

YOU CAN TAP INTO CHRIST'S HEALING POWER

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Chapter 1

OUR AUTHORITY AND THE ABILITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said in Mark 16:17-18, *“And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”* This is part of the Great Commission that Jesus entrusted us (believers) to fulfill in order to reach a lost and dying world. Signs and wonders are to follow believers. Today in much of Christianity believers are following the signs, instead of the signs following them. It is God's desire to see people raised up, with signs following them. In order for this to happen on a consistent basis Christians need to understand the authority God has given us.

I wish to share with you what we have taught ministers and church leaders throughout the world regarding our God given authority. As they acted upon this teaching, we have received reports of miracles and salvations as villages and cities see Jesus alive. Once we comprehend our God-given authority and work with the Holy Spirit to ensure its application in the physical realm, we too can experience miracles, signs and wonders on a regular basis.

Commencing in 1991- 1993 I was one of the main speakers at the Sowers Ministry annual minister's conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Leaders from India, Nepal, Bhutan and other countries attended the conference. I taught on the subject of authority. During this time only 1/5 or 1% of Nepal's population was considered Christian. Many undeniable miracles happened from the first day of the conference and continued each night. I shared with these leaders how they could exercise authority over sickness and demons. They put this into practice at the conference and continued to do so in their villages and towns seeing a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they put God's word into practice. Miracles, signs and wonders were happening all over Nepal as Jesus was preached.

When I traveled back there years later to speak at a conference in 1999, I found that the statistics had changed. Now 3% of Nepal was considered Christian. I asked how this change came about. I was told it is because of all the miracles that Jesus is doing in Nepal. Miracles have become a regular occurrence in Nepal. John 6:2 says, *“Then a great multitude followed Him (Jesus), because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.”* Jesus' miracles drew many people to Himself. It is no different today. Hebrews 13:8 says, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”*

MAN'S GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY

Genesis 1:26-28 says, *“And God said, let us make **man in our image**, after **our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth **and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth**. So God created He Him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”*

The word likeness in the Hebrew means an exact duplication in kind. Here it states that man was made in God's image to have dominion, to rule, to be the ruler and reign over the earth, over every living thing. Psalm 115:16 says, "*the heavens, even the heavens are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men.*" In the beginning God gave man the authority to rule over the earth. Many humanists would like to say the earth and animals have dominion and priority over mankind. They say save the whales and kill the unborn. That is not what God said in the beginning. Mankind was given dominion over everything on this earth. God will never retract His word or His covenant with man. He has magnified HIS WORD ABOVE HIS NAME (see Psalm 138:2). In Psalm 89:34 God says, "*My covenant I will not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.*" He gave the earth to mankind.

Some Christians take the sovereignty of God too far and feel that they are to just sit back let God do it all. They also think that whatever happens in life, good or bad, is God's will, since He is sovereign. This reduces Christianity to the same level as Islam or Hinduism, believing that whatever happens in this life good or bad is Allah's will or your karma in life. The bible clearly shows us God has always worked through a person to get His job done. God is looking for people who will do their part and rise up and walk in the authority He has given them.

Some might say, "*If God is really in control, why is there so much poverty, murder, death, famine, and a multitude of other morbid happenings in the world? Surely if God is in control, or real, He would stop this.*" He will only take control if we give Him the right to! **He gave earth to mankind!** If the earth is in the throes of disaster, **it is not God's fault. It is mankind's!** The earth was given to mankind along with the authority to bring good or evil into this world. Despite possessing this authority, evil men give place to and have the aid of demon spirits (to do evil), just as Christians have the Holy Spirit/ God (to do good) to carry out their God given authority.

One needs to realize the earth was given to mankind and if good things are to happen we need to do our part to work in partnership with God the Holy Spirit to bring about good. When one realizes he has his part to do and God will work with him to change things then one will quit getting beat up in this life with everything the enemy throws their way.

