

Authority

Concept:

One of the last statements that Jesus made to His disciples on the mountain before He ascended was dealing with authority. His statement was that He had all authority but He has releasing it to us. We were to finish the work that He started. We are to go in His name as His ambassador. We are to represent Him to the nations baptizing (giving people their identity with Christ), in His name (taking His place), laying hands as His representative, healing as His agent of blessing, and being able to use His Gospel shoes to continue stomping on the head of the enemy.

Jesus modeled this extension of His authority in Luke 9, when He sent the twelve out in His name. He told them to preach, heal, drive out demons, and give evidence that the kingdom of God was at hand. Here are six groups of men who are not saved, not filled with the spirit, and certainly not pillars of faith doing the work of Jesus. Then, in Luke 10 we see seventy sent out with the same mission statement. Jesus amplifies this use of His authority by the disciples in Luke 10:16, as He states that when people listen to the 70 they are listening to Him. Wow! Scripture goes on to tell us that not only did they go out, but they came back with great joy because everything that Jesus had stated took place. They were especially excited about the fact that even the devils were subject to them, when they used His authority. No one had cast out devils with the authority that Jesus used; He attacked the spiritual dimensions with results. The disciples emulated Him with the same results. No wonder they were so excited. Now, the Lord was saying at His Ascension, this authority is going to be ours to use, not just for a small period of time but forever. We should be full of joy, just like the disciples, because He has given us the keys of His kingdom through this extension of His authority to us. What we loose (open) He looses and what we bind (close) He binds. We are His ambassadors that go in His name and do His work. We are His gatekeepers, who go and open and shut His gates.

Luke 16:16 says it the best. It states the Good News of the Kingdom is preached and people of authority are forcing their way into the flow of His Kingdom. The fact that we can use His name shows us of His great love that He has for us. He desires that we push the enemy aside and take the promise land and the spoils that He has given us.

We know that the Lord by covenant had given the children of Israel the Promised Land but they had to go in and establish that covenant. They had a God given right to the land but without using their authority the Canaanites would have remained and enjoyed the Israelites inheritance. The authority that is God given gives us the right to release the power of God into a situation that is not lining up to the Word of God. We are His ambassadors so we are obligated to use His authority in every situation of Kingdom business.

Use your God given authority to drive the enemy off every thing that the Lord has given you. The enemy has no right to steal, kill, or destroy from you any longer. When you speak the name of Jesus at shortage, sickness, depression, fear; watch the power of heaven back up your confession of truth. God is waiting for us to act so He can show Himself strong on our behalf. When David was King, God established the throne. Solomon took the throne and God gave him, His wisdom and allowed Solomon to use it and rule His people. Paul was chosen by God, anointed by Jesus, gifted by the Holy Spirit and then his call to be an apostle was manifested with the authority to back it up. That is the heart of God for all of us to have the necessary gifts and authority to walk in the gifts that the Father has assigned to each one of us.

Definitions:

Authority: (Greek) exousia. Ability, privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, delegated influence, liberty, rights, strength, heaven is where the authority comes from.

Authority: (Greek) dunastes. A rule or office, mighty monarch

Authority: (Hebrew) rabah. To increase, bring in abundance, enlarge, exceedingly full; grow up, more in number. Proverbs 29:2

Scripture Application:

1. Matthew 7:29
2. Matthew 8:5-13
3. Matthew 9:1-8
4. Matthew 10:1
5. Matthew 18:18
6. Matthew 21:23-27
7. Matthew 28:18-20
8. Mark 1:21-27
9. Mark 3:13-19
10. Mark 6:6-12
11. Mark 11:22-24
12. Luke 4:31-36
13. Luke 9:1

14. Luke 10:19-21
15. Luke 17:6
16. Luke 19:17
17. John 1:12
18. John 5:24-27
19. John 10:18
20. John 16:19-24
21. John 17:1-3
22. John 20:23
23. Acts 9:14
24. Acts 16:4,5
25. Acts 26:18
26. Romans 9:21
27. Romans 13:1-3
28. I Corinthians 4:15
29. I Corinthians 7:17
30. I Corinthians 8:9
31. I Corinthians 9:12
32. II Corinthians 5:19-21
33. II Corinthians 10:8
34. Ephesians 2:2
35. Ephesians 3:10
36. Ephesians 4:11
37. Colossians 1:13

38. Colossians 2:15
39. I Timothy 6:11-16
40. I Peter 3:22
41. Revelation 1:17-20
42. Revelation 6:8
43. Revelation 13:2
44. Revelation 18:1

Picture of Authority:

1. Genesis 1:22
2. Genesis 1:28
3. Genesis 22:17
4. Genesis 41:41-56
5. Exodus 18:13-17
6. Numbers 27:12-23
7. Isaiah 22:21,22
8. Isaiah 43:25,26
9. Joshua 10:12-15
10. Joshua 11:1-9
11. Judges 11:1-11
12. Ruth 4
13. I Samuel 1:21-28

Summary:

We see the picture of authority all throughout scripture. Sometimes the authority is used correctly and sometimes it is abused. Satan couldn't handle his God given authority and Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 shows us his fall. Many of the kings who were appointed by God started out anointed and ended up a curse on the nation. One of the biggest reasons was not rightly using their authority to bless people instead of blessing themselves. Solomon started out with God given authority and was using it to bless the people and bring glory to God. He ended up bringing hardship on the people and dishonor to God. Jesus on the other hand, started and ended bringing glory and honor to God. That should be our heart cry when we use God's authority in our lives.

We need to learn to be submissive to authority as well as using authority properly. God honors those who know how to stay under His umbrella of authority and manage His manifold wisdom in a Godly manner. Jesus emptied Himself of His deity attributes (omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, etc.) and operated under the umbrella of His Father's authority by staying in unbroken fellowship and always walking in obedience to the will of His Father. The limitation that Jesus operated with was His human body. The body was a limitation in the physical but Jesus was still able to move in full spiritual authority. He was able to access spiritual gifts and move in kingdom authority as a King and Prophet. That is what we are asked to do. We have been given the right to use His name and operate with His anointing and do the same works that He did. We see Peter and John walking to church to pray and they come across a lame beggar who wants money and they give him his legs. They did that by using what they had, the name of Jesus. Let's use what we have and give the world back its legs!

Action:

Begin to use your authority and speak to the problems in your life that are contrary to the word of God. If you have any area that is causing you to be lame spiritually, use His name and watch the problem be uprooted and planted in the sea. If there is any demonic activity in your household, use that name and watch the devil flee. Use your authority to keep your property free from demonic activity. Every week walk around your property and establish the Lordship of Jesus, don't allow the enemy to steal anything from you.