

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER
Part I
Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 16:15-20

Introduction: Having credible knowledge of who we are in Christ produces a tenacious confidence in us to do what God asks us to do. We learn quickly in our Christian walk that we cannot live a Godly life on our own. John 1:12. However, with God's unmitigated help we can accomplish anything, even that which is considered impossible. Matthew 17:20, 19:26; Luke 18:27. As we commence this continuum, we will explore the authority that God has imputed to us that enables us to represent our Master successfully. The whole construct of our study will pivot around God's endowment of power and authority to the church.

- I. The believer's authority. Matthew 10:1.
 - A. The ministry of authority (exousia). The right to use His power (dunamis).
 1. The words of Jesus are astonishing when accepted as spoken. They were clear, and they were powerful. Luke 4:32.
 - a. What a challenge it is to accept the words of Jesus just as He spoke them and to follow His example with confidence.
 - b. Power to the believer
 - c. It is generally taught that we are to tell people not to expect anything from us. We tell them, "*Do not look on us, for we don't have anything.*"
 - II. Let's look to see what the early believers had to say about it. Acts 3:1-7. Note, "*...what I do have I give to you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*"
 - A. Could this be part of the reason we get little results when we pray?
 1. God did the miracle, but the power and authority to call the miracle into existence was in Peter as it is in us today. Mark 16:17; Acts 2:39.
 - B. Look on us.
 1. Normally, Christians today would feel that it was all right for Peter to say, "*...look on us,*" but it would not be all right for us to say it. The fact is that believers today have the same power and authority that Peter had. Every believer today may do the same things that the believers did then by acting on Jesus' words now as they acted on them then.
 2. We are filled with the same power that Peter was filled with in Acts 3. We too can say, "*... such as I have, I give to you...*"
 - C. King Herod erroneously thought that Elijah had been raised from the dead because of the miracles. Luke 9:7-8.
 1. Elijah was not raised from the dead, and neither was Moses for that matter. It was ordinary people who had become followers of Jesus Christ. We should not leave healing the sick just to the great men and women of God, but we should operate as the early believers did and let God use us. Mark 16:15-20. Think about it – ordinary people have been given the same power that Elijah or Moses or Daniel had. Mark 16.
 - D. If only Paul were alive.
 1. Many think that if they lived in the day of the apostles or if one of the great miracle workers of the past were here now, we would see miracles. We can do the same as they did today.
 - a. Joshua could compel the sun to stand still.
 - b. David could tear a lion apart.
 - c. The three Hebrew children escaped the heated furnace without a hair singed.
 - d. The apostle John was boiled in oil without harm.
 - E. Strength in weakness
 1. You may say, who am I? Exodus 3:11 (Moses). Isaiah said it (Isaiah 6:5). Jeremiah said it (Jeremiah 1:6). God chooses the foolish things to confound the wise (1st Corinthians 1:27). Jesus even said, "*... I can of Myself do nothing*" (John 5:30). Paul said, "*... when I am weak, then am I strong*" (2nd Corinthians 12:10). Don't go by your senses, walk by faith (2nd Corinthians 5:7).
 2. Hebrews 11:1. Note the promise of Jesus in John 14:12-14.
 3. The natural mind does not comprehend this. 1st Corinthians 2:14.
 - F. Faith is not feeling.
 1. Faith is operating on the fact of God's Word, not our feelings. Jesus said that we should heal the sick, cast out devils, and raise the dead.

Conclusion: There is so much to do and so little time to do it. We are living in the last days, and God is pouring out His Spirit upon the land. There is a sovereign move of God in the earth, and great things are about to happen. All God asks is that we believe and not doubt. I am looking for an intensification of miracles, signs, and wonders in our midst. Expect great things from God, and don't allow contrary evidence to deter you from doing God's will.