

# ***Exercising Authority***



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## ❖ Authority

**Definition: Legal or rightful power; a right to command or to act; power exercised by a person in virtue of his office or trust; dominion; jurisdiction; authorization; as, the authority of a prince over subjects, and of parents over children; the authority of a court.**

- **Jesus walked on this earth in true biblical authority.**

- He was not weak or apologetic in His teaching.
- He was not afraid of the devil.
- He was not trying to get authority; He knew He already had it.

**Matthew 7:28(King James Version) And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: <sup>29</sup>For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

- **Jesus knew who He was and understood the power He possessed.**

**Mark 1:27 (King James Version) And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.**

- **Jesus was never intimidated by the devil. Who you can intimidate, you can control. The devil never controlled Jesus.**
  - Authority is dependent on God since it starts with God and ends with God. Jesus was always submitted to the Father. [The greater the submission, the greater the authority.](#)
  - Dealing with the devil was easy for Jesus. He did not struggle in resisting the devil. Jesus was not stressed by principalities or demonic powers. Even in a storm of hurricane proportions, **Jesus was at ease, sleeping on a pillow.**
  - Jesus never magnified the devil. [When you magnify the devil, he will show himself.](#)

**Example: Christians tend to make the devil big and God small. People talk like the devil is 100 feet tall and God is only 3 inches tall. The devil gets too much credit and blame for what happens in the world. Example; if anything broke the devil did it! The devil is not as big and powerful as you think.**

# ❖ Jesus operated in two kinds of authority.

- **Earthly authority.**

- **Jesus had authority in this earth because He was born here.**

- Jesus had to be born of a woman in order to have legal right to be on the Earth.
    - Jesus had to have a body in order to release God's authority on this earth.
    - Jesus will always have legal right to be in the earth. God made provision so the devil could never take complete control of earth. The devil does not have a body, now or in the future, so he can not take complete possession of the world or mankind. When Jesus comes back to earth, He will do so legally because He has a body.
    - Man has to come through the same door (birth) in order to have authority.
    - Demons are not born here so they have to try to deceive man to get influence.
    - Demons want your body so they can manipulate and control.

- You have a right to resist the devil. You have your own will and the devil cannot usurp your will. I Corinthians 7:37 states that man has power over his own will.
- God wants your body to be yielded to Him so He can operate in a greater degree on this earth.

**Romans 12:1 (King James Version) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

■ **If you do not have a body on this planet you will not be able to stay here.**

- The devil and demons can only manifest for a short period of time, not for prolonged periods, because they do not have a body.
- You have more authority than the even the Apostle Paul because he has gone on to heaven, but you are here on earth.
- Before the cross, the devil had legal access to man on the Earth because of Adam's high-treason in the Garden of Eden.
- Man's spirit became corrupted and now belonged to the devil, so the devil had a major foothold in the earth.
- Man could still resist the devil though, because the devil has never had a body and could not take full control of the earth.
  - ✓ The devil had to use a serpent's body to deceive man in the first place.

- ✓ That is why men including David, Elijah, Elisha, Samson, and others who were not born again and had the devil's nature inside of them, could do powerful things for God. They had a body on this Earth.
- God has a body of His own, His son Jesus, who was born here. It is through Jesus that God has a legal right into your life.

**John 10:1 (King James Version) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.**

- People expect God to do things in the earth but God was limited in the Old Testament because of the body issue. Now in the New Testament, God has a body here through the Body of Jesus Christ, the church.
  - ✓ God needs you to rule in this earth by using your authority over sin, sickness and lack. This is God's will.
  - ✓ If things are out of order, it is because you are not exercising authority to restore divine order.

**Hebrews 10:12 (King James Version) But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>13</sup> He is now waiting until His enemies are made His footstool.**

- ✓ Open your eyes and see the authority that God wants you to walk in.

