

The Christian Believers Authority

As we look at authority, let's also briefly study its obvious root word "author".

An author is defined as a beginner, creator, originator and source of something. God was the worlds first author. God is the highest authority for us as Christians. When we submit to the Word of God we are operating on the highest authority and should make the Word final authority. God knows authority and how it works and desires to reveal authority to us.

Authority is defined as:

- The delegation of power
- The right to execute judgment for or against
- To speak with conviction and persuasive force
- The right to determine
- The right to command
- Commanding influence

Power is defined as:

- Ability

Authority begins with God and His Word; however the origin of the doctrine concerning authority began in the book of Genesis chapter 1. Therefore, we will begin our study of authority in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God *created*... Let's stop there! How did God create in the beginning? We find throughout Genesis chapter 1, God saying and saying over and over again.

In Genesis 1:3, And God said,

Vs – 6 And God said

Vs – 9 And God said

Vs – 11 And God said

Vs – 14 And God said

Vs – 20 And God said

Vs – 22 And God blessed them, saying

Vs – 24 And God said

Vs – 26 And God said

Vs – 28 And God blessed them, and God said

Vs – 29 And God said

Then in verse 31, God saw everything that He had made, by what he had been saying.

Isaiah 55:11 – *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

God also created mankind in His image and after His likeness with Words of Dominion.

God's Word was fulfilled in mankind, in that we have the ability to speak words of dominion that produce after their kind, as well. Genesis 1:11-12

Mankind was delegated authority and ability, which is encompassed in the word dominion. Let's look at Genesis 1:26, and verse 28.

Genesis 1:26 - And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28 - *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful**, and **multiply**, and **replenish** the earth, and **subdue** it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

At this point, I would like to interject the following thought for your consideration: Godly authority is given and not taken. You'll notice that in verses 26 and 28 authority had been given...not taken. This thought is also brought forth in Matthew 28:18-19, with the last Adam.

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

Vs 19 - Go ye therefore...

People sometimes confuse taking authority with enforcing authority. We do not have to take something that belongs to us. We should however enforce the authority that we have been given. Furthermore, although, mankind had been delegated authority, God never intended for mankind to rule outside of His influence, but instead as His delegate in the earth flowing with His purpose. Mankind's authority in the natural realm was to be empowered by the Spirit of God. However, after the fall, man began to rule outside of God's influence.

We must understand that it was not the will of God for Adam to disobey. God made his intentions known to Adam prior to the fall.

Genesis 2:16-17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Vs 17 - But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The fact that Adam and Eve were given instructions is evident of the influence that God wanted to maintain in their lives.

What have we learned so far?

- The doctrine concerning authority began in Genesis
- Godly Authority is given and not taken!
- Authority and Power has been defined
- Enforcing authority and taking authority are not the same.
- God wanted to maintain a level of influence in the lives of mankind.
- God releases His authority with words.
- Mankind is created in the image of God.

The rank and order of authority as ordained of God follows this sequence:

1) God the Father, 2) God the Son, 3) God the Holy Spirit, 4) Mankind, 5) Angels, 6) Satan & Demons

Psalm 8:4- What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Vs 5 - For thou hast **made him a little lower than the angels**, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

The literal translation of this verse is: "**You have made him a little lack God**". Mankind was not made a little lower than the angels, but instead a little lower than God.

The word angels in verse 5 of the KJV is an incorrect translation of the Hebrew word (ELOHIM). The Hebrew word (ELOHIM) actually means GOD.

Mankind was created a little lower than God! Adam was the god of the world's system.

The World is a system that influences what happens in the place called earth. There are worlds to dominate! The economic world, entertainment world, judicial world, legal world, computer world, social world, etc... Adam was the god of this world and not Satan.

However, through Adam's disobedience he fell beneath the level of the fallen angel Lucifer, when he disobeyed God. In short, the consequence of the fall was that Adam died spiritually, and Lucifer becomes Satan – the god of the world. **2 Corinthians 4:4**

2 Corinthians 4:4 - In whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the **image of God**, *should shine* unto them.