In Ephesians 2:1-3 the apostle Paul comments on evil men, or many of us before we came to Christ, and how we gave control and were controlled by evil spirits to carry out their plans. "*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*" These verses show us how one can give their authority over to evil spirits to carry out their will, to do evil. God is not the author of evil occurrences done in this world. He gave the earth to mankind to do good or evil. It's man's choice! Many in this world, are being used by the enemy like puppets to carry out evil on the earth. God is not doing this evil, nor is it His will for these things to happen.

In Matthew 16:19 Jesus says, "*And I will give you the keys to of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind (Greek -forbid) on earth will be bound (Forbidden) in heaven, and whatever you loose (Greek – allow) on earth will be loosed (allowed) in heaven.*" If negative things are happening on earth, Christians have the authority to bring about positive change. In this verse Jesus is talking of changing the spiritual atmosphere to see permanent change in the physical realm. If we can affect the Spiritual realm we can see numerous miracles in the physical realm. Spirit filled Christians have the authority and the power of the Holy Spirit to change circumstances. We will deal with this concept at length in the chapter on "**Setting the Spiritual Atmosphere for the miraculous.**"

In the beginning Satan came in the form of a serpent (see Gen 3:1) "creeping upon the earth." Adam was given authority over everything that crept upon the earth (see Gen 1:26). Instead Adam succumbed to Satan's lies and gave his authority over to Satan. Satan then became the "**god or the ruler of this world.**" (See 2 Cor.4: 3-4). Mankind and the earth were cursed because of sin (disobedience). Poverty,

sickness, demon infestation, death and all forms of evil began to take place after Adam's fall (see Genesis 3:16-19). Deuteronomy 28:15-68 goes on to show the many curses that come to mankind when he chooses to walk in disobedience to God.

UNDERSTANDING HOW AUTHORITY WORKS

*“Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue. Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, Lord do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. Therefore I **did not even think myself worthy to come to You.** But say the word, and my servant, **will be healed.** For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go’ and he goes; and to another ‘come’ and he comes; and to my servant ‘do this’ and he does it. When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed him. ‘I say to you, **I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**’ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick” (Luke 7:1-10).*

Here we see three areas of authority that the centurion understood. Jesus commented that his understanding of authority was the greatest example of faith he had ever seen. Let's look at these three areas to understand how faith and authority operate.

First **the centurion gave Jesus authority to heal** his servant. Most of the time Jesus did not pursue people to heal them. People pursued Him and gave him the authority to heal them or a loved one. Some people think if we have all this authority and power to heal people then why don't we empty out hospitals? It's really quite easy to understand, in most situations we have not been given the authority to pray for the sick in hospitals. In some of our campaigns people have been brought to our campaigns from hospitals to pursue the healing power of Jesus. In these cases Jesus through the Holy Spirit was faithful to heal these people.

Another aspect of authority revealed in this story was that this man, in order **to operate in authority**, was **under authority**. There are many Christians wanting to operate in authority, but unwilling to be under authority. They don't feel they have to be accountable to anyone, except God. They will never fully operate in authority without learning the importance of being under authority. God puts people in our life to be accountable to and to help us grow in authority. (see also John 19:10-11, Romans 13:1-2, 1 Peter 5:5, Hebrews 13:7, 17, 10:25).

The Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have a divine authority structure. Jesus was under the authority of the Father to do His will. In John 6:38 He said, *“For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the **will of Him who sent Me.**”* Notice what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13-14. *“However when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will **not speak of His OWN AUTHORITY**, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for **He will take what is Mine** and declare it to you.”*

Lastly the Centurion understood **He had authority**. In order for Christians to rise up and perform the works of Jesus they need to understand every person born on planet Earth has been given authority, but we need the ability of the Holy Spirit to carry out our God given authority. We will share more about this as we proceed. We need to understand that the words we speak have great power. Jesus used His authority to speak this world into existence, and has given us authority with the words we speak. We will talk more about the power of our words in chapter five.

