

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER
Part II
Luke 9:1-2, 10:19-20

Introduction: Many Christians are myopic when it comes to knowledge of the Word. As a consequence, they exist far below their potential as successful, mandated agents of the Lord's kingdom. It is imperative for us to activate the impervious promises that God has bequeathed to us. With this mandate, it is incongruous for us not to aggressively affect our planet for Christ. We are not "mere men," but anointed, appointed, and empowered men and women who are fully equipped for service. "... with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26.

- I. The authority of the believer
 - A. God has given us the power (dunamis) and the authority (exousia) to use His power to accomplish His work on earth.
 1. Remember that in Part I of this message we observed how Peter displayed the authority to use God's power in Acts 3:1-7. When the lame man reached out to Peter and John for help, Peter replied, "... look at us ... Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." (Read verses 7-9.)
 2. When questioned about this miracle, Peter responded in verses 12 and 15.
 - B. The authority to use God's power for His glory is a spiritual revelation and must be accepted by faith. Please note 1st Corinthians 2:14.
 1. Faith operates on God's Word and not by our human logic or in our strength. It is Jesus who has given us the mandate to heal the sick, to cast out devils, and to raise the dead. Matthew 10:7-8.
 2. You and I have been authorized to do as the early believers did in their day. Mark 16:15-20.
- II. The secret that will bring a great revival
 - A. We must become convinced that we can do what God says that we can do and that we are who God says that we are. We can see a great day of triumphant victory such as was witnessed by the early church.
 1. In the prayer of Jesus, in John 17:18, He says, "... As You have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."
 2. We are not presuming something here – He has sent us. John 15:16. We are ordained, anointed, and appointed to represent Christ throughout the earth.
 3. Jesus revealed to us just what the Father's dream of a son or daughter was. Jesus was the perfect Son. Paul says ... (read Galatians 4:6-7).
 4. We have been authorized to officially stand in for Jesus on earth. We are acting in His stead. 2nd Corinthians 5:20.
- III. The authority that is in the name of Jesus Christ
 - A. Because we operate in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ, we must look at His authority. Philippians 2:9-11.
 1. Beings in all the three worlds – heaven, hell, and earth – are compelled to bow before the all-prevailing, all-powerful Name; then Jesus says that He has equipped and mandated us to use His Name to do exploits. John 14:12-14.
 2. If we believe this, we must begin to act like God's personal ambassadors. Ambassadors never doubt that the country that they represent will back up their word. The very title of their office implies that.
 3. When we act in Christ's stead on earth, God the Father will make good the words of Jesus without fail.
 4. We are heirs of God. Romans 8:16-17. If two persons become heirs to \$1000.00, it does not mean that each receives \$500.00. They both become heirs of the same \$1,000.00. They have a combined inheritance.
 - a. That is why Jesus told the disciples that they would do the same works that He did; not different works. John 14:12-14.
- IV. It is not a question of what I can't do, but what I can do in His Name.
 - A. We all know about human weaknesses and failures. We need to begin to practice what Jesus says that we can do, and attempt the impossible.
 1. The world is desperately waiting for us to lead them into deliverance.

Conclusion: While the bible predicts that "perilous times shall come" (2nd Timothy 3:1), the prophecy is also given that there will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days. Read acts 2:17-21. The church is to operate in the strength of the Holy Spirit and not in defeat and timidity. An alarm has been given! We now need to accept the challenge and rise to the occasion. Ephesians 5:14 says that we should, "... awake you that sleep; arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." In verse 16 of this same chapter, Paul says that we should, "... redeem the time for the days are evil." The Word of God is trustworthy, so we must begin to operate with confidence, thus fulfilling His dream for all people to be saved and to spend eternity with Him.