words that complain](#)
- c. [Words that are negative](#)

Korah and three other leaders gathered 250 men against Moses and Aaron. They spoke against them criticizing their leadership ability and accused them of making promises that they did not keep. **How did they come against Moses?** Their words. How did they gather the people against Moses? **By using their words to cause doubt, suspicion, and negativity.**

God was ready to kill off the whole congregation in verse 21. Moses was God's chosen authority, so when the people complained against Moses, **they were complaining against God. Moses intervened** and God allowed judgment on Korah and the rebels by opening up the earth and swallowing them. Then a fire consumed the 250 men. **God knows who they were.** He heard what they said against Moses.

Then the people from the congregation came against Moses and blamed him for the deaths of their rebellious leaders. God began a plague that started at one end of the camp and began to spread. **Moses had Aaron get the incense** and run into the congregation to make atonement for the people. At the place where Aaron stood, the plague stopped.

Criticism is sometimes a form of judgment. Matthew 7:2 “with the measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” You criticize, bring judgment on your life, you cut off God's anointing and you will not know the fullness of God's glory, which is not only a shame for you, but it is a shame for what you could have done for the kingdom of God.

Let God be the judge. **Korah made himself a judge, but Moses made himself a mediator** and made intercession and stopped the plague.

When the people heard the words against Moses, **they could have said, “No, you're wrong.** You can accept or reject words that are spoken to you. Moses left the palaces of Egypt to be with us. Moses came back from the desert to lead us out of Egypt. Moses had an encounter with God at the burning bush. Moses stood up to Pharaoh 12 times. Moses hasn't let his own insecurities stop him from laying down his own life to lead a nation out of bondage.” But no, they listened to the complaints. **God hates complaining. God chose Moses.** Moses obeyed God because He loved Him, He honored Him, He wanted God to have His way. Moses loved the Jewish nation and believed in the vision of a promised land, of a promised coming savior. **Moses was the one who said I must see Your glory, God, I must have your presence.** He saw the glory of God – this is the guy you want to oppose? This is the reason you are setting yourself against God?

Who do you want to follow? A man that can achieve greatness on his own, or do you want to follow a leader that is dependent upon God? Do you want a leader that is going to cut through the desert or one that follows the pillar of fire and smoke, one that follows the glory? Paul said, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

Why would people complain? In Psalms we read that Korah was complaining because he was **envious and jealous** of Moses. He accused Moses of promoting himself. Korah wanted position and tried to promote himself by gathering people together against Moses.

Sometimes people complain because **they don't get what they want.** One time the Israelites complained about the manna. So God sent quail and as they were eating it, God sent a plague (Numbers 11). God didn't like their complaints.

Sometimes people criticize because they get offended. They get **genuinely hurt** because they didn't get what they wanted. Sometimes they keep it to themselves. Sometimes they don't. It happened at work, in marriages, in organizations, in committees, in politics, and even in church. Sometimes they want to criticize the leader on the way out or call people up after they leave. **Sometimes they are so deceived,** they think they are

actually helping people by warning them about their leader. You have to make discernment. Is this person talking out of an offense? Are they hurting because the leader is in sin or is it because they didn't get their way? **God still holds them accountable and will hold them accountable for anyone that they pull down with them.** Instead, humble yourself. Recognize your pride, your insecurities. Don't make excuses.

About the tongue...

James 3:9,10 "With in we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. (10) Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My Brethren, these things ought not to be so."

2. Words that build up

- a. Words that support
- b. Words that encourage
- c. Words that are positive

God has a vision for you, your family, your job, your country, this church. He has ground that He wants us to take. Trust your leaders. Trust that God is backing your leaders. Speak words of life.

How to increase the effectiveness of your authority

1. Focus on your heart

Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. **34** Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart^[a] brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. **36** But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. **37** For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Words reveal the heart.

