

BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY

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And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

—Colossians 2:10

Your kingdom identity is a key component to exercising spiritual authority.

The Operation of God the Father

Ephesians 2 It is He who (v. 13) quickened the saints together with Christ and forgave their trespasses. It is He who (v. 14) blotted out the adverse decrees of the law, which stood in the way of His people, and nailed the canceled handwriting to the cross of His Son. It is He who [v. 15] spoiled [ap-ekdusamenos, completely stripped) the mighty principalities and powers that had opposed the resurrection of the Lord, and led them captive in triumphal procession in Christ.

The Failure of the Church

The head is wholly dependent upon its body for the carrying out of its plan. All the members of its body must be subservient, that, through their coordinated ministry, may be accomplished what is purposed.

The Lord Jesus, "Head over all things to the church, which is his body," is hindered in His mighty plans and working, because His Body has failed to appreciate the deep meaning of His exaltation, and to respond to the gracious impulses which He is constantly sending for its quickening.

It is a most vital truth of the divine working that The Word of God is the pattern by which the ministry of the Church is framed. The glory of the Body of Christ is the fact that its members are living members, each with a personal will.

The Holy Spirit comes into these individual members in order to bring them into unity with the will and purposes of the Head. But this is not done through inward impulse alone. Inward impulse inaugurates obedience towards the Head, but the renewed mind cannot be fully instructed save through the Word. Consequently, it is only as the Word is carefully meditated upon, understood, and obeyed, that the Head has freedom of action through its members.

The Enemy' Strategy

1. **Temptation** - Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41). "the lust of the flesh,...the lust of the eyes, [or] the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). The "lust of the flesh"
2. **Deception**- And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. (1 Timothy 2:14). Satan's nature is inherently deceptive. Notice that the

devil's deception began with a question—one meant to cast doubt on the authenticity and truth of God's Word: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" The only way Satan can gain access to your life is through deception. Every area of bondage in a believer's life can be traced to a lie he or she has believed.

3. **Distraction** - Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11). Worship is one of the most powerful weapons in spiritual warfare because it takes our attention off our circumstances and places it on God.
4. **Oppression** - Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. (Acts 12:1). Oppression is designed to discourage and hinder God's people from moving forward in his kingdom purposes.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Unless the Word richly indwells for the instruction of the mind, the Spirit of God, although present in His fullness, has nothing to work upon.

The Qualifications For Authority

Our authority is the portion of every believer. It is not a special gift imparted in answer to prayer, but the inherent right of the child of God because of his elevation with Christ to the right hand of the Father.

Belief - to live in accordance with. Not only to have trust in a person but to manifest that trust by practical committal. Train me day by day that I may attain to the full stature of the perfect man in Christ, so that in me Thy purpose of the ages may be fulfilled.

Let us, morning by morning, as one of our first acts of worship, take our seat with Christ Let us often remind ourselves that we are seated far above all the powers of the air, and that they are in subjection to us.

Humility - While belief introduces us to our place of throne-power, humility will ensure our retaining it. One of the tested enemies' weapons is spiritual pride, and too often it proves effective. The consuming desire to be independent is something which even the regenerate heart does not fully overcome.

Boldness – True boldness is faith in full manifestation. When God has spoken, to hold back is not humility but unbelief. In the exercise of authority, there is needed a divine courage that fears nothing but God, and reaches out strong hands to bind and to restrain all that is contrary to Him.

Our Canopy

To maintain our place against the wiles of the devil, the believer must be constantly arrayed in full armor. The armor itself when worn constitutes the protection of the believer, and not his activity against the foe. The emphasis in chapter 6 is laid on victory. Note the following

paraphrase which brings out the full force of verse 13: "Wherefore take up with you to the battle the whole armor of God, that you may be able to successfully withstand in the evil (lay, and having overthrown all foes, to remain unshaken." There is no suggestion of defeat.

- (1) **"The girdle of truth"** - the clear understanding of God's Word, which, like a soldier's belt, holds the rest of the armor in place.
- (2) **"The breastplate of righteousness"** - not, as often stated, the righteousness of Christ, but rather the active obedience to the Word which he has received.
- (3) **"The feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace"** - a faithful ministry in the heralding of the Word.
- (4) **"The shield of faith"** - (thureos, the large door shaped shield covering the whole body), which indicates his complete refuge under the blood of Calvary, where no power of the enemy can penetrate.
- (5) **"The helmet of salvation"** - the coming of the Lord Jesus, is the only helmet that seems able to protect the head in these days of apostasy from the truth.
- (6) **"The sword of the Spirit"** which shows the Word of God used in an active sense, even as the "girdle" shows it in a defensive one.
- (7) **"All-prayer,"** the training of the faculties God ward by constant approach to God.

The agenda of the devil and his demons is to interrupt believers' consciousness of Jesus and manipulate them into operating independently of him.

The Practical Exercise Of Authority

One of Satan's titles is "Accuser of the brethren." just as Joshua (Zech. 3:1). We encounter constant stream of accusations in our hearts.

The purpose of the enemy is to turn me against self, through the creating of a consciousness of personal unworthiness, draw me down from the place of perfect faith. We must learn to "overcome him by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 12:11).

The Blood represents, not only the cleansing from the guilt and power of sin, but it is also the witness of that overwhelming victory gained at Calvary, by virtue of which the Lord is now seated on high.

Once this is grasped, the believer sees that he has not to fight against the foe, but simply to hold over him an already accomplished triumph, the authority of which he shares to the full.

The enemy often attempts to silence our voice in order to reduce our effectiveness and influence. Instead of being silenced, silence the enemy!

The Limitation of Authority

The authority committed to the believer is over the powers of the air, and never over his fellow men or their wills.

We are called to bind the unseen forces, but to deliver our brethren. Human control of the will of another, as manifested in hypnotism, etc., is obtained through the use of occult powers

latent in the soul, and is as unlawful for the Christian as wizardry and necromancy, which are directly forbidden in the Word of God.

1. Authority Over Oppression of Body
2. Authority Over Oppression of Mind
3. Authority over Excessive Anger - "Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath,"
4. Authority Over Fear
5. Authority Over Demon Oppression
6. Authority Over Opposers of the Truth
7. Authority to Enjoy Life Abundant - "The thief [the devil; Satan] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Final Outcome of Authority

The question is often asked: Why does God permit this or that condition?

God has planned that man shall, through the out-working of Redemption, regain the place of authority in creation that he has lost.

To this end, Christ, having conquered for man, sits as his Representative in the seat destined for him when redemption is fully manifested.