

The Believer's Authority

Study Guide



Lesson One

Instructions

- Read chapter 1, “The Prayers of Paul,” from the textbook *The Believer's Authority: Legacy Edition*.
- Listen to the message “What Is Authority?” from *The Believer's Authority* audio series.
- Work through this lesson.

Lesson Overview

Some Christians become fearful whenever the devil or demons are mentioned. They'll even lower their voices to a whisper when talking about them. Others take an opposite stance and feel that it's their responsibility to “wrestle” against principalities and powers. The truth is, neither group really understands the authority Jesus gave them over Satan and his demonic forces. They don't know they don't have to be afraid of the devil or “war” against the forces of darkness.

Jesus defeated Satan through His death at Calvary. During His three days in hell, Jesus conquered the devil and all of his demonic forces. He also took the keys of hell and death from

*This authority is not
the property of only a
few people. It's the true
possession of every
child of God.*

Scriptures

EPHESIANS 1:16–17

16 [1] cease not to give
thanks for you, making
mention of you
in my prayers;
17 That the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give
unto you the spirit of
wisdom and revelation in
the knowledge of him.

Satan (Rev. 1:18). Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He transferred His authority over the devil and demonic powers to *every* believer, not just to a few select Christians or to those called to the five-fold ministry. (See Matt. 28:18–20 and Mark 16:15–18.)

This authority belongs to us whether we realize it or not. Satan doesn't want us to learn about the authority we have over him and will do everything he can to hide this truth from us. He will fight believers more on this subject than on any other truth. If he is able to blind our eyes to our authority, he can easily defeat us in every area of our lives.

Once we know that we have authority over our enemy, it's up to us to exercise, or enforce, that authority. It doesn't work automatically. Simply knowing that we have authority over Satan is not enough. If we don't *use* it, we are allowing the devil to dominate us. Only knowledge that is acted upon will bring results.

Because Jesus triumphed over Satan, we don't have to "war" against our enemy. Our combat with the devil should be from the viewpoint that Jesus Christ has already defeated him. Our battle, so to speak, is simply enforcing what Christ has already won for us. Satan can't dominate us unless we allow him to. When we realize this and walk in our authority, we will enjoy the reality of what is rightfully ours and face the devil without any fear or hesitancy.

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

1. Jesus transferred His _____ to the Church.
2. We must _____ on the Word for it to work for us. It doesn't work _____.

3. The devil _____ dominate us unless we _____ him to.
4. It's knowing the _____ that sets us free.
5. Many Christians have tried to do through _____ what only _____ will do.
6. According to Ephesians 6:10, we are to be strong in the _____ and not in _____.
7. Christianity is the only religion in the world in which the God we worship lives _____ us.
8. The _____ we have as believers belongs to us whether we know it or not.
9. If Christians have problems in their lives, it's because they have not _____ their authority and have _____ problems to exist.
10. Authority is delegated _____.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. If Christians don't know they have authority over the devil,
 - a. Jesus will use His authority on their behalf.
 - b. It doesn't matter. Satan does not bother people who are born again.
 - c. The devil will take advantage of their ignorance and dominate their lives.
 - d. It will still automatically manifest in their lives.

Scriptures

EPHESIANS 3:14-17

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.

*Knowledge acted upon
brings results.*

The value of authority depends upon the force behind the user. God Himself is the force behind [our] authority.

~ Scriptures ~

EPHESIANS 1:3 (ASV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

2. What sets people free?
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Fasting
 - c. The truth of the Word
 - d. Both a and b

3. The value of authority depends on what?
 - a. The power behind it
 - b. Whether we have sin in our lives
 - c. How many Bible verses we have memorized
 - d. How big our offerings are

4. When we are in a crisis, where should we look for help?
 - a. We should call the prayer line of every major ministry.
 - b. We should call our pastor—no matter what time it is.
 - c. We should contact the most spiritual person in our church.
 - d. We should look to the Greater One Who dwells in our hearts.

