



**Sunday, 29 July 2012**  
**BELIEVER's AUTHORITY**  
**Ps Stephen Bennie**

## Understanding Authority

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### Authority in Daily Life

- (1) Authority is often vested or placed upon an individual, giving that person certain rights and privileges. For example, the police officer is given authority by the government to enforce certain laws. If the police officer finds a person violating certain laws, and if the law deems it, the officer has the right to hand cuff the individual, or jail the person, etc. etc.
- (2) The person given authority has the right to influence the actions or decisions of those under that authority.
- (3) The exercise of authority is not always dependent on the individuals' ability, but is based simply on the merit of the source of that authority. For example, a police officer does not have the physical ability to stop a car. But by the simple raising of the hand, the driver brings the car to a stop, in recognition of the authority vested by the government in the officer.
- (4) In some cases authority is earned by an individual. For example, at your work place, the person who is your manager, most likely worked his/her way up to that position. Due to his/her hard work, capabilities or qualifications, that person has been placed in a position of leadership and responsibility. Authority in this case, is based on that persons' accomplishments.
- (5) There are realms of authority outside of which the person with authority may not have the same level of influence. For example, your manager at your work place has authority over you only within the context of your work at that organization. Your manager does not have the authority to determine how you use the money you earned, or how you spend your vacation, etc.
- (6) In many cases authority is often associated with a "badge" or "symbol" of authority. For example a police officer is recognized when he is in uniform. If the same individual went about in civilian clothes, it is unlikely that other people will recognize or respect his authority.
- (7) Authority can go unused. For example, when a police officer sees a troubled situation the officer may choose not to step in and intervene. Or in some other cases, a police officer passing by, may not even know that there is a problem situation that needs help. In both cases, either due to deliberate inaction or a lack of knowledge, the police officer's authority was not used to help with the situation.

### The spirit World Recognizes Authority

Two kingdoms Acts 26:18, Colossians 1:13

God's Kingdom rules over all John 4:24a Psalm 24:10 Psalm 103:19

### The Influence Of The Two Kingdoms On Earth

The two spiritual kingdoms have their influence and extend their dominion on the earth. Here are some facts concerning these two kingdoms, specifically in relation to authority:

- (a) Every human person belongs to one of these two kingdoms. You either belong to the



Kingdom of Light or the kingdom of darkness. There is no in-between territory. (Ephesians 5:8)

- (b) There is delegated authority invested in the “citizens” of each kingdom. You can act as an agent or “ambassador” of the kingdom you belong to. (2 Corinthians 5:20, 11:13-15)
- (c) The unseen realm recognizes the spiritual citizenship and the delegated authority each human person is associated with. As believers our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). The Lord knows those who are His (2 Timothy 2:19). Fallen angels – demonic spirits – also know and recognize an individuals’ citizenship. “*And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?”*” (Acts 19:15)
- (d) A person belonging to the kingdom of Light has authority over the works of darkness and can successfully thwart the operation of such activity. However there is proper spiritual protocol (procedures and rules) that must be observed. For example, a believer cannot try to oppose the operation of demonic power in his or her own name. Another example will be that a believer cannot exercise spiritual authority to manipulate or control human will, etc. etc.

### Man Before The “Fall”

Genesis 1:26-28

They were created in the “image” of God. This has at least a two-fold connotation:

- (1) There were characteristics of God that were reproduced in man. The Spirit Filled Life Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991) has the following comments on Genesis 1:26 “Our image likely refers to such qualities as reason, personality, and intellect, and to the capacity to relate, to hear, to see, and to speak. All of these are characteristics of God, which He chose to reproduce in mankind.” In addition mankind was given the ability to create eternal spirits through procreation. This ability was not given to any other creation of God.
- (2) “Image” also refers to “likeness”, “shadow”, “illusion” or “representation”. In other words when all other creation saw man and woman they saw a representation of God on the earth. Man and woman represented God on the earth, and were in a real sense, God’s caretakers on earth. They were divinely appointed and empowered to exercise God’s authority, to execute God’s government, to protect God’s property and were in subjection to Him and Him alone

Psalm 8:3-8

Psalm 8:5 where some translations read: “*For you have made him a little lower than the angels...*”, the Hebrew for “angels” is *Elohim*, meaning God

Psalm 24:1      Psalm 115:16

### At the “Fall”

- (1) Man and woman rejected the authority of God and His kingdom over them. Man therefore became incapable of exercising his God-given authority on the earth. *You cannot exercise delegated authority unless you are in subjection/submission to the one who delegated that authority to you.*
- (2) They placed themselves under the authority of the devil and his kingdom. Prior to “the Fall” mankind was a second only to God in the authority structure, being made a “little lower than God”. After “the Fall”, mankind was placed lower than the fallen angels – satan and his demons.



(3) The authority that God had given to mankind on the earth was now passed on to the devil. Luke 4:5,6

### The Reversal

Philippians 2:5-11 Hebrews 2:14

*In creation mankind represented God. In the Fall mankind lost the ability to represent God on the earth. In the incarnation God represented mankind. Through redemption mankind regained its ability to represent God on the earth.*

## **Lesson 2: Power And Authority**

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In the New Testament there are two important Greek words that are translated “power” and “authority”.

Matthew 10:1, see also Mark 3:15, 6:7, Luke 10:19

The word “power” is the Greek word ‘*exousia*’ (Strong’s #1849) and it refers to ‘authority’, ‘privilege’, ‘delegated authority’, or ‘right’. We exercise ‘exousia’ by using the name of Jesus

Luke 4:14 Luke 5:17, 6:19, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49

The other Greek word also translated “power” is the word ‘*dunamis*’ (Strong’s #1411). ‘Dunamis’ refers to ‘miraculous power’, ‘ability’, ‘strength’ and ‘might’. ‘Dunamis’ as used with reference to miracles, etc. refers to the power of God or divine ability. We receive ‘dunamis’ when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

‘Exousia’ is the right, privilege or authority to use ‘dunamis’.

Luke 10:19

“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.” We God’s people have authority over all of the ability of the enemy. With the authority entrusted to us we can undo the works of the enemy.

### **Use Your Spiritual Authority**

You can make use of the authority you have in Jesus in your personal life, in your family life, in your job, in your finances, and in every dimension of life. When the enemy comes against you or attempts to intrude into your life with his wicked works of sin, sickness, poverty, confusion etc. you can exercise your spiritual authority and oppose his works. You can similarly thwart demonic efforts when they try to intrude into your family, into the life of your children or others in your household. We can use our spiritual authority to help others – to bring the power of Christ’s redemption to their lives. Recognize the authority God has given you in Christ. Exercise it. Use it.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

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**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>