**Authority and Power Series – Part 3**

**Authority of the Believer**

**March 29, 2020**

1. **What is a believer?**
2. **A believer is not someone who gives mental ascent to the truths in the Bible. James 2:19 says that demons believe in this way, and shudder, but are not saved.**
3. **A believer confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and is saved. Romans 10:9, 10**
4. **A believer acts upon the Word of God and trusts in, clings to and relies on Jesus Christ and the Word of God.**
5. **A believer’s life aligns to the Word of God. James 1:22-24**
6. **“These signs shall follow those that believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover”. Mark 16:17-18**
7. **“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. And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”**
8. **A believer is one who takes seriously the words of Jesus and with all of their soul wants to live in them, without excuse.**
9. **The Early Church was made up of believers, and their faith turned their generation upside down.**
10. **God has given the Church authority and power**
11. **We are seated in Christ in the heavenly places Ephesians 2:6**
12. **Hell cannot overcome the Church. “I say that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and that the gates of Hades will not overpower it”. Matthew 16:18**

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1. **Fact: Though Satan is defeated, he must be thrown out. It is like a landlord who has a tenant whom he has evicted who refuses to leave and won’t leave until the sheriff shows up and throws him out of the apartment. Demons have to be cast out and kept out. They must be made to comply**
2. **We have been given the power to bind and to loosen. “ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind ( forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful on earth will have already been bound in heaven: and whatever you loosen (permit, declare lawful) on earth will have already been loosed in heaven”. Matthew 16:19 Amplified Bible**
3. **This is a manifestation of “Thy Kingdom come, They will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!” Matthew 6:10.**
4. **He has given us the power to bind the strong man and spoil his goods. Matthew 12:29**
5. **He has given us authority and power over all the power of Satan’s kingdom. “Behold I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing will injure you. Luke 10:19**
6. **You are involved in a warfare between two kingdoms. God’s and Satan’s**
7. **Non-involvement is not an option. You cannot be a conscientious objector in this battle. The believer who is a non-combatant get devoured by Satan and have their faith stolen.**
8. **The fight involves:**
9. **Wrestling with the kingdom of darkness. Ephesians 6:12**
10. **Casting Out demons**
11. **Your being constantly equipped in the whole armor of God. Ephesians 6:13-17**
12. **Casting Down attacks against your mind and thoughts and renewing your mind. II Corinthians 10:3-5, Romans 12:1-2**
13. **Resisting the devil. James 4:7 and I Peter 5:9**
14. **The Church is called to be on the offensive, not defensive in this war. Matthew 16:18**
15. **You are called to overcome the evil one. I John 2:13-14**
16. **Jesus disarmed and defeated Satan**
17. **He came to heal all who were oppressed of the devil. Acts 10:38**
18. **The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8**
19. **He stripped him of the keys of Hell and death. Revelation 1:18**
20. **He placed him under His feet.**
21. **He is the greater One who lives in His church. I John 4:4**
22. **The Early Church understood and believed all of this. They were not hesitant in advancing the kingdom.**
23. **They were the fulfillment of what Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, “The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.”**
24. **They took the authority that Jesus had given them. Matthew 28:19**
25. **They took dominion over sickness and disease without hesitation, just like Jesus did Acts 5:16**
26. **They did the works that Jesus did, and even greater works (Peter’s shadow healing people (Acts 5:15) and Paul sending cloths and people being healed and delivered of demons (Acts 19:11)**
27. **Why don’t we see what they saw?**
28. **You have not because you ask not. James 2**
29. **We have been trained in doubt and unbelief. The Word of God does not take preeminence in our thinking.**
30. **We do not expect to see the works of God done in our day. Or we see them as random, haphazard occurrences, (like the angel stirring the water in the pool).**
31. **Lack of persistent faith. Woman with the unjust judge faith Luke 19:1-8, Friend who bothers you to borrow bread at midnight faith, Luke 11:1-13**
32. **Lack of recognition of what God considers abnormal, and an enemy. Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil. Some churches teach that God puts or allows sickness on his children to teach them something. How can you have faith and confidence in the goodness of God or His willingness to heal anyone if you believe this?**
33. **Lack of understanding about the nature and compassion of God that compelled Him to heal people through Jesus and the Early Church. Is He any less compassionate in our day? Does he care less about the sick?**
34. **Preaching a salvation that undoes the works of the devil where sin is concerned but not where sickness and disease or demonic oppression is concerned. Salvation for the spirit but less so for the soul and body.**
35. **Fear of man. People will think that I have become a fanatic if I really do what Jesus said to do.**
36. **Fear of failure. What happens if I pray for people and nothing happens? If you do not expect that something will happen where is your faith? What happens if they do get healed?**
37. **Indifference to the things of the Spirit. No hunger for more of God. Being satisfied with your Christian experience just where it is.**
38. **God is not going to make you move in His authority and power or use His gifts. You are to eagerly desire them. They are the means through which He displays His presence, power and authority.**
39. **Lack of knowledge of what the word of God teaches about the authority given to the Church to heal the sick, cast out demons, pray prayers of faith that pulls down demonic strongholds over people and nations. When is the last time that you heard a sermon about healing or miracles that challenged you to expect them and step out and do them.**
40. **Acts 3. Peter did not hesitate to heal the lame man at the gate of the temple. Why? It is clear from what he said. He said, “such as I have, I give to you.”**
41. **Peter remembered during their training in Luke 9 and Matthew 10:8, when Jesus sent out the twelve and said for them to “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**
42. **The Church is called to know the Will of God and boldly walk it out.**
43. **We are to know the will of God in these matters**
44. **If He did not want us to walk in His authority and power, why give us the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus.**
45. **Why give the church gifts of authority and power. I Corinthians 12:7-10**
46. **Why give us example after example in the New Testament, which build expectation and faith in us, and then take away His power after the apostolic age?**
47. **God’s will is contained in His Word**
48. **If God doesn’t want to do something, why have it written down?**
49. **Romans 12:2 says that I am to be transformed by the renewing of my mind so that I can know, what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.**
50. **Ephesians 5:10 puts the responsibility on me to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**
51. **I John 5:14,15 says, “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**
52. **How can we come boldly unto the throne of grace, if we do not know what His will is because it is some mystery that is hidden from us?**
53. **When Jesus told us to pray, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” That prayer presupposes that the will of God can be known and acted out by the Church.**
54. **Jesus prayed and found the Father’s specific will in a situation and then acted upon it.**
55. **Our limited prayer life and unfamiliarity with His voice cause us not to know His specific will in a given situation.**
56. **He said that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him.**
57. **This all destroys the faith destroying prayer, “If it be Thy will?”**
58. **Why didn’t Peter ask the Father, “If it be thy will”, before healing the lame man in Acts 3?**
59. **Why did they heal all of the sick that came to them with diseases like Jesus did, if they did not know that healing is the will of God**
60. **If any of the aforementioned hindrances are in you, GET RID OF THEM!**
61. **Be honest and seek God and repent of unbelief or any other thing that hinders your prayers and action.**
62. **Decide that you want to live in New Testament Christianity instead of the least common denominator Christianity that we currently practice and accept.**