

The Authority of the Believer According to Grace

1. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

Jesus has all authority having died in our place and risen from the dead. He defeated Satan. He now tells us to go.

Hebrews 2:11-15

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,¹² saying:

"I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

¹³ *And again:*

"I will put My trust in Him."

And again:

"Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

¹⁴ *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "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 the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. GREAT FAITH

When we recognize Christ's authority and believe that what He says will happen will indeed happen, we are demonstrating GREAT faith.

Luke 7:7-9

*"For this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."⁹ Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such **great** faith."*

EXAMPLE: Police officer

3. We have faith that God forgave our sins. What a glorious miracle, the most miraculous miracle there is. Anything else is easy. If He has authority to forgive sins, then he can heal us just as easily.

Luke 5:18-20, 22-25

*And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him.¹⁹ But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.²⁰ Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ...²² But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?²³ **Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?**²⁴ But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home."*

4. Jesus gave the twelve and the seventy authority even before the cross.

Luke 9:1-2

And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. ² And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

Luke 10:17-24

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."¹⁸ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

²¹ At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight."²² All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

²³ Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, ²⁴ for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them."

5. Our spiritual warfare is based not on OUR religious efforts to conquer Satan, but on the fact that JESUS already did. We are strong in the LORD and in the strength of HIS might. All of our warfare is based on what JESUS accomplished FOR us. We simply STAND in HIS victory.

Ephesians 1:18-23

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:8-10

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

6. Our inheritance is to be free from the domain of darkness.

Col. 1:12-13

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

7. Jesus not only disarmed Satan but also triumphed over him making him a public shame.

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

8. As those who believe in the good news of God's grace toward us, we rejoice that we no longer have to try and accomplish what Jesus has already accomplished. However, we err to think that everything that happens is from God or "allowed" by God. Jesus INDEED HAS defeated Satan for us, but we are told TO STAND IN THIS VICTORY, NOT TO BE PASSIVE. We are not only told to stand but to resist Satan who will try to deceive us. How does he deceive? He challenges the truth of God's promises.

- "God is a liar!" (The Garden of Eden)
- "Hath God said?" (The temptation of Christ)

2 Peter 5:8-9b

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

- **Whom can Satan devour? Those who aren't aware of what Jesus has accomplished on the cross or who we are in Him.**
 - You aren't forgiven.
 - You aren't righteous.
 - God doesn't love you.
 - You are in danger of judgment.
 - You are going to get sick.
 - You are going to fail.
 - You are going to starve.
 - Lies, lies, and more lies, but if we don't KNOW these are lies, we might simply believe them; that is, believe the devil.
 - This is why it is very important to discover what Jesus accomplished and what His promises are.

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

9. Formerly, many of us had a false concept of spiritual warfare. We saw it as WE OURSELVES fighting Satan, but none of us could ever resist or fight Satan apart from Jesus' authority.

Acts 19:11-16

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. 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.

10. We don't pray the victory down or fast it down. It isn't by repeating prayers or how many people we can get to pray. It isn't based on us trying to get God to pretty please do what we are asking. Victory doesn't come from living a holy life. It comes through understanding Jesus authority AND OURS through what HE accomplished ON THE CROSS.

Galatians 3:5

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

11. Then, how do we now do spiritual warfare if not through our own efforts? To fight evil under grace, is to STAND in and rest in His devastating victory.

a) Belt of truth

- The truth of the gospel
- The truth of what He has accomplished
- The truth of His promises to us

b) Breastplate of righteousness

- We have been GIVEN righteousness. Our breastplate isn't based on living righteously but our faith in Jesus which brings us righteousness.

c) Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

- The gospel of peace with God. We can fight because we have peace with God. We have been reconciled with Him, and this is the ministry that we preach.

d) Shield of faith

- This isn't US trying really hard to believe. Our faith is in HIM.

e) Helmet of salvation

so-tay'-ree-on

Neuter of the same as G4991 as (properly concrete) noun; *defender* or (by implication) *defence*: - salvation.

- We are saved from sin, from darkness, from the fear of death, from wrath, from judgment, from want, from sickness, from difficulties we face

f) Sword of the spirit which is the word of God

- The gospel is the "word of God". All of the good news about what Jesus accomplished through his death and resurrection is the sword of the Spirit.

g) Praying always in the Spirit

- This is referring to the gift of praying in tongues. Sometimes, we simply don't know how to pray. When we pray in the Spirit we know we are praying the exact will of God.

12. Under Grace we rest in His authority over all evil, sickness, and poverty that comes into our sphere of influence.

- Our own mental, emotional, and physical well-being
- His promised provision
- Our children

13. SOME PERSONAL EXAMPLES of understanding and standing in His authority purchased for us

- The youth group praying for me (David) when I was sick: I was healed.
- Cathy and I standing together for Joella whose opening between her heart and lungs had not closed at birth: “Satan, you can’t have our baby.” She was healed completely and today runs marathons.
- Tina confessing that she was healed of multiple food allergies: “It’s ok, Mommy. Jesus healed me.” From that moment on, she had no food allergies.
- Tina speaking to her hernia at about age 5 every time it would pop out when she jumped: “By His stripes, I am healed.” The doctor said they don’t get better, but she was healed completely.
- Don Harris healed of a chronic cough when his daughter laid hands on him at age 5: “Be healed in Jesus name.” He has never had a cough since that day (30 + years).
- Tim demanding that he be healed of migraines: He has never had another (10 years).
- Cathy realizing she had faith to be healed after she got sick, but then believing God to not get sick in the first place; not accepting the “inevitable”.
- Cathy speaking to her lifelong chronic headaches: “Be removed and cast into the sea, and the cause of it.” Headaches gone.
- David’s compressed discs in his back healed: Went forward for prayer in a meeting: Original x-ray showed compressed discs; second x-ray confirmed spine to be perfectly normal
- Cathy’s feet healed of plantar faciatis: Speaking the truth about her healing to her feet while she was experiencing horrid pain: The condition completely disappeared.
- Cathy had acute pancreatitis attack which can alter the pancreas; tests later revealed the pancreas to be normal

14. Marriage is about agreement and protection.

15. The family is about protection, mom and dad protect the children physically, emotionally, spiritually

16. Faith is not only for righteousness but also for standing in our authority.

17. The mustard seed parable is used only in two instances

- To describe the Kingdom of God, following the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:13

*And He *said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word.*

Matthew 13:31-32

He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than

all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”

- The kingdom of God, the Gospel, is like a mustard seed, a kernel of the truth of the Gospel, which seems insignificant compared to the deeper truths, which when sown, starts out small, but grows into a large stable tree.
- To describe faith
Matthew 17:20

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

- Because of your unbelief, apistia, for assuredly, I say to you if you have faith as a mustard seed, as a small kernel of truth of the Gospel which you sow by speaking, you will say... and nothing will be impossible to you.)
- Faith is expressed by our words. We are not talking about “blabbing and grabbing”, “confessing and possessing”, etc. We are talking about knowing what our inheritance is based on what Jesus Christ accomplished FOR us and speaking that truth.

Mark 11:13-15

Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.¹⁴ He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And His disciples were listening.

- **Why curse a fig tree?**

(May no one eat of the fruit of self righteousness)

Galatian 2:16

Since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

- The fig leaves represent man’s first attempt to cover his sin, or to make himself acceptable to God.
- **The stunning power of speaking (standing in) the authority of the cross of Christ**

Mark 11:20-24

As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter *said to Him, “Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.” ²² And Jesus *answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him.²⁴ **Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.**