

## SONS WITH AUTHORITY

- A. Introduction: We have been talking about our authority as sons of God in connection with a larger discussion of the kingdom of God. We want to continue our discussion in this lesson.
1. God made men in His image and likeness. The Lord reigns and He created men with the capacity to reign as He does. God made men to reign and rule as His under rulers on this earth. Gen 1:26
    - a. Ps 8:4-6--What was weak man that thou shouldest make mention of him? Or the son of the earthborn that thou shouldest set him in charge (Rotherham)? For thou hast made him but a little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honour (RV). You gave him authority over Your creation, making everything subservient to him (Harrison).
      1. The Bible begins and ends with God reigning through men who exercise dominion on this earth. Rev 5:10; 22:3-5
      2. One of the blessings of becoming God's son or daughter through faith in Christ is the ability to reign in this life. Rom 5:17--Reign as kings. (Amp)
    - b. Because we are born of God we have authority to reign in this life. Authority is delegated power.
      1. A policeman has authority or delegated power. He has no power in and of himself to stop traffic. Yet traffic stops because drivers recognize the power of the government which the policeman represents.
      2. The value of the authority depends upon the force or power behind the one who is authorized. Our authority is backed by the power of God.
  2. We need authority because we have an enemy, an adversary (Satan) who desires to destroy what God loves as he seeks to oppose God. I Pet 5:8; Eph 6:12; Eph 2:2
    - a. All the hell and heartache in this earth is ultimately traceable back to the devil as the first rebel in the universe, as the one who successfully enticed Adam and Eve to disobey God. Isa 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-19; Gen 3:1-6
      1. Adam's sin brought a curse on this earth (Gen 3:17-19; Rom 5:12) which altered the natural laws, resulting in killer storms, deadly earthquakes, droughts, famines, disease germs, etc. Because of Adam's sin our bodies are now subject to sickness, weakness, and aging.
      2. When Adam sinned he turned his God-given authority over to Satan who became the god of this world (Luke 4:6; II Cor 4:4). The devil and his demons are actively act work influencing the hearts and minds of men to keep them blinded to the reality of God and His kingdom and to motive them to continue to act in ways contrary to God.
    - b. Jesus came to earth and went to the Cross to restore to men the dominion and authority that was lost in the fall of man in Adam.
      1. In His earth ministry Jesus showed us how men of authority live -- how we can potentially live because we have authority.
      2. Through His death, burial, and resurrection Jesus made it possible for us to be born again and become world overcomers by birth, men and women of authority. I John 5:4
    - c. The authority we have been given does not mean that we can stop or remove all the troubles and hardships of life (John 16:33). It means that like Jesus we can exercise authority over the devil and his demons and the conditions they produce through manipulating the minds of men and the circumstances on this earth.
- B. Authority is delegated power. The fact that we have authority means that God has authorized us to use His power to rule and reign over the power of the enemy.
1. In Eph 1:16-19 the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to pray for Christians. One of the things Paul prayed was that they would know the exceeding greatness of God's power toward believers. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.
    - a. At the Cross Jesus died for us as us and He submitted to the dominion of death and him who has

the power of death, the devil. His resurrection was opposed by all the powers of darkness.