5. Can we exercise authority over another person's will?
 - a. Yes, we can exercise authority over any person's will, whether we know the individual or not.
 - b. No, we are only able to exercise authority over spirits, not people.
 - c. Yes, we can exercise authority over the wills of our family members.
 - d. Yes, we can dominate people who have meek temperaments.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. In what ways have you used the authority Jesus delegated to you? Are there areas of your life where you have not used your authority as a believer? What practical steps can you take so you always operate in the authority you have been given?
2. In what areas of your life has the devil been able to dominate you? How did you learn to stand against the devil in these areas? How has your life changed since you began acting on the Word?
3. Have there been times in your life when you tried to be strong in yourself instead of getting your strength from the Lord as instructed in Ephesians 6:10? What practical steps can you take to rely on the Lord instead of on yourself?
4. When you are thoroughly conscious of the authority you have as a believer and the divine power that stands behind that authority, you can face the enemy without any fear or hesitancy. How are you doing in applying this truth to your life? Have there been times when you were filled with fear in a situation? What did you do to put your full trust in God?
5. Are there times when you look to Heaven for help instead of looking to the Holy Spirit Who resides inside you? Which scriptures show you that God is *in* you? What practical steps can you take to remember that the answer to all of your needs lies within you?
6. Are you building the truths of the believer's authority into your spirit? What can you do to develop in these truths?

Scriptures

EPHESIANS 6:12

12 For we wrestle not
against flesh and blood,
but against principalities,
against powers,
against the rulers
of the darkness
of this world,
against
spiritual wickedness
in high places.

*The power that's behind us
is the Greater One
Who's in us.*

The believer who is thoroughly conscious of the divine power behind him and of his own authority can face the enemy without fear or hesitancy.

7. How often do you give up when your circumstances don't change immediately? What can you do to keep from quitting?
8. Review the scriptures in this lesson. Which one speaks to you the most? Why?
9. Read the quotes in this lesson. Which one is the most meaningful to you? Why?
10. What is one truth you learned from this lesson that you can apply to your life? How will it enhance your life?

Scriptures

LUKE 10:19

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

BONUS MATERIAL

Knowing What's Ours

Many Christians don't know what belongs to them in Christ. As a result, they keep trying to get what God has already provided for them. When they keep asking God for something that He has already given them, they are stepping out of faith. And when they're not in faith, they're not pleasing God, because the Bible says, "*Without faith it is impossible to please him*" (Heb. 11:6).

Our wonderful Heavenly Father has given us everything we need to be rich and strong. In God's great redemptive work, Jesus didn't do anything for Himself. He did it all for us. Colossians 1:13 says that God "*hath delivered us from the power of*

darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” Our spirits were translated into God’s Kingdom the moment we were born again.

Christians often ask fellow believers, “Pray that I’ll be delivered from . . .” But Colossians 1:13 tells us that we have *already* been delivered from the power of darkness and have been translated into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son. The word *translate* means “to remove from one place and put into another.” Born-again Christians have been removed from the power and authority of darkness and put into God’s Kingdom. The word *darkness* refers to Satan and everything that is in his kingdom.

In Ephesians 4:27 we are told, “*Neither give place to the devil.*” “You” is the understood subject of this verse. It’s up to *you* not to give the devil any place. That means the devil can’t take any place in our lives unless we allow him to. But that also means he can if we let him. So many Christians don’t know they have authority over the devil and unknowingly yield to him. Anytime they don’t stand in their authority, the devil takes advantage of the situation and steps in to devour.

God’s love for us is too great for Him to save us, make us new creatures in Christ, bring the Church of Christ into existence, and then leave us to contend with the devil in our own strength. After Jesus defeated Satan and his demonic forces, He transferred His authority to the Church before He ascended into Heaven (Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–18).

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that we have been blessed “*with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*” Through Christ, we are fully equipped to be victorious over the devil. Christians should not be ruled by demons and evil spirits. Knowing who we are in Christ and using the authority we have been given enables us to overcome any attack of the devil.

Scriptures

EPHESIANS 6:10

10 Finally, my brethren,
be strong in the Lord,
and in the power
of his might.

*I am never without help
because I am
never without God.*

*Lives will be revolutionized
when we realize the
authority that belongs to
Christ belongs to each
member of the Body
of Christ.*

Satan no longer has authority over us, and he cannot dominate us when we stand our ground and operate in our authority. So let's rise up and use what is ours. Through the blood of Christ, the Name of Jesus, and the Word of God, we have everything we need to be victorious whenever our adversary tries to lift his ugly head.

(Editor's Note: This article has been adapted from a message Kenneth E. Hagin taught on April 18, 1988, during a Spring Satellite Seminar.)