**Hebrews 2:5 (King James Version) For He has not subjected to angels the world to come that we are talking about. <sup>6</sup> But**

**one has somewhere testified: What is man, that You remember him, or the son of man, that You care for him? <sup>7</sup> You made him lower than the angels for a short time; You crowned him with glory and honor<sup>8</sup> and subjected everything under his feet.**

- ✓ Jesus was born into the earth but He did not have an unrighteous spirit (He never sinned) so He was not controlled by the devil. As the son of man he performed signs, wonders, and miracles as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. Although He was God He emptied himself of all supernatural capabilities and heavenly privileges. He walked in authority as a man.
- ✓ Through Calvary, Jesus stripped the devil of his stronghold and power over man. The devil still has an avenue into those that are not born again through deception, **but his rights over man have ended.**

**1 John 4:4 (King James Version) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

**Matthew 28:18 (King James Version) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

- ✓ Now Satan is only revealed sporadically unless he finds a person or people group to reveal himself through more completely. These people then become his arms, legs and voice in the earth. Examples: various hate groups, perversions, gangs, anarchists, dictators, cults etc.
- ✓ The devil found a body to possess in Adolph Hitler. After Hitler died, the devil lost his influence and ability to destroy Jews because the devil did not have a body anymore.
- ✓ The reason that the devil is operating at such a great degree today is because people have let him borrow their bodies.

- **Heavenly authority.**

- **Jesus had authority as the Son of God because he came from heaven. Your authority comes from heaven by being born again.**
  - Being born again is the prerequisite for exercising authority.
  - Jesus was not only the Son of Man..... but He was the Son of God.
    - ✓ He had authority in two worlds.
    - ✓ He could operate as a Son of Man on earth and also as a Son of God with authority in heaven.

**Matthew 28:18(King James Version) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

**Matthew 21:23 (King James Version) And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? <sup>24</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? <sup>26</sup>But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. <sup>27</sup>And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.**



- ✓ Jesus answered their question with another question about what kind of authority He operated in. The answer was ***both kinds***; by heaven's authority and man's authority.

- **Jesus redeemed you back to God and gave you His authority. When you receive Jesus, heaven's authority is available to you.**

- You have authority on this earth by being born here.
- You have authority in heaven as a born again, son of God.

**John 5:26 (King James Version) For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; <sup>27</sup>And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.**

- You have delegated authority from Jesus to rule in the earth by exposing and undoing the works of the devil.

**Mark 13:34 (King James Version) For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.**

**Mark 13:34 (English Standard Version) It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.**

- You need to imitate Jesus' earthly lifestyle; one of total submission to His Father and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- You have to stay awake and keep the devil under your feet.

- Whatsoever things **you** bind on earth is bound in heaven (\*see note).

**Matthew 18:18 (King James Version) Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

\*Note: You have authority over the devil and every demonic force on this earth and in the heavenly realm too. Paul said in II Corinthians 12:1-2 that there were three different heavens and that he was caught up to the third heaven. The third heaven would be God's throne and heaven as we know it (where your mansion is). When we say "heaven" that is what you think about, but what about the other two heavens? The area above our head which is called the sky would be considered the first heaven. It is the atmosphere above us where the birds fly and clouds hover. Then the second heaven would be the area called space where the planets and stars reside. In the bible it says that God's throne is to the north of heaven itself (Isaiah 14:13). Scientists say that there is an area to the north in space that they cannot get an accurate reading on. They conclude that something immense is taking up that space. This would be the third heaven which includes God's throne. With all this in mind, it gives us a better understanding of Matthew 18:18 that says, "what you bind on earth, you bind in heaven". Ephesians 6:12 states that principalities, powers and rulers of this darkness are the three demonic entities on this earth.

In addition, when studying this it becomes obvious that there are hierarchies of demons. The strongest demonic force is **spiritual wickedness in the high places** (or one translation says, "spiritual wickedness in the heavens"). These are demonic forces that stay outside the pearly gates but are in the second heaven trying to hold back the blessings God is pouring out on His children. Philippians 4:19 says that God meets our needs according to His riches in glory. At times the devil has been called the prince of the air, and his minions have set up forces to battle the blessings that God dispenses. They try to block the blessings so that your needs go unmet. That is why you are to bind things on earth in order to bind things in heaven (the second heaven). You are not binding things in God's dwelling place (the third heaven) because no evil is present there. No, you are to bind the spiritual wickedness in the second heaven that is trying to interfere with your blessings here on Earth.

In Daniel's life, you find that forces in the second heaven were trying to block the answer to his prayer. Finally, the answer came as a result of the angel Michael, warring against the spiritual wickedness called the prince of Persia. This war was fueled and ultimately won by Daniel's persistent prayers. It gives me goose bumps to know that our authority reaches into the heavens! There is no distance in time or space preventing us from binding those ruling spirits in the name of Jesus. They have to loose the blessings that God has for us. ***What we bind on earth is bound in heaven and what we loose on earth is loosed in heaven!***

- You can also loose angels from heaven.