JESUS RESTORED OUR AUTHORITY

1 John 3:8 (amp.) states, “...*the reason the Son of God WAS MADE MANIFEST (VISIBLE) WAS TO UNDO (DESTROY, LOOSEN AND DISSOLVE) THE WORKS THE DEVIL (HAS DONE).*” Jesus is called the second Adam. Everything the first Adam lost when he gave his authority to Satan in the beginning was restored when Jesus defeated Satan at the cross and rose victoriously. After being raised from the dead, Jesus said, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” Then He restored to us our inherent authority. (see Mark 16:15-18, Matthew 28:18-20).

Many claim that Jesus performed miracles, cast out demons because He was God in the flesh, or that He was the divine Son of God, thereby exonerating themselves from the need of walking in the power He did. This is partially true. He was God in the flesh, He was the Son of God, but He did not perform these great miracles as a result of those reasons. That would have been contrary to His word in Genesis 1:26-28. Every person born on Earth was given authority. That is why Jesus had to be born on this Earth to have authority. He performed these miracles because of two reasons; firstly, **He was born on this planet**. Secondly, He was **anointed by the Holy Spirit** to use that authority. We will touch on the second reason some more.

First of all the scripture shows us plainly that He did not operate as God in the flesh while on the earth. Phil. 2:5-7 says, “*let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be **equal with God**: but **made Himself of no reputation** and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*” Here it states He had no problem being God but **made Himself of no reputation with God**. The word **reputation** in the Greek is the word **Kenoo**. It means: Make void, of none effect, laid aside equality with or the form of God, deprive of force, render vain, useless, of no effect, cause a thing to be seen to be empty, hollow. The American Standard Bible says **He laid aside His privileges** as being God. Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of man more than He referred to Himself as the Son of God. The sons and daughters of man are the ones who have authority on this earth according to Genesis 1:26-28 and Psalms 115:16. That is one reason Jesus laid aside His privileges of being God.

Jesus needed more than just being born on the earth to use His authority over the works of the devil. Matthew 3:16-17 shows us the turning point in Jesus’ ministry where the power of God was unleashed upon Him. It says, “*and Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and **lighting upon Him**: and a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” Until the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in Mt. 3:16, there is not one recorded miracle performed by Him. His miracle working power came after the Holy Spirit came upon Him, when He was 30 years old.

If Jesus performed miracles because He was God in the flesh or the Divine Son of God as tradition teaches us, why did He not do miracles before the Holy Spirit descended on Him in Matthew 3:16-17? Surely He was just as much God in the flesh and the Divine Son of God before this event took place. It is because He laid His deity aside when He came to earth as a man, operated in the authority of a man born here, and was anointed by the Holy Spirit to perform miracles. This is the pattern He set for each one of us to follow.

It was at the Jordan River where the Spirit of the Lord came on Jesus and anointed Him to preach and do miracles. After Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit and was in the desert for 40 days He returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee (ref. Luke 4:14). This was when His miracle ministry began. Jesus stood up and said at this time: “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*” (Luke 4:18-20).

Acts 10: 38 shows us how this power came into operation in Jesus’ life and ministry. It says, “*how 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.” A study of the scriptures clearly show Jesus needed to be born on earth and baptized in the Holy Spirit to legally take back our authority, lost to Satan and in order for miracles to flow through Him.

Hebrews 2:14-15 says *“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 the death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”* Jesus had to be a partaker of flesh and blood to do miracles Himself on the earth, then die and rise again to release the body of Christ to do the greater works, and redeem us from the works of the devil.

