

POWER AND AUTHORITY



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'Power and Authority'
by
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POWER AND AUTHORITY

God is God so you would presume that He has all power and authority. But it's not actually quite as straightforward as that. Of course God has power and authority, but what has He done with it? Has He kept it to Himself?

God Gave Man Authority Over the Earth

When God created Adam and Eve, He chose to give His authority over the earth to them. The earth still belonged to Him, but they had authority over it. He said in Genesis 1:26 – *“Let’s make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* And Psalms 115:16 says – *‘The heavens are the LORD’s heavens, but he has given the earth to the children of men.’*

God gave Adam and Eve free will and just one rule to obey: not to eat the fruit of one particular tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan tempted them to eat it and when they did, they put themselves under Satan’s influence and passed their authority over the earth to him.

Obviously God did not want Satan ruling over the earth – that was never part of his plan. But because He will always be true to what He has said, He couldn’t simply take the authority back to Himself. It wasn’t because He didn’t have the power to do so, but because of His integrity. In Psalms 89:34 He says – *‘I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered.’*

So God had to find a way to get authority over the earth back to man. But only a perfect man, who was not under the rule of Satan, could win it back. The problem was, no-one was perfect.

There was only one way to do it – He sent His own Son to be born as a man and so become the only perfect one. Jesus had to come as a human being so He could regain the authority man had given to Satan. This is why He referred to Himself as ‘the Son of Man’. His spirit was fully God but His body was fully human.

On the Cross Jesus defeated Satan and all his schemes. As a result, the authority God had given to man, which they’d handed over to Satan, was retaken by the man Jesus. After He had risen from the dead, Jesus told His followers in Matthew 28:18 - *“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.”*

Jesus Then Shared His Authority with Us

Jesus then shared His authority over the earth with His followers, saying in Luke 10:19 – *“I give you authority to tread ... over all the power of the enemy,”* and in Matthew 28:19-20 – *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 commanded you.”* The authority Jesus won back from Satan is now shared, not with everyone, but with all who are born-again.

Although Satan can still deceive and influence individual people if they let him, and impact what happens on earth through such people, he can never again have blanket authority over the earth. We now have God’s authority to heal, rebuke Satan and resist him. James 4:7 says – *‘Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’* Submit to God’s ways and resist the devil in Jesus’ name and he will flee from you.

Our God-Given Power

There are certain things that God chose to keep under His own authority such as when Jesus will come again and how the world will end. In Acts 1:7 Jesus says – *“It isn’t for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within his own authority.”* But He goes on to say in Acts 1:8 – *“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”* Ephesians 3:20 then says – *‘Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.’* It is God’s work that we do, but He does it through the power He has given us.

If you are born-again, you have the Holy Spirit living in you and if you are baptised in the Holy Spirit, all His power is available to you. That’s brilliant news! You don’t need your own power, so feeling powerless does not come into it. You just need to use the power of the Holy Spirit which is in you. Romans 8:11 says that – *‘the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you.’* That is power indeed, because Satan will have thrown everything he had to stop Jesus from coming back to life. But he failed. We now have that same power in us. We need to choose to believe it.

If you haven’t been born-again, go to the end of this booklet to read more about it. If you haven’t been baptised in the Holy Spirit, then simply ask God in faith. Jesus said in Luke 11:13 – *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”* And be assured that you do indeed now have power because Acts 1:8 says – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”* (For more

details about baptism in the Holy Spirit, read my booklet ‘Who is the Holy Spirit?’)

You may have presumed Jesus was able to heal and deliver people because He was God. But actually He acted in the power of the Holy Spirit in exactly the same way we need to. Acts 10:38 says that – *‘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.’* And Jesus said in John 14:12 – *“Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father.”* If Jesus had ministered in the power of being God, we would not be able to do the same. It is because He ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit that it is possible for us to do what He did. Be assured that the power Jesus used is in you, just as it was in Him. That’s so good. It doesn’t depend on our feelings or circumstances or experiences, but on the truth of God’s Word.

We cannot add any power of our own to the power of the Holy Spirit and think we will get better results. In actual fact, we will get worse results. Remember Ephesians 3:20 says – *‘Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.’* God’s promise that He can do more than we can even imagine is ‘according to the power that works in us.’ It is not God working independently of us, but it is Him working through us as we step out in faith using His power within us.

