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Taking Authority – Teacher’s Guide

Overview

The Taking Authority teaching program is for the Christian who is growing in maturity in Christ Jesus. It is not recommended for new believers. Taking Authority is an absolute necessity for anyone embarking in missions, pastoral, and leadership duties whether it be in small groups or church office. As we will see, the ability to hold the “rod of Moses” and command Jehovah God is dependent on our right standing with the Lord, knowledge of the Word and depth of faith. However, it is the birthright and intended privilege for every born again Christian to wield the rod.

In past times, this stage of learning might have been referred to as the “deeper life.” Yet, it is the Lord’s will that every Christian be perfect in Christ Jesus. By growing in maturity we not only glorify God and bear much fruit, but we position ourselves to receive the blessings and riches the Lord has prepared for those who love Him.

Format

To understand how we take authority in a world under the power of the Devil, according to Scripture, we must first understand the will of God for redeemed men and women. The program, therefore, starts with a review of God’s purpose in creating man and the purpose of redemption. From the very beginning we learn it was God’s will for man to take authority and subdue all His creations.

However, the first Adam transgressed and brought sin and death into the world. Thus it would be the second Adam, Christ Jesus that would accomplish God’s purposes (1 Corinthians 15:47). And it would be the ministry of Christ, the first born among many brethren, that all believers would be called to imitate.

The book, *The Authority of the Believer* by J. A. MacMillan (on the LLGMIN.com website in PDF format for download) is required reading prior to taking this program. Additional recommended reading includes the book *Roaring Lion* by Robert Peterson, available on Amazon.com.

Introduction – The world in which we live

By Michael McPherson

One just has to read about terror and mass murder - of children in schools, people in churches, movie theaters and places thought safe - to know this is the result of sin and the work of the Devil who lives to kill and destroy. There is a hierarchy of evil powers at work influencing the passions of man, unrest and conflict in the world. The Bible declares that Satan exists and possesses great power and influence over the activities of man. A spirit of fear pervades the communities, and men look to their leaders for answers; but not to God.

Someone might ask, "Why does God permit these tragedies, can't he prevent them?" The reason he permits, dear friend, is to remind man of his sinful nature, and the need to repent unto God. The Scriptures clearly state there will be an "increase in wickedness" (Matthew 24:12) until the Lord Jesus returns. The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not bring peace to the earth, but divides sinners and saints; the sons of God and the sons of Satan.

The Scriptures tell us that all men are blinded and under the rule and influence of the Devil. Thus they are condemned and rightly so. And it is only by the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus and God the Father why doomed men can be saved.

Christ came to save God's people from their sins, and to purify a people for His own. All power, including death was taken from Satan and given over to the Lord, the Scriptures state. The evil one is a vanquished foe, yet he still roams, devouring whom he may until the Day of Judgment.

Reverend J. A. MacMillan gives us another answer to "Why does God permit this or that condition?" "God has planned that man shall, through the out-working of Redemption, regain the place of authority in creation that he has lost. Through the teaching of the Word, He replies: "My children, rebuke the enemy yourselves. The authority over him is yours. Its responsibility I have committed to you."

In this time and hour, men and women of God are to continue the work of Christ. We are to take authority over principalities and powers, to bring light to dark places. We advance the Kingdom of God, bringing men out of death into life. Our weapons are not carnal, but mighty: proclamