

The BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY & POWER in MISSION

INTRODUCTION

What do we think when we hear of the believer's authority and power?

- Do we think of: healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, parting the red sea, walking on water?
- What is the reason for those things?

Today: look at our Authority and Power. Put context to it.

- Why do we need it, what is it for? What do we do with it?

WHAT IS AUTHORITY?

- Merriam-Webster: Authority implies (1) **power** for a (2) **specific purpose** (3) within **specified limits**

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: Soldier in the army

Matthew 8 v 5: Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a **centurion** (*officer in the Roman army*) came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." ⁷And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. **But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.**

- Centurion knew Jesus had authority & power to heal

⁹**For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

- The centurion's understanding of authority came from his experience in the Roman Army.

Military - Chain of Command. Hierarchy of Authority.

- Caesar (Ruler of Rome) – Legates - Prefects – Tribunes – Centurions – Soldiers
- This Centurion **submitted** to his superior officers; his soldiers submitted to him.
- **Principal:** to be over someone, you need to be under someone.

The will of Caesar was to be implemented by the soldiers. Expand his kingdom, rule everywhere

- **Commands, orders** – TOP, DOWN - implemented by the soldiers.

Authority bestowed on the lesser rank by their superiors.

- Soldiers **represented Caesar** therefore they had authority
- Outside of their relationship with Caesar they had no authority

Soldiers was an extension of Caesar. His authority and power was transferred to them, to establish his rule and will wherever he send them.

CONTEXT: the Believers Authority & Power

- Authority & Power was given to us, to **fulfil God's plans, purposes and mission** here on earth.

ALL AUTHORITY BELONGS TO GOD

- God is the creator, the only true God, Alpha & Omega, Beginning and the End
- God is eternal, everywhere, almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing.

2 Chronicles 20 v 6 – King Jehoshaphat prayed: “O Lord God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

Job 42 v 2 – Job said to God: “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.

Psalms 135 v 5: For I know that the Lord *is* great, And our Lord *is* above all gods. ⁶Whatever the Lord pleases He does, In heaven and in earth,....

JESUS SUBMITTED TO THE FATHER'S WILL

John 6 v 38: For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰And this is the **will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life;** and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Luke 22 v 41 – Jesus prays in the garden: ⁴¹And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, “**Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**” ⁴³Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

OBEDIENT TO HIS FATHER'S WILL

Philippians 2 v 6: (*Jesus*) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became **obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** ⁹Therefore God also has **highly exalted Him** and given Him **the name which is above every name,** ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Jesus submitted Himself to the will of God, therefore God exalted Him above all other authority

GOD THE FATHER GAVE JESUS ALL AUTHORITY

Ephesians 1 v 20: (God) 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.

Jesus came to earth to finish the work of salvation on the Cross, that all who believe in Him might be saved.

God gave Him all authority to establish His Kingdom here on earth.

Now, Jesus sends us to proclaim this message. He sends us to preach about and demonstrate His Kingdom to the world.

1) JESUS SENDS OUT THE 12 – MATTHEW 9 & LUKE 9

Matthew 9 v 35: Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when **He saw the multitudes**, He was moved with **compassion** for them, **because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd**. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.**

BATTLEFIELD, WARZONE (SITUATION ON THE GROUND)

- Sheep doesn't know the Shepherd. They are in trouble, easy pray for the enemy.
- Men is lost in sin, darkness, in the world. How great is the Human need? They need Jesus.
- Harvest is very large, not enough workers
- Where is your harvest field?

³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to **send out** laborers into His harvest.”

- Isaiah said “Here I am Lord, send me!”

Matthew 10 v 1, 7 - 8: And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them **power over unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and to **heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease**.

⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**

OUR MISSION – LABOR IN HIS HARVEST

SENT BY GOD – TO PROCLAIM & DEMONSTRATE HIS KINGDOM

POWER AND AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE THIS MISSION

- He does not only call us, but also equip us to do the work

Same account out of Luke

Luke 9 v 1, 2, 6: 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.

⁶ So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

JESUS GIVES US POWER & AUTHORITY

- I Him, born again believers has this Power & Authority
- Outside of Jesus, there is none
- Your Name, qualification, experience, history, shortcomings, faults does not matter.
- Jesus often uses the unlikely person to confound the wisdom of the wise
- Only qualification we need = be in Him

Acts 19 v 13: Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, **“We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”** ¹⁴ Also there were **seven sons of Sceva**, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 16 v 16: Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

- Paul in Christ vs the 7 sons of Sceva, who was not in Christ

PURPOSE OF THIS POWER & AUTHORITY

- Demonstrate His Kingdom, bring Glory to God
- Preaching about, and demonstration goes hand in hand. Cannot be separated.

Romans 15 v 18 – Paul: For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in **word** and **deed**, to make the Gentiles obedient— ¹⁹ in **mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God**, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have **fully preached the gospel of Christ**.

2) JESUS SENDS OUT THE 70 – LUKE 10

Luke 10 v 17 – 20: after Jesus send out the 70

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

WHEN WE DO GOD’S WORK, WE SEE MIRACELOUS SIGNS

Mark 16 v 15: And He said to them, “Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷**And these signs will follow those who believe:** In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

IN YOUR NAME

- The **credit** for salvations, healing, deliverance goes to Jesus. He must be glorified.
- It is through His Power & Authority that the Kingdom of God manifests.

Acts 4 v 10, 12: Peter & John testifies about the lame man who was healed: let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, **by Him this man stands here before you whole.**

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

SATAN FALLING FROM HEAVEN

- The success of the disciples against evil spirits was confirmation that satan has lost his authority and power.

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- We are messengers of Jesus and His Kingdom, He gives us the victory over satan and demons.

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

JESUS WARNS US

- Rejoice in your salvation. What He has done for us
- Rather than what we can do for Him.

Matthew 7 v 21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father in heaven.** ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you **who practice lawlessness!**’

OUR JOY IS IN OUR SALVATION, KNOWING HIM, ONE DAY BEING WITH HIM FOREVER.

3) GREAT COMMISSIONING TO ALL OF US

Mat 28 v 18 – the great commission:“**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, ²⁰teaching 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.

RESPOND

- Do you take up your Authority & Power in Christ?
- Will you go and make disciples?
- Will you have faith and trust God for His Authority and Power to be made manifest through you?