**Hebrews 1:14 (English Standard Version) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

- ✓ Angels are to minister for you...not necessarily to you as Hebrews 1:14 states.
- ✓ Angels hearken unto God's Word. So when they hear God's Word (scriptural confessions of faith) coming out of your mouth they hasten to make that word come to pass in your life.

**Psalm 103:20 (King James Version) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.**

- The same spirit of Jesus in you that cries "Abba Father" also cries "get behind me Satan".

**Galatians 4:6 (New King James Version) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

**Luke 4:18(King James Version) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written.**

Notes:

- **You are ambassadors of heaven and representatives of Jesus in the earth. You are here to enforce the will of God on the earth.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20(King James Version) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

- **Just like a policeman has a right to represent the government he serves... You too have the right to act on behalf of heaven.**

**Luke 9:1 (King James Version) Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.**

**Acts 3:6 (King James Version) 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.**

- You have to know the country you represent including its laws and customs in order to be a true ambassador. Likewise, you have to understand God's kingdom and know what God's word says in order to be a true ambassador for him.
- Your authority is not independent of God but under God and in the name of Jesus.

**Mark 16:17 (King James Version) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18They 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 is more powerful; the one who sits or the one who walks around? The one who sits because he is the King! The devil walks to and fro while you, on the other hand, sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:6 (King James Version) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

**1 Peter 5:8 (King James Version) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**

- ✓ The devil can only walk to and fro in the earth because he has no body to allow him to stay in one place. He does not have a seat of power.
- ✓ You sit in delegated power on this earth and in heaven with Christ. You must have a revelation of this in order to exercise authority over demonic activity on the earth.
- ✓ The book of Ephesians explains that we sit way above all principalities, powers and rulers of darkness.

**Ephesians 1:19 (King James Version) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup>Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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: <sup>22</sup>And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.**

- **You release God's authority in the earth by using the name of Jesus.**

**Philippians 2:10 (King James Version) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.**

**Philippians 2:10 (Wycliffe New Testament) That in the name of Jesus each knee be bowed, of heavenly things, [and] of earthly things, and of hell's.**

- **Power needs a way to be released; the name of Jesus releases the power.**

➤ Example: Dynamite has explosive power within it, but it cannot be released without lighting the fuse.

➤ My own life example:

In 1985 after surgery for wisdom teeth extraction, I literally died from receiving a lethal mix of pain killers. I felt myself moving through a tunnel towards a bright light when I heard my mom saying, "In the Name of Jesus, live!"(over and over she kept shouting it). I came back to Earth and into my body as a direct result of my mom releasing her authority.

- **People say that God is in control of the earth but according to scripture, God has given you power to rule and put things under His feet.**

**Hebrews 10:12 (King James Version) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; <sup>13</sup>From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.**

- **The world is a mess; economic unrest, abortion, poverty, war, famine, crime, and disease at an all time high. Where is God in all of this?**

➤ God is where He has always been; waiting on us to take dominion.

- ✓ The reason the world is out of order is because we have allowed it. God expects man to use his authority and put things back in order.
- ✓ Not everything that happens is the will of God (take child abuse for instance).

**Matthew 18:18 (Contemporary English Version) I promise you that God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth, but he will not allow anything you don't allow.**

- ✓ God told you to resist the devil; he did not say that He would resist him for you.



**James 4:7 (King James Version) Submit yourselves therefore to God. (*You*) Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (*italics are mine*).**

**James 4:7 (Young's Literal Translation) Be subject, then, to God; stand up against the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**1 Peter 5:8 (King James Version) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup>Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**

- ✓ The tendency is to expect God to stand against the devil but according to scripture, God expects **you** to.

**Ephesians 6:10 (New King James Version) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**

**Luke 10:19 (King James Version) 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.**

Note: John A. MacMillan, missionary to China and author of The Authority of the Believer says, "the church has authority on the earth that we've never yet realized – authority that we are not using. A few of us have barely gotten on the edge of that authority but before Jesus comes again, there is going to be a whole company of believers who will rise up with the authority that is theirs. They will know what is theirs, and they will do the work that God intended they should do."