The same miracle working power Jesus operated in is available to every person born on earth who has made Jesus Lord of their lives. It is not just for Jesus and a few selected followers. 1 John 2:6 says, *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”* Jesus also said in John 14:12 *“most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* What happened when Jesus went to the Father? He sent the same Holy Spirit to earth so we can perform the same miracles today and even greater ones through His name, in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

OUR AUTHORITY IN THREE REALMS

Jesus gave us the use of His name after ascending from Hell. We read in Mark 16:17-18 that we have the use of His name to cast out demons and to heal the sick. Through His name we literally have authority in three realms. Philippians 2:9-11 says about Jesus and His name *“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of those **in heaven**, and of those on **earth**, and of those **under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* The name of Jesus is higher than demons of cancer, blindness, deafness, paralysis, or any other sickness or bondage. We have the use of the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out our God given authority.

Jesus was one who walked in authority. Many when praying for the sick or demonized do not comprehend how to use their authority and the name of Jesus. Many while ministering to the sick have turned it into a prayer meeting thinking praying louder or longer will cause God to answer them. Some who pray are very insecure or lack confidence and because of this see no real results. All we need to do is look at how Jesus prayed for the sick and demonized. He did not lay hands and pray over someone until he wore every hair off the top of their head. He spoke to the sickness and/or demon with authority commanding it to leave. Sickness and/or demons obeyed His command! We can do the same, since we have the same Holy Spirit and the use of the name that is above all names, the name of Jesus.

Once, while teaching Pastors and leaders in Papua New Guinea on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and about their authority, I demonstrated how to use our authority by praying over those ministers needing healing. One minister was deaf since 1976 in one of his ears. As a demonstration of how to use our authority, I laid hands on him and commanded the deaf spirit to leave in the name of Jesus, and his ear to open. He heard instantly! Many others were healed as well. Later I asked these ministers to put into practice what was taught. We saw tremendous results.

Two of these ministers walked into a nearby village, having learned these principles and having been baptized in the Holy Spirit. They met an old man born deaf and mute. Acting upon their faith and authority, they rebuked the deaf and mute spirit, taking authority over it in Jesus’ name and the man heard and spoke instantly. These ministers are just two of many ministers who have seen these results as they put into practice this message. You can have signs and wonders following also as you act upon the word, and use the authority God has instilled within us who are born on planet earth (which means all of mankind) and have come into partnership with the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus.

DUAL MEANING OF POWER

There are two Greek words used in the New Testament for **power**. The first Greek word for power is **EXOUSIA**, which means authority, privilege, right, liberty, jurisdiction and strength. The other word is **DUNAMIS**, which means mighty work, strength, miracle, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature and power for performing miracles. **Dunamis** is also the root of the word dynamite. By understanding these words we can see the power God gave us in Genesis 1:26-28. We can also understand why we need the Holy Spirit to carry out that authority. Let's look at these words in different passages.

Exousia is used by Jesus in Luke 10:19 He says "*Behold, I give you the **authority (Exousia)** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power (Dunamis)** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*" The word authority here is **EXOUSIA**, the authority we were given in Genesis 1:26-28.

The best example of this kind of authority and power would be of a police officer directing traffic at a busy intersection. That police officer is given the power or authority to direct traffic. Let's say a driver does not want to stop his truck when the officer signals him to do so. Could that officer physically stop this truck? Of course not! The truck would flatten him if he tried to do that. He would have to move out of its way. The officer you could say had the exousia, but not the dunamis. That is where the power of the law comes in and **the laws** of that land **are enforced!** The trucker is arrested and made to **pay the penalty for his crime.**

In and of ourselves we cannot carry out our authority. Just like the officer, in the above example has authority to direct traffic, but he does not have the power to stop the truck; so we have the authority but need the power (dunamis) of the Holy Spirit to enforce our authority. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 "*But you shall receive **power (dunamis)** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witness** (Greek- **someone who verifies his testimony with an exhibition of evidence, something evidential, with proof, vouch for, prove, guarantee, bears witness by death and martyr)** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" Here the word for power is different. It literally means **miraculous ability**. When we are in partnership with the Holy Spirit, He gives us the ability to carry out our God given authority through His **mighty power**. He is the miracle worker.

