

## **"EXERCISING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY OVER THE DEVIL"**

**TEXT: ST LUKE 10:17-19:** "And the seventy returned again with joy saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

**ASSOCIATED TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:12** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

### **Introduction**

**Today, I want to talk to you about "Exercising Your Spiritual Authority Over The Devil."**

The authority of the believer is unveiled more fully in the Book of Ephesians than any other epistle written to the churches.

We have authority over evil spirits through Jesus Christ. We need to understand what Paul is trying to say to the church.

We need to realize that we have "Spiritual Authority" through Jesus Christ.

Our spiritual warfare with the Devil should always be with the consciousness that we have authority over him, because he is already a defeated foe.

The Lord Jesus Christ defeated him for us over 2000 years..... when He Hung....Bleed ....and Died on Mount Calvary Cross.

However, the Spiritual Authority of the Born Again Believer..... is an aspect of the Christian walk that very few believer know any thing about.

Some believers think that Spiritual Authority over the Devil belongs to only a few chosen people to whom God has given special power.

But, I came by to tell you today, that "Spiritual Authority" belongs to all of the children of God.

We received the Spiritual Authority when we were Born Again into the Family of God.

When we were made new creature in Jesus Christ, we inherit the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we can use our Spiritual Authority against the enemy which is the Devil.

The devil does not..... Want Christians to learn about this authority.

He wants to continue to defeat us in anyway that he can. That is why he will do anything he can to keep you from learning the truth about our Spiritual Authority.

He knows that when we exercise our God given authority his heyday will be over.

**In Ephesians 1:3 it says,** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. "

This means that in Christ all spiritual blessings belong to us.

Spiritual Authority belongs to us whether we realize it or not. **But** just knowing this is not enough. It is knowledge that is acted upon that will bring about results.

We must **exercise** our "Spiritual Authority".

Knowing that we have power..... and not using it will not accomplish any thing. We must exercise and use the God given Authority that God has blessed us with.

**Illustration:** I read a story about a man who was found dead in a small, shabby room that he rented for \$3 a week. He had been a familiar sight on the streets of Chicago for about twenty years, always dressed in rags and eating out of the garbage cans.

One day neighbors became concerned, because they had not seen his for two to three days and they found him dead in bed.

An autopsy revealed that he had died of malnutrition, yet a money belt found around his waist contained \$23,000.

This man lived in poverty, peddling news papers for a living, yet he had money. He could have lived in the finest hotel in town instead of in the little rundown room.

He could have eaten the best food instead of garbage. **But he did not use what belonged to him.**

We need to know what belong to us.

We need to know what Spiritual Authority that we have and we must start exercising it.

**Jesus said in St John 8:32,** "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Many church members have..... Forgotten about God and His Divine Laws.

Many Church members..... Love for God has Waxed Cold.

Many Church members have..... Let Their Lights Go Out.

Many have..... Lose Their Seasoning and Their Salt has lose its Savor.

Many have..... Pull off the Armory of God and now they stand open to all of the Fiery Darts of Satan.

Many have..... Ungirted their Loin which was once girted with the Truth.

Many have..... Pulled of the Helmet of Salvation.

Many have..... Taken off the Breastplate of Righteousness.

Many have.... Casted aside the Shod which Prepared the Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.

Many have..... Thrown down their Shields of Faith..... which is use to fight off the Fiery Darts of the Devil.

And so many have simply just forgotten about ..... their Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

A Lot of Folks..... They don't take time any more to.... read God's Word and apply..... it to their lives.

The saints are in a sad condition.

**Oh yeah!! I can hear Jesus saying....** "Behold I give unto you Power and Authority to tread on Serpents and Scorpions, and over all Power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

**In Isaiah 54:17 the Prophet Isaiah said.....** "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord".

**In 2 Corinthian 10:3-8 the Apostle Paul said.....** [3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every

thought to the obedience of Christ; [6] And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. [8] For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

What Jesus is saying here..... Is that I have given you Authority to tread on the heads of serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.