## ❖ Authority to Curse.

(Pronounce judgment)

- **To curse is to remove strongholds by using your words.**
  - **Jesus told you to speak to mountains and trees, not literally, but to the strongholds in your life that they represent.**

**Matthew 21:19 (King James Version) And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.**

- You are not to timidly beg a stronghold to leave but to **command it to be removed.**
- The definition of "curse" is to doom, extract and cut off.
  - ✓ It should be noted first that the term "curse" is not the modern usage of profanity. Rather, a "curse" is a pronouncement of judgment (Mt. 25:41). Jesus cursed

(pronounced a judgment against) the fig tree and commanded it to die from the roots.

**Ephesians 5:11 (King James Version) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**

- ✓ To curse a stronghold is to cut it down by your words of faith.

**Matthew 7:19 (New King James Version) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**Psalms 37:28 (King James Version) For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. <sup>29</sup>The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. <sup>30</sup>The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.**

- **Curse the roots of sin, disease, poverty and demonic activity in your life by commanding them to die and be removed.**

- God, Himself, demonstrates how to curse strongholds.

**Psalm 2:5 (King James Version) Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex (curse) them in his sore displeasure.**

**Psalm 37:22 (New American Standard Bible) For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.**

- Everything in you that is a bad tree needs to be uprooted.
  - ✓ You know a bad tree by the fruit (or lack thereof) it produces.
  - ✓ Rejection and abuse are bad trees.
  - ✓ Sickness and disease in your body is a bad tree.
  - ✓ Addictions are bad trees with bad fruit.
  - ✓ Poverty and lack is a bad tree.
  - ✓ Religious strongholds are bad trees.

...You need to curse these.

- If God did not plant it in you, then it needs to be removed by your faith filled words.

**Matthew 15:13 (King James Version) But he answered and said, every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**

**Matthew 7 (Wycliffe New Testament) So every good tree maketh good fruits; but an evil tree maketh evil fruits. A good tree may not make evil fruits, neither an evil tree [may] make good fruits. Every tree that maketh not good fruit, shall be cut down, and shall be cast into the fire.**

- ✓ If the things established in you are not bearing good fruit then you must get it out. God expects you to do it.

**Matthew 12:33 (King James Version)Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.**

✓ You make the tree good.....You deal with it.

**2 Timothy 2:21 (English Standard Version)Therefore, if anyone *cleanses himself from what is dishonorable*, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.**

**Notes:**

- **You must drive the thieves from your temple.**

- **Jesus drove the thieves from the temple with a whip.**

- He set the example for us to follow by driving the thieves out of the temple and restoring divine purpose. You must not allow anything in your temple that robs you of fulfilling your purpose.
  - ✓ Unforgiveness and bitterness are thieves that will steal your confidence
  - ✓ Fear and vain imaginations are thieves that will steal your productivity.
  - ✓ Sickness and disease is a thief and will steal your energy and health.
  - ✓ Poverty is a thief that will steal your creativity and livelihood.
- The whip is an instrument that symbolized the authority of the user. It was used to scatter enemies and restore order.
- The words of your mouth are powerful because they are backed by God's authority to remove enemies and bring blessing.
  - ✓ Crack that whip where sickness, defeat and poverty are concerned and drive them out of your temple.

- ✓ You body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and is called a house of prayer.

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (King James Version) What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

- It is hard to pray if you are sick, depressed, and have rampant thoughts of failure.
- Start cracking the whip of God's Word and run off what is not producing the life of God.

**John 2:15 (King James Version) And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables.**

Note: Act like Jesus! If you are to be Christ-like, then you must imitate His examples He gave us in the Word of God. In Mark 11:12 you find Jesus doing two very calculated actions that you probably have not once thought about imitating. First, He cursed a fig tree. He spoke to the tree and told it that no man would eat fruit from it forever, thus pronouncing a judgment against it. Right after that, He took a whip to the temple and drove out the moneychangers and those that sold merchandise in God's house. I think that these two actions go together. Jesus killed a non-producing tree and drove thieves from God's temple all in a day's work. Jesus did all of this to give you a pattern to follow for your own life. You are the temple of God in the New Testament age and need a good house cleaning from time to time. You need to be following in the footsteps of Jesus so you need to drive things out of your life that are not productive. The whip you use to do that with is your mouth. You need to use your mouth like Jesus did by cursing and commanding to die the things in you that are not planted by God. Matthew 7:19 tells us that every tree that does not bear good fruit is a bad tree and must be cut down. You have trees (things established) in you that are not good, that either you have planted or others have planted, but God has not planted. Poverty, disease, rejection, fear, unforgiveness, rebellion, religious misconceptions and mental strongholds

