

FREEDOM TO GROW

Understanding your spiritual authority

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Introduction

God's omnipotence is shown in his work of creation.

Read Genesis 1.27-28. What authority did God give to Adam and Eve?

All went well until they sinned. They were cast out of the garden and lost their authority over the earth.

We see how God has delegated his authority throughout the Old Testament in three areas : Political, Judicious, Religious. Name some well known individuals from each area.

However, in many cases we can see how this authority became corrupted through weakness, and therefore was ineffective. Think of some occasions when this happened

New Testament Authority

1. The authority of Jesus

-Where did Jesus get his authority from? Matthew 7.28-29, 9.6-8, 28.18, John 3.35

Why was his authority never corrupted? John 5.19-20, 8.28-29,10.30,14.10.

-Jesus' authority was delegated to him by his Father.

How long has Jesus had this authority, and how far does it reach? Colossians 1.16
Hebrews 1.3

-Jesus always submitted to his Father's will

His intimacy with his Father was his priority. Luke 6.12, 9.28, Mark 6.46

How necessary is prayer for a relationship with God?

-He took the form of a servant. Matthew 20.28. Name some of the many ways Jesus served people.

2. The authority of believers

This is a delegated authority from Jesus, as he says in Matthew 28.18. It is expressed through servanthood, and is based on intimacy with Jesus. The stronger the relationship we have with him, the greater is the authority he entrusts to us.

A key factor: We act in and through the name of Jesus, speaking, praying, acting in his name. John 14.12-14. Acts 2.38, 3.16, 4.7-10, 5.40-42

-His name has the 'power of attorney' – John 14.13. We are legally empowered to act on his behalf, he has given his authority and he responds.
It's as if he gives us his 'credit card' with his authority to use it for his purposes.

3. In what areas of life can this authority be applied?

a. Our family. We can be a gatekeeper, to block the power of evil forces. How does this work?

We can pray *protection* – physical, spiritual, moral

We can *intervene* – pray blessing, peace, keep family safe when we see them in danger

We can pray *salvation* for children, grandchildren, their future husbands/wives.

In what ways are families at risk today? How have you seen the power of prayer at work in your family?

b. Our ministry – Healing the sick, Acts 4.10.

Breaking demonic influences, 16.17

Speaking and doing good deeds, Colossians 3.17

What other areas of ministry are you involved in, and how have your prayers been effective?

Warning: The name of Jesus isn't a magic formula. Read Acts 19.13-16.

We can't speak in his name without intimacy with him, and knowing what he has called us to do.

Challenge: Is your spiritual authority an unclaimed possession?

Jesus has given you authority – have you taken it?

Check up: No authority? Then not a follower of Christ

Limited authority?

Growing authority?

The choice is yours