Notice, also from Psalm 8:5, that God had crowned the man, Adam with GLORY and HONOUR. The man, (from head to toe) his entire being was CROWNED with the presence of God.

Adam was clothed with God's presence, so much so that you couldn't see his nakedness.

Adam walked with God! Adam had righteousness consciousness, and a revelation of the image of God. In order to grasp what happened in the fall of man it would be helpful to understand something concerning the triune man.

We are spirits, we possess a soul and we live in a body, and authority flows through the triune man. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

The Spirit – The spirit part of you is the eternal you, the part of man that is to be re-born. Authority flows in the realm of the inner man (spirit) as God's word is spirit and life.

Furthermore, we that worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth. There is spiritual authority in the word of God. John 4:24, John 6:63.

The Soul - The soul part of you is the "mind, will and emotions" and is the part of man that is to be re-newed. Authority flows in the realm of the soul, as authority must be released by an act our will.

The Body - The body part of man is the earth suit! The body is the part of man that needs to be re-trained. Authority flows in the realm of the body, as without a physical body you have no way of communicating with anyone or anything on this planet.

A spirit being cannot cease to exist, but will spend eternity somewhere, either in heaven or in hell. Therefore, when we say that Adam died spiritually, we are saying that he was separated from God. Adam had now connected himself with Satan!

The Laws of sin and death came into existence through Adams disobedience and high treason in the Garden of Eden. God authorized mankind, but mankind authorized sin and death when he bowed his knee to Satan.

Romans 5:12 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

All mankind sinned in Adam!

Romans 5:14 - Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Another portion of scripture that gives us insight into what occurred at the fall is found in Luke 4, verse 6.

Luke 4:6 - And the devil said unto him, All this power (*authority*) will *I give thee*, and the *glory of them*: for that is *delivered unto me*; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

Who delivered the authority to Satan? Adam did!

However, the last Adam, **Jesus**, delivered mankind from the authority of Satan. Our Authority has been reinstated, and we who receive Christ have been elevated to a level far above that of which mankind fell from. We can now, draw on heaven's resources through fellowship with the father and influence the world and the earth.

Our authority is only as good as the Power backing us!

The power backing up our authority is:

- a) The Name of Jesus – Mark 16:17, John 16:24, Acts 3:5-6, Luke 10:17, John 14:14
- b) The Word of God - Luke 4:4, 8, 12, Romans 1:16, Mark 16:20, Psalm 103:20
- c) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit - Luke 4:14, 18, Acts 10:38, Philippians 2:9-11
- d) The Ministry of the Angels – Psalm 103:20, Hebrews 1:14

Where does our authority come from as Christians?

There are 6 areas in particular that I would like to focus.

1. *The Great Commission,*
2. *Revelation knowledge of the Word,*
3. *Citizenship in the Kingdom of God,*
4. *The Anointing of the Holy Spirit,*
5. *A Revelation of who we are in Christ,*
6. *Righteousness Consciousness.*

1. **The Great Commission**

Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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

Vs 19 - Go ye therefore...

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the **ministry of reconciliation**;

VS 19 -To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto **us** the **word of reconciliation**.

2. Revelation Knowledge of the Word of God

Matthew 16:13-19 -

Vs 13 - When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Vs 14 - And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Vs 15 - He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

Vs 16 - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Vs 17 - And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not **revealed** it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Vs 18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and ***the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

Vs 19 - ***And I will give unto thee the keys*** of the kingdom of heaven: and ***whatsoever thou shalt bind*** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Keys represent authority, while the terms binding and loosing are legal expressions which represent locking and unlocking.

The revelation that Peter received from heaven, about Jesus being the CHRIST was a **KEY** to **lock and unlock** areas where he had not had access to prior to the **revelation** coming. Revelation knowledge of the Word of God is **key** to the exercising binding and loosing power.

3. Citizenship in the Kingdom of God

Philippians 3:20 NIV - But our **citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Colossians 1:13 - Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath **translated us into the kingdom** of his dear Son:

Understanding our citizenship is important to know because, some believe we have authority because we are part of a local church, or have a church title, or because we are submitted to the leader.