Notice the Greek word for **witness!** Someone who has the ability to **back their testimony** of Jesus Christ with **miracles** just like the early church did in the book of Acts. The word **witness** is used time and time again in the book of Acts and it referred to someone who had the power of the Holy Spirit to **demonstrate by miracles the resurrection of Jesus Christ**. After Jesus was raised from the dead He gave us the Great Commission, which included casting out demons and laying hands on the sick to see them recover. What better way to **prove** He is alive, than to have the same miracles He performed occurring today?

THE FIRST DEMON CAST OUT BY JESUS

Lets take a look at the first demon Jesus cast out to learn something about authority. "*Then they went to Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He **TAUGHT** them as one **HAVING AUTHORITY (exousia)**, and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying 'let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are- **THE HOLY ONE OF GOD!**' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!' And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine (teaching) is this? For **WITH AUTHORITY (exousia)** He commands even the unclean spirits, and **they obey Him.**' And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee" (Mark 1:21-28).*

Jesus taught and cast out demons with authority (exousia) and confidence. The people were amazed at the authority in which Jesus operated. Some are of the opinion that to minister with confidence and authority is prideful. Jesus was the perfect example of someone who walked in Humility, (another teaching in itself) which also gave Him the confidence and authority to operate the way He did. There is no insecurity or lack of confidence when we operate in true biblical humility.

I also want to bring your attention to something very strange. Notice what the unclean spirit said to Jesus. *“Did you come to destroy us? **I know who you are- THE HOLY ONE OF GOD.**”* Think about it! Why would a demon let everyone know that Jesus was the Holy One of God? Demons are not ones to glorify Jesus. This demon thought he had the legal right to stay in this man and Jesus legally could not do anything about it because He was God in the flesh. Remember Jesus stripped Himself of his deity when He came to earth operating as the son of a man (ref. Phil. 2:6-8). He was born on earth and had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This demon forgot to take these things into account.

Personally I believe this demon said that, because he knew God had given authority to mankind to rule and reign on this earth and mankind had given his authority over to Satan who had become the god or ruler of this world (see 2 Corinthians 4:3-4). He knew that God had given authority and the earth to mankind (ref. Psalms 115:16). He knew God could not operate or go contrary to His word in Genesis 1. Man was given the authority on earth, not God. God had to operate through a man to use his authority or power. In order for good men to carry out their authority and to operate in miracles or healings on the earth they need the help of the Holy Spirit. It is quite similar for evil men and women. Many work in partnership with evil spirits to do evil things. Each person has his or her own free will. Who they yield to is their choice, whether to God to do good or demons to do evil. For the most part, for God or evil spirits to have authority on the earth, they work through those who are born on this planet and will willingly submit to them to do their bidding. Jesus, God in the flesh was born on this earth. He could legally operate in the authority He gave man in the beginning of time. This caught this demon off guard.

Through God’s word we can see that we are to be dependent on the Holy Spirit to carry out our authority. We also realize that God needs men and women yielded to the Holy Spirit to carry out His plan on the earth. We need to be in partnership with the Holy Spirit to carry out God’s plan on the earth.

Every person born on earth has authority, including Jesus, who was born in the flesh. 1 John 4:3 says *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus **Christ (Greek -the anointed one) has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of Anti-Christ which you heard was coming and already is in the world.*** Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one, came in the flesh, stripped Himself of His deity and came as the Son of man enabling him to use the **authority (Exousia)** God gave man in the beginning of time along with the **power (dunamis)** of the Holy Spirit to destroy the works of the devil.

It is God’s desire for His people to understand the authority He has given us, in order to lay an unshakable foundation, out of which miracles will flow. When the Body of Christ comes into this understanding, towns, states, and countries will experience a great influx of souls coming to Christ. Therefore let us arise and take hold of the authority we were destined to walk in, since Christ defeated Satan and restored our authority.