

Spiritual Authority

Prepared by Roderick Belin for Insight

And Jesus came up and spoke with them saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

What is Authority? Authority is the power to enforce obedience.

- Luke 7:8 – “For I, too, am a man 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.”

Where does Authority come from? Authority comes from God.

- Romans 13:1 – Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Why does God give Authority? Authority is given to us so we will be empowered to advance the Kingdom of God.

- Luke 9:1-2 – And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God, and to perform healing.

God is Spirit

- Genesis 1:2 - In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
- John 4:24 - God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’

We are Spirit

- Genesis 2:7 - then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

God’s Authority is Absolute.

- Job 42:1-2 – Then Job answered the Lord, and said, “I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted.”
- Romans 13:1 – Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Jesus' Authority is Complete.

- John 17:1-2 – These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life.”
- Taught with Authority Mark 1:21-28
- Authority to Forgive Sins Matthew 9:1-8
- He is the image of the invisible God... it was the Father’s good pleasure for the fullness to dwell in Him... Colossians 1:15-20

God Gives Us a Share in His Authority.

- God gave us dominion over the earth. Genesis 1:28; 2:15
- Gave us naming rights. Genesis 2:18-19
- Men and Women and Authority Genesis 1:26 and Genesis 2:21-25
- Matthew 9:8 – But when the multitudes saw this, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.
- Mark 6:7 – And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs; and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits;
- Matthew 10:1 – And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- Luke 9:1-2 – And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God, and to perform healing.

Authority Questioned

- First Humans - Genesis 1:15-17
- Ungodly People– Genesis 6:5 Noah and the Ark every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually
- Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:4
- Job 38 ff.
- Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 4
- Chief Priests and Elders – Matthew 21:23
- False Teachers – 2 Peter 2:10

Authority and Worship

- Noah worshiped God – Genesis 8:20-22
- Abraham worshiped God – Genesis 12:7
- Nebuchadnezzar worshiped(?) God – Daniel 4
- David worshiped God – 1 Chronicles 21:18-30
- Worship is *also* the recognition/acknowledgment of the absolute authority of God.
- Yes, worship is love, adoration, estimation, bestowal of value, ascriptions of worth, significance, it is this marvelous transference of the glory of the Creator to us, His creatures. Worship is our response to the absoluteness of God. God is... This is why He named Himself, I am that I am. He is All-Being and All-Sufficiency.

Authority and Responsibility

- And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’
Matthew 28:18-20

Authority and Healing

- Mark 6:7 – And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs; and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits;
- Matthew 10:1 – And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- Luke 9:1-2 – And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God, and to perform healing.
- Acts 3:1 – 4:31
- Acts 5:12-16

Authority comes through relationship

- Matthew 7:22
- John 15
- Acts 8:18-19

Authority comes through obedience

- Philippians 2:5-16

Authority is in the Name of Jesus!

- John 14:14
- Philippians 2:5-16