are not good for you and are not sown by God. A tree starts out small, but eventually grows and becomes mature and hard to uproot. Some trees are transplants from somewhere else, but some have been there from the start and are part of your family tree. These family trees are passed down through generations and are much harder to get rid of. You must act like Jesus and get righteously angry and tell all "trees" to die that are not bearing good fruit. You also must drive out the thieves and the things that do not belong in your body or family. If Jesus did not plant it, then it is a thief and is trying to rob you. You should not continue to let it just hang around. I believe disease is a thief and a robber and needs to be run out of the temple of God. Again, your body is the temple of God so why should you let a thief take up residency in God's place?

Why are you so slow to take authority? Why do you put up with enemies of God allowing them to become strongholds?

In Mark 5 you find a man who had a whole legion of demons that had taken up residency in him and had lived in him for years. A legion could have been somewhere between 2000 and 5000 demons. One translation says that this man had a "lot" of demons in him. He must have been real uncomfortable as he lived with this demonic stronghold in his life. Thank God that Jesus set him free, put him in his right mind, and then cast the demons into some nearby pigs. These pigs immediately ran off a steep cliff and perished. The truth about this event was that the pigs would not even put up with what the man put up with! The man had become accustomed to living with the evil horde, yet the pigs would not take it for a minute. As a Christian, you sometimes allow things that pigs would not allow. It is time to get free and stop allowing things in your life that Jesus has redeemed you from.

Notes:



# ❖ The Devil is not as big as you think.

- **Small devil.**

- **The devil will be seen as he really is at the end of the world.**

**Isaiah 14:16 (King James Version) They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; <sup>17</sup>That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?**

- **Jesus accomplished His mission by destroying the works of the devil.**

**1 John 3:8 (King James Version) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

- Jesus stripped the devil of his power that he had treacherously taken from Adam.

**1 Peter 5:8 (New International Version) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

- The devil is not a lion but acts like one.

✓ You are the real lion.

■ **The only power the devil can operate in now is deception.**

➤ You make the devil big through wrong imaginations.

➤ He is not as big as he thinks and you are bigger than you think.

✓ You can take up the serpent in your hands, so the devil is not too big to get your hands on, figuratively speaking.

**Mark 16:18 (New International Version - UK) They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.**

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| Note: To take up the serpent means to remove his influence from specific areas in your life. |
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➤ You need to deflate him, not inflate him (get an accurate perception).

✓ People always give him credit for things that many times, he did not do.

✓ See him small and weak.

✓ Do not be afraid of him. Resist fear.

✓ If the devil could kill you then you would already be dead.

✓ The devil is as big as you make him out to be.

- The devil cannot take a place in your life. He can only take advantage of a place that you give him.

**Ephesians 4:27 (King James Version) Neither give place to the devil.**

- You can resist him and he has to flee.

**James 4:7 (King James Version) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

- Resist him by submitting yourself to God. You can then stand against him and he has to flee. You are not the one running.
- Resist him in your thoughts. II Corinthians 10:3-5 says to cast down every imagination that is contrary to the knowledge of God. The thought of him being able to hurt you is a lie. Refuse to let that thought stay. Instead, think on the faithfulness and provision of God.
- Resist him by your words.
  - ✓ Jesus gave us this example when resisting the devil in the wilderness by countering his attacks with words.

**Luke 4:8 (King James Version) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

- The same power that kicked the devil out of heaven is residing in you. Kick him out of your life.

- **The messenger of Satan was called a thorn, not a tree branch.**

**2 Corinthians 12:7 (21st Century King James Version) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.**

- Paul wanted God to get rid of the thorn (Devil's cohort) but God wanted Paul to not be intimidated by one little thorn.
  - ✓ Even in Paul's weakest moment it did not change the fact that he still had power over the devil.
- The devil is small and puny and not the big bad wolf that people make him out to be.
  - ✓ He is very smart though and has been around longer than you.
    - Deception is his greatest tool.
    - He knows what your weakness is.
- Remember, God has put all things under your feet.

**Hebrews 2:8 (English Standard Version) Putting everything in subjection under his feet."**

- ✓ "Under his feet" is talking about man's feet.
- ✓ This includes the devil being put under your feet.