When speaking about serpents and scorpions, Jesus is talking about the power of the evil, demons and evil spirits.

**We need to realize that we have power and authority over them.**

God is the source of our authority.

He is the power behind our authority.

### **WHAT IS AUTHORITY?**

Authority is delegated power.

Policemen who direct traffic during the rush hour.... just raise their hand and the cars will stop.

These men and women..... don't have the physical power to stop the vehicles.... if the drivers choose not to stop.

And they don't use their own strength to stop traffic..... they use the authority that is Delegated and Invested in them by the government they serve.

People recognize their authority and stop their cars.

**My Brothers and Sisters.....the very day and hour.... that we were Born Again.... and Redeemed.... and Washed in the Blood of the Lamb of God.... The Lord Jesus Christ Delegated and Invested us with Spiritual Authority and Power to conquer the devil.**

**In Ephesians 6:10 the Apostle Paul tells us....** "To be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

**That means that we can step in front of the devil, hold up our anointed hands and tell him to stop and come no closer.**

We need to use our Spiritual Authority.

**In I John 4:4 the Apostle John says,** "Ye are of God, little children and have overcome them in the world: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

SATAN... He is in the world, He is the god of this world and the head of principalities, powers, and the ruler of the darkness of this world.

But the power that is in you is greater than the power in the world, because the power that backs our authority is greater than that which backs our enemies.

### **HOW SHOULD WE DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?**

As long as Satan can keep you in unbelief or hold you in the arena of reason, he will whip you in every battle.

But if you hold him in the Arena of Faith and the Spirit, you will defeat him every time.

He won't argue with you about the Blood of Jesus.

He won't argue with you about the Power in the Name of Jesus.

He's afraid of the Blood of Jesus and he Trembles at the Name of Jesus.

### **We need to stand up and exercise our authority in Jesus Name.**

When Peter was at the Gate called Beautiful he did not pray for the lame man; he demanded that the lame man be healed (Acts 3:6)

**In Acts 3:6** ..... **"Peter said,** Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

### **When you exercise your Spiritual Authority Satan have to obey.**

**In John 14:13-14 the Lord Jesus Christ said.....** "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my Name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

### **"THE KEY TO EXERCISING YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY".**

The key to exercising spiritual authority lay in Jesus being raised from the dead.

Ephesians 1:20-23 "Which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. Far above all principalities, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath

put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church Which is the body, the fullness of him that filleth in all."

**In the mind of God..... we were raised when Christ was raised.**

**All authority that was given to Christ belongs to us through Him and we must exercise that authority.**

When Jesus arose from the dead, he saided "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" **(Matthew 28:18)**

The word power means authority.

The authority was delegated to the church.

Christ is the Head and the Church is the body.

The head cannot exercise any authority anywhere except through the body.

Jesus gave us the same authority that he had.

**In Mark 16:15-18 Jesus saided.....** "Unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe;

In my name shall they 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."

When you lay hand on the sick you are exercising authority over Sickness and the Devil.

**In James 4:7 James says....**"Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

The scripture does not say that the devil will flee from Jesus..... it says resist him ..... And he will flee from you.

FLEE..... means to run from as if in Terror.

**In Matthew 18:18 the Lord Jesus Christ said....** "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**In James 5:14-15 it says.....** "If any sick among you? let him

call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

## **CELEBRATION**

All that Satan has stolen from us.....

We have the authority to reclaim.....

We have the authority to take it back.....

Tell Satan to give you back your Children.

Tell Satan to give you back your Marriage.

Tell Satan to give you back your Stolen Finances.

Tell Satan to give you back your Health.

Tell Satan to give you back your Joy.

Tell Satan to give you back your Peace.

Tell Satan to give you back your Love and Compassionate Spirit.

Tell Satan to give you back your Humble and Forgiving Spirit.

Tell Satan to give you back your Faith.

Tell Satan to give you back your Deliverance and Victory.

Tell Satan to give you back your Testimony.

**Now after you tellem, and he don't**

Take it

Take it

Take it

Take Back Your