If the nature of your heart is good, then good things will come out of your mouth. If the nature of your heart is sinful, then evil things will come out of your mouth. This was written under the old covenant, before people could become born again. Now that Jesus has made the way, God recreates our spirit according to His nature. You still have a choice to yield to God and let Him form His character in you, or hang on to that old sinful character.

We will give account for every idle word. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Every word you say is heard by your Father in heaven.

Malachi 3:16 “Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name.”

Matthew 12:37 “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

What does this verse mean? **It simply means that your words are a tell-all of what is in your heart.** If you negative about others, it is a sign that your heart is not right. If you are a fault-finder, then it is a sign that your heart is not right. If you are a complainer, then it is a sign that your heart is not right. If you are critical, it is a sign that your heart is not right.

Listen to people and you'll be able to locate where they are at spiritually. If they're complaining and tearing down leadership, they're either young or carnal. **We love everyone where they are at.** We know people will come in here hurting. **But we also will love you too much to let you stay there. Come up a level,** and then another and another, and before you know it, you've grown.

Grow by taking correction. A loving leader will bring correction. A wise person will take the correction and make the adjustments. Others focus on their hurt. Sometimes people have to choose to take accountability or take offense.

However, if your words are positive, faith filled, honoring, respectful, then it is a sign that your **heart is trusting in the Lord. Out of the abundance of your heart your mouth will speak.**

You don't have to be considered a horrible person to have your heart out of line. Sometimes even the most lovable and relational people can be out of line. Sometimes people with influence and charisma and popularity can be out of line.

This God in the OT is the same God we serve today. He hears what we say. Are we positive and supporting? Are we complaining? If our words and our hearts are not right, **it will affect the anointing in our individual lives and in our church.**

If you are dependent upon the Lord Jesus, and empty of yourself, you will walk in the power of God. **You have to be plugged into the power.** A blow dryer will not work if its not plugged in. Christians don't have power if they are not positioned in surrender to Jesus Christ. God is the power source. The only way to be positioned in Him is through dependency.

If you are knowingly holding onto something that is not pleasing to God, it will lessen the power available to you. You don't have to be perfect, but you do need to be yielded.

In a yielded position, God will reveal if there is anything that is not pleasing to Him. God expects us to seek after Him, to pursue His presence. In our surrender, **He will show us if there is a wrong thinking, a wrong attitude, a wrong communication that is coming out of our mouths.** He will show it to us because He knows that those things will cause a separation between us and Him as well as cause damage to ourselves and others.

2. [Be careful whom you associate with](#)

Be careful whom you associate with. If they have set themselves against leadership, do like Moses did, step away. **You might love them and consider them a friend. But you have to love God more than you love people.**

Don't just guard what you say, guard what you hear. You don't have to listen to someone if what they are saying is out of order or with the wrong attitude.

Proverbs 13:20 amplified

He who walks [as a companion] with wise men is wise, but he who associates with [self-confident] fools is [a fool himself and] shall smart for it.

You will be known by whom you associate with. Who is a wise leader going to trust in? People that won't let complainers complain to them. Birds of a feather flock together. Complainers hang around with other complainers. People who get offended usually are drawn to one another. People of faith, people of victory, don't put up with that. They are people of integrity that complainers avoid because they know this person will not listen, and not only will they not listen, they'll not hide it from the leader. **If someone is talking to you and you feel like you need to hide it from a leader; it most likely is the wrong thing to be listening to.**

Sometimes you have to love someone from a distance. Until there is repentance, their criticism is grieving God. They are being carnal, which the Bible says is enmity against God, or they are putting themselves in opposition to God.

3. [Be intentional with your words.](#)

James 3:2-4 "(2)

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, ¹we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

Your tongue determines your destiny. Your direction. What you will have and not have.

Speak words of life in the workplace, in your home, in your marriage, about your kids, about your church, about your nation.

Walk in authority. Walk in power. See your prayers answered. Experience the glory.