## ❖ **It's just a Battle, not an all out War.**

- **The war for your salvation has been won but you must continue to keep the enemy under subjection.**

- **Fighting is part of the spiritual culture in Christ.**

- You are a spiritual soldier.
- You are called to fight the good fight of faith.
- You fight the good fight by believing God's Word.
- Fighting the good fight is one you are advancing and winning, not losing.
- The words; army, soldier, battle, warrior, armor, weapons, and fight are terms used in the bible over 700 times.
- You have spiritual armor and are protected at all times.
- You have supernatural weapons while the devil's are limited ones.

**2 Corinthians 10:4 (King James Version) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.**

- The battle takes place in your mind.
  
- Fill your mind with the Word of God so you will be able to resist the devil's lies.
  
- ✓ The devil cannot tell the truth so everything he says is a lie and cannot be believed.

**Notes:**

- **You resist the devil by refusing to cooperate with him.**

- **The devil is not fighting you physically, but trying to trick you into believing him instead of God.**

**Ephesians 6:10 (Contemporary English Version) Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. 11Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil's tricks.**

- He wants to deceive your mind into thinking on the wrong things.
  - Wrong thinking produces strongholds in the mind, which produces wrong words and wrong actions. Ultimately this produces the wrong destiny.
  - Every attack must be met with superior force.
  - You are more powerful than his attacks.
- **A passive mind is a sure sign of deception.**
    - Keep on guard and reject every wrong thought.
    - Not every thought that comes into your mind should be dwelt upon.

**Philippians 4:8 (Contemporary English Version) Finally, my friends, keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.**

- Cast down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (King James Version) 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;**

- You must condemn every wrong thought and spoken word so that it does not prosper.
  - ✓ If you do not condemn (declare wrong) evil thoughts and words from your own mouth and others' what is spoken will prosper.

**Isaiah 54:17 (Amplified Bible) But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.**

■ **The battle is in enforcing the victory already achieved by Jesus.**

- You are possessing the land after, not before, the uprooting of the enemy.
- Jesus already won the war.
- Keep the enemy out of your mind and under your foot where he belongs.



## ❖ To walk in authority you have to be covered.

- **Blood was used for a spiritual covering.**

- The blood of bulls, sheep and goats represented God's covering in the Old Testament.
  - The blood covering meant that the evil one could not touch them.
- Branches of hyssop were sopped in blood and then sprinkled on the people or brushed on the doorposts of their homes.

**Exodus 12:22 (Contemporary English Version) Make a brush from a few small branches of a hyssop plant and dip the brush in the bowl that has the blood of the animal in it. Then brush some of the blood above the door and on the posts at each side of the door of your house. After this, everyone is to stay inside.**

**Exodus 24:8 (King James Version) And Moses took the *blood*, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.**

- In the New Testament age, the blood of Jesus is your spiritual covering.
  - The blood of Jesus is applied by declaring daily his promises over your life.

- **In the New Testament, Jesus' blood is your liquid covering.**

**Exodus 12:7 (King James Version) And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.<sup>13</sup> And the *blood* shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.**

**Psalms 91:2 (King James Version) I will say (*apply the blood with your mouth*) of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. <sup>3</sup>Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. <sup>4</sup>He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. (Italics mine)**

- Jesus' blood is your **liquid mercy**.
  - The Blood proclaims mercy even when you should have judgment.
    - ✓ When Cain killed Abel, Abel's blood spoke.
      - Abel's blood cried out for mercy.
      - Note: No one was allowed to kill Cain, he married and had children. God did not pronounce a horrible judgment on him; God showed him mercy.
  - Plead the blood over your country... which should be judged for sin and crimes against humanity but yet receives mercy.

- Plead the blood over your finances... which at times should be judged for covetous spending but instead receives mercy.
- Plead the blood over your family... Who do not deserve God's love and grace but yet receives mercy.

**Leviticus 16:15 (New King James Version)** "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which *is* for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the *blood* of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

- The blood is applied to the mercy seat for your benefit.
- Jesus' blood is your **liquid cleanser**.
- The blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sins.

**Revelation 1:5 (King James Version)** And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

**1 Peter 1:2 (Contemporary English Version)** God the Father decided to choose you as his people, and his Spirit has made you holy. You have obeyed Jesus Christ and are sprinkled with his blood. I pray that God will be kind to you and will keep on giving you peace!

- Life is in His blood and as it washes you, it renews and rejuvenates.

**Hebrews 9:14 (King James Version) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

■ Jesus' blood gives you **liquid courage**.

- There is power in the blood to overcome sin and carnality.
- There is boldness by the blood to get your prayers answered and be a mighty witness for Christ.

**Hebrews 10:19 (King James Version) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

**Revelation 12:11 (King James Version) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

- ✓ Get a revelation of whose blood flows through your veins!

Note: Boldness comes from knowledge. When I first met my wife, I was very shy and timid. It took a lot of guts to ask her out on our first date. Finally, I got up the nerve and asked her out. Later, when I found out she really liked me; it produced a bold assurance and a bit of a swagger. **Courage comes through knowledge** and the more knowledge you have about something, the more confidence you will have in that area.

■ Jesus' blood is your **liquid payment**.

**1 Peter 1:19 (Amplified Bible) But [you were purchased] with the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot.**

- You have been redeemed by the blood and are no longer subject to sin and a sin nature.
  
- The price to walk in God's authority has been paid in full.
  - ✓ You are not trying to get authority; because of Jesus' blood you have it now.

Notes:

# ❖ Your authority is dependent on Jesus, not independent of Him.

- **Authority is delegated power.**

- **A policeman has delegated power in society. His badge represents the government he serves. His weapon represents its power.**

- The police do not have the power within themselves to apprehend criminals or stop a car, but they have the authority and responsibility from the government to do so and the government will back them up.
- If they act independently, they are renegade and without authority to fulfill their duty.
- They have to know the law first, before they can enforce the law.
- You must know who you represent, and that includes knowing the scriptures in order to exercise biblical authority.
  - ✓ If you do not know who is backing you, the devil will not obey your voice.
  - ✓ If the policeman did not know who was backing him, he would be unsure of his actions.

**Acts 19:14 (King James Version) And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. <sup>15</sup>And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**

■ **Acting separately from Jesus means that there is no authority available.**

- That is why it is so important to have the revelation of being “In Christ”.
  
- Never separate yourself from being in Him.
  - ✓ The very life of God flows from Him
  - ✓ Awareness of your authority is enhanced by knowing that you are seated in Him.
  - ✓ See yourself acting from the inside of Jesus, not from the outside trying to get in.
  
- The Greater One lives in you, so your life is meant to be great.

Note: Recently the Lord provoked me with a question. "What kind of a Jesus do you have living inside you"? Is the Jesus in you: sick, anemic, powerless, religious, timid, defeated, needy and an overall loser? **Or** do you have a resurrected, victorious, majestic, all powerful, all knowing, conqueror, king of kings, exalted Lord and giver of Life living inside of you? You would think Christians would see the greater one living inside of them, but for most, their view is distorted by past and current life situations. If you could only see who is living inside of you, you would know that no weapon formed against you would prosper. You would know that greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. You would see, like David, that God is bigger than the little giant that he faced. The scripture, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" would be your anthem. That means that you can only do what He is really good at, because it has to be His strength helping you. The reality of the risen Christ is that there are no weaknesses in Him, so you can do all things through Him!

It is important to take a closer look at who is in you. The word "magnify" means to focus and look intently. In Luke 1:46, Mary's soul magnified the Lord and she rejoiced in who was in her. She realized that God was living inside her womb and that gave her cause to rejoice. Mary knew her life was literally changed from that moment on. Her confession was "HE THAT IS MIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT THINGS". She saw Jesus as mighty in her. Jesus can do what you can see Him do. That is why Jesus wants you to open your spiritual eyes and see who He is, so He can display His greatness in you. In Mark 4:12, Jesus said *if only* they could see, then they could be converted (changed). That explains why you must open your eyes in order to see God's power. Jesus wants to save everyone, but only those who open their eyes and receive Him experience salvation. You have to see and then receive Jesus as your savior in order to benefit from His power to save.

Healing comes the same way. Once you see Jesus as the healer in you, you can benefit from the power to get healed. The Jesus in you is more powerful than cancer, tumors, heart problems, arthritis, skin disease and every other problem. Greater is He that lives within you than what is trying to attack your body. This makes it difficult to worry or be afraid of the symptoms or even the doctor's report, because you know who is in you, the healer.

Prosperity with accountability comes the same way. Jesus is your provider and meets all of your needs. Jesus is in you and He makes you confident that no matter what kind of problems you face, the answer is living inside of you.



# Serviss MISSIONS



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