Although, we should be submitted to leaders, and be a part of a local church, we need to understand that our authority is a governmental authority. We have authority because we are of God's government! **Ephesians 1:19-23, 2:6**

There is the story of the Centurion and His servant that will help bring this understanding clearer to us. It is found in Matthew 8:5-13, and Luke 7:1-10.

Let's look at Luke 7:1-10

Luke 7:1 - Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

Vs 2 - And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

Vs 3 - And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

Vs 4 - And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

Vs 5 - For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Vs 6 - Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Vs 7 - Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

Vs 8 - For ***also*** am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Vs 9 - When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Vs 10 - And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

The Centurion didn't have authority because he was under his immediate commander, he had authority, because he was of the Roman Government's Army. If the Centurion was not of the Roman Government's Army, those individuals would not have had to obey him. So then, if you were not part of the Government of God, a Christian, you would have no authority over Satan or his devices.

Note: Even as a Christian, we need understanding in order to enforce our authority. Your title as a Christian alone will not enable you to get results.

Another aspect of the story concerning the Centurion that will enhance our understanding of authority is the fact that when Jesus received the elders of the Jews that the Centurion had sent, he was actually receiving them in the *Centurion's* stead.

Therefore, when Jesus saw the elders of the Jews he was actually seeing the Centurion, and behind the Centurion was the power of the Roman Government.

The Centurion understood this, which is why he sent *the elders of the Jews* to give Jesus the message; that He did not have to come to his house but to speak the word only. However, the elders of the Jews did not give Jesus that message. The Centurion ended up having to send out another crew to do what the first crew should have done. Jesus' response is evidence of His endorsement of the Centurion's mindset.

Jesus said that this man was a man of great faith because of his understanding of authority. The understanding that we are to gather is this; when we come in the name of Jesus, the devil doesn't just see us; he sees Jesus, the Father and the power of the Holy Ghost backing us up.

Matthew 10:40 - He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

4. The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Acts 10:38 - How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him

5. Revelation of our Identification in Christ

Genesis 1:26 - And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Vs 28 - And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

In order for mankind to function in the authority that had been delegated to him, the revelation of his identification in Christ would need to be understood.

Who are we in God?

This revelation of identification is unveiled in looking at the order of events as outlined in Genesis 1:26, and verse 28. Because man is in the image of God, (Vs 26) he can be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and have dominion (Vs 28).

Our understanding of who we are will enable us to operate in the dominion we have been given.

6. Righteousness Consciousness

Isaiah 54:14 - In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee...

Righteousness Consciousness is to know what you have a right to as you stand with God. Righteousness Consciousness is having right wise-ness with God, Right wisdom with God, no sense of condemnation, guilt or shame.

Although righteousness is right standing with God, it's not the same as having righteousness consciousness. When you have righteousness as a part of your consciousness, you're thinking and speaking in line with the Word of God. Your attitude of faith is on a higher level and what you are willing to resist is on a higher level as well.

Righteousness Consciousness is being conscious to your rights in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:34 - Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

When you are awake to righteousness, you will say things like...

Isaiah 54:17 - No weapon that is formed against thee (**ME**) shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee (**ME**) in judgment thou (**I**) shalt condemn...

As a Christian you have authority:

- Over Sickness, Disease and Demons - Luke 9:1-2, 10:19
- Over Strife - 2 Timothy 2:26
- Over Sin - Romans 6:14
- Over Temptation - Luke 4
- Authority in three worlds - Philippians 2:10,
- Over Angels - Psalm 103:19-20, Hebrews 1:14,
- And more...

In Summation, we have learned:

- The doctrine concerning authority began in Genesis
- Godly Authority is given and not taken!
- Authority and Power has been defined
- Enforcing authority and taking authority are not the same.
- God wanted to maintain a level of influence in the lives of mankind.
- God releases His authority with words.
- Mankind is created in the image of God.
- The sequence of the order of Authority
- All mankind sinned in Adam!
- We are triune beings
- Our authority is only as good as the power backing us
- Where does our authority come from as Christians