Rom 6:9; Heb 2:14; Col 2:15

1. Because of the tremendous opposition, the resurrection of Jesus involved the greatest display of the power of God ever.
2. Eph 1:19--The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use four Greek words to describe the power demonstrated in the resurrection: power (DUNAMEOS), working (ENERGEIAN), mighty power is literally the strength (KRATOUS) of His might (ISCHOUS).
- b. God's power was so great that it brought Jesus out of death, hell, and the grave and set Him at the Father's right hand -- a position of authority far above all power, might, dominion, and "any title of sovereignty that can be named." (NEB) Eph 1:20,21
2. Jesus went to the Cross for us as us. He took our place and, in a legal act, satisfied the claims of Justice against us for our sin. In the mind of God, from the standpoint of Justice, Jesus' death was our death, His burial was our burial, and His resurrection was our resurrection.
  - a. Eph 1:19,20 and Eph 2:1 is all one thought. From v20 "and set him..." to the end of v 23 is a parenthesis. The same verb is used for raising Christ from the dead and for making us alive who were dead in sins. The same act that raised Christ from the dead raised us, too -- from the standpoint of God.
  - b. Eph 2:5,6 says that we were raised up with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father. To be seated with Christ in heavenly places means we have been given the same position of authority Jesus has.
  - c. All of this was done for us, for the church. Eph 1:22--And has set him up as head of everything for the church. (Phillips)
    1. That's why Jesus can say: All authority is given to Me -- now you go! (Matt 28:18,19). The Head exercises His authority through His body, the church.
    2. Jesus has shared His authority with us. Authority is delegated power. The power that backs us is the power that raised Christ from the dead, the power that has already conquered the devil -- all his forces and all his works.
3. As wonderful as all of this is, there is more to it. Jesus took our place at the Cross and by paying for our sins and rising from the dead He has given us a legal right to exercise His authority -- just as a policeman has the legal right to exercise his authority with the backing of the government..
  - a. But, policemen are not sons of the government. The Cross of Christ made possible the new birth which makes us sons of God by birth. As sons we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. His position, His authority, is our position, our authority. I John 5:1; Rom 8:17; etc.
    1. Through the new birth we have union with Christ, a living, vital union of our spirit with His Spirit. We are joined to Christ as truly as a branch is to a Vine. I Cor 6:17; John 15:5; etc.
    2. Through the new birth we have become partakers of the uncreated life and nature of God. God is in us by His life. We are members of Christ. I John 5:11,12; II Pet 1:4; I Cor 6:15
  - b. You face the devil and his works in union with the One who defeated him in earth ministry and in His resurrection victory and you are authorized to speak in His name and wield His power.
- C. As Christians we are supposed to live and walk even as Jesus lived and walked. Jesus said that those who believe on Him are to do the works that He did. I John 2:6; John 14:12
  1. In Mark 16:17,18 Jesus gave a list of the kinds of things those who believe on Him are to do.
    - a. Cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, drink deadly things without harm, lay hands on the sick.
    - b. One quick note about take up serpents and drink deadly things. A lot of silly stuff has been done in the name of that provision. It is a promise of protection from deadly things in this earth because we have dominion over them -- like Paul shaking off a poisonous snake. Acts 28:3-5
  2. In John 14:9-14 Jesus explained how those who believe on Him will do the works He did.

- a. In v13,14 Jesus said whatever we ask in His name He would do. This is not a “prayer” verse in the sense of us asking Jesus to do something for us.
  1. Jesus said in John 16:23,24 that when we pray to ask God for something we are to ask the Father in Jesus’ name and the Father will do it.
  2. These verses in John 14 do not mention the Father. Jesus said He will do what we ask.
- b. The word ask is used a number of ways in the New Testament -- including to demand something due. Look how the word is used elsewhere in scripture.
  1. Luke 23:23--But they were insistent and urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed -- accomplished their purpose. (Amp); Luke 12:48--They will require and demand the more. (Amp)
  2. Acts 3:14--You demanded the release of a murderer. (Rieu); Acts 13:21--And when, after a while, they demanded a king. (20<sup>th</sup> Cent); Acts 13:28--And yet demanded his execution from Pilate. (20<sup>th</sup> Cent)
- c. These verse in John 14 are not talking about demanding something from God. The word ask is used in the context of doing the works of Jesus -- what you demand of devils and disease
  1. We have an example of how this works in Acts 3:1-8. Peter and John encountered a lame man begging at the temple. When the man asked alms of them, Peter said he had no silver or gold, but that he would give what he had.
  2. Peter then commanded the man to walk in the name of Jesus and the man was healed. Peter had authority. He was authorized to do the works of Jesus.
  3. Peter knew he was acting in Jesus’ place with the same authority Jesus had. Peter did what Jesus would have done if He were there. Peter set a captive free by the power of God.
3. How did Peter do what he did at the temple that day? We find out in John 14:12 where Jesus said that those who believe on Him can do His works. Notice the context.
  - a. In answer to a request that Jesus show them the Father, Jesus said: If you’ve seen me you’ve the Father because the Father in me does the works. v10
    1. Jesus in His humanity had no more power to heal than anyone else. It was the Father in Him who did the work.
    2. The power of the Father healed people and set people free as Jesus spoke His Father’s words His Father in Him did the work.
  - b. It is in this context that Jesus said: You’ll do the same works I do as you speak my words. I in you will do the works through you just as the Father in me does the works through me as I speak.
  - c. At the Gate Beautiful Jesus the Head worked or exercised His power through Peter the hand.
4. John 14:13,14--Jesus said to those who believe on Him, whatever they demand in His name He will do.
  - a. Believers have the use of the name of Jesus. His name is not a magic charm. It is like power of attorney. The right to use the name of Jesus means we have the right to act representatively, to act in His place.
    1. The fact that we are authorized to use His name means we are authorized to speak for Jesus and act for Jesus as He would in the situation. And, He has promised that when we do so, He by His power will do what we demand in His name.
    2. Authority means you have permission to act for another. Our authority includes the right to use Jesus’ name to do His works.
  - b. We tend to use the name of Jesus religiously -- like a religious charm. Consider this point:
    1. You can act in the name of Jesus without actually speaking His name. You can speak His name and not act in His name.
    2. It’s not the word itself but the power, authority, and person signified by that name -- and our faith in Him and His power in us.
5. There is a prayer that makes much power available. James 5:16--The earnest (heart-felt, continued)

prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available -- dynamic in its working. (Amp)

- a. In context, that prayer is the prayer of faith (James 5:15). Elijah is given as an example of a man who prayed a prayer of faith, a prayer which produced results. I Kings 17:1
  1. Elijah did not ask God to do something when he prayed. He commanded that it not rain "these coming years unless I give the word." (NEB). Elijah spoke or commanded according to the word of the Lord (Lev 26:19,20; Deut 28:23,24).
  2. The implication is that Elijah knew he was authorized to speak or command in this way and he believed that what he said would come to pass. That is called prayer which releases power.
- b. That is consistent with what Jesus showed and taught about prayer and faith in Mark 11:12-24.
  1. Jesus spoke to the fig tree. His disciples heard Him. What Jesus said came to pass. The tree was dead by the next day. Notice, this is similar to what Elijah did. Jesus didn't ask God to do something. He spoke or issued a command.
  2. In Mark 11:24 the word desire is the same Greek word translated ask in John 14:13,14 where Jesus said whatever you demand in my name I will do.
- c. In Mark 11:24 we are told that we must believe that what we demand will come to pass. How can you believe that? If you understand authority and how it works.
  1. The prayer of faith makes much power available. The prayer of faith is not asking God to do something. It is doing what He has authorized us to do.
  2. We are authorized to exercise dominion in this earth. It is done through issuing commands in the name of the Lord. It is done through speaking the word of God. It is done through faith, through believing that what you say will come to pass.
- d. That is how Jesus worked in His earth ministry. He issued commands in the name of His Father because He was authorized to destroy the works of the devil.
  1. Rise up and walk (Matt 9:6); demon, come out (Mark 1:25); peace be still (Mark 4:39); fever go (Luke 4:39); Lazarus come forth (John 11:43); maid arise (Mark 5:41); etc.
  2. Jesus believed that what He said would come to pass because He knew His Father in Him would do the work by His power.

- D. Conclusion: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and we continue His works by His power in His name. Through union with Christ we exercise an authority to which the power of the air must submit. Jesus, the head, works through His body.
1. We, as sons of God, are authorized to do His works by His power in us. God has authorized us to speak His word of power to bring the reign of God into our situation.
  2. Authority is released or exercised through words. You must get your mouth under control. You must believe that when you speak the power of God goes to work
  3. We have to take time to think on these things and let the reality of these provisions dawn on us so that when we speak and act in the name of Jesus we are not parroting a religious cliché, we are exercising our authority as sons through faith in the name and the power it represents. More next week!!