If we do not acknowledge that power, or limit it by our own small thinking, we are not going to be able to do great things for Him. (To read more about the power God has given us read my booklet ‘You Have the Power’.)

Authority and Power Work Together

Authority without power is no use and neither is power without authority. Imagine a soldier who has been given a gun but told he doesn't have the authority to use it. Now imagine a soldier who is told he has the authority to use a gun but is not issued with one. Either way he will be totally ineffective in a battle. Similarly, we would be ineffective in our Christian walk if God had given us only authority or only power. But He didn't do that – when we were born-again and baptised in the Holy Spirit, He gave us both.

Jesus says in Mark 16:17 – *“These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* Do you long to be able to do these things but feel powerless and lack the confidence? Well, are you born-again? Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit? If so, I have good news for you – you are one of ‘those who believe’ in Mark 16:17. And that means that all these things are possible for you.

The problem is, we can so easily put more value on what we think about ourselves than on what Jesus has said about us. But Jesus only spoke truth. Therefore these statements are true of us. And nothing can ever change that truth. It doesn't depend on how you feel or what your experiences have been, but on the fact that God has equipped you through Jesus.

So how can you get from where you are, if you are feeling totally inadequate, to doing these wonderful things? First of all, put aside all your own ideas about what you can and can't do and choose to look at what Jesus says about you. Remember what

Jesus says in John 14:12 – *“Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father.”* Don’t doubt it – choose to believe it. Jesus says you can do the things He did because you have His power and authority – that’s the only qualification you need.

We Don’t Have Authority Over Other People

It is worth pointing out that while we have authority over our own bodies and over Satan and his demons, we don’t have authority over other people. God gave us all free will and if a person refuses to cooperate with salvation or healing or deliverance, then God will not violate that. We have power and authority over all sicknesses and demons and that is more than sufficient to heal anyone of anything but they need to cooperate in faith.

His Power Under Our Authority

One of the most significant truths we can take hold of is that God has put His power within us and has given us the authority to use it. He is not going to heal or deliver people for us – it is now our job. The power we use is God’s power which He gave us when we were baptised in the Holy Spirit, but it is under our authority which Jesus won back from Satan and shared with us. He wants us to take that authority and use the power He has put within us to set ourselves and other people free.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 10:7-8 – *“As you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.”* He didn’t say, when you find someone

sick, send me word and I will heal them. He said, you do it. It's like using electricity. Electricity has been supplied to your home, but when you want a light on, you don't ring the electricity company and ask them to put your light on. They won't do that. They've provided the power and connected it to your home, but the use of it is under your authority. You have to flick the switch for the light to come on. Similarly, God has put His power within us but it's up to us to flick the switch by taking authority in the name of Jesus and then things will change. So many Christians ask God to do the work He's called and equipped us to do.

When healing the lame beggar, Peter didn't pray – in fact he didn't talk to God at all. In Acts 3:6-7 he said that he already had what was needed to heal – *“I have no silver or gold, but what I have, that I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!”* ⁷*He took him by the right hand and raised him up. Immediately his feet and his ankle bones received strength.* Peter took the authority God had given him and used the power He had put in him and he healed the man. Normal Christian practice now is to pray to God asking Him to heal someone and then presuming it isn't His will when nothing happens. That's not what God has told us to do.

When we minister healing or deliverance to people in the name of Jesus, we are using God's power under our authority. Peter explained in Acts 3:16 that although he had healed the lame beggar, he had used God's power – *“By faith in his (Jesus') name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”* Take hold of this truth now and you are far more likely to see results, because it is the way of healing and delivering God has established through Jesus.

Let's Use It

Are we going to use this amazing power that God has given us and put under our authority? God has given us authority to heal and command demons to go in the name of Jesus. And He has given us infinite power, yet so often we either don't believe we have it or we just don't use it.

Let's decide to believe in what we have even though we may not feel it. Let's take God at His word and see the difference it will make in our own lives and in the lives of others as we do the things Jesus did, taking our God-given authority to use His power within us.

Being Born-Again

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you become born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart – "Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour."

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you'll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

Life in Jesus

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The Bible tells us that we can do what Jesus did
when He was here on earth and even greater things.
Do you believe that?

Find out how it doesn't depend
on your own abilities or experiences
and learn to step out
in the authority and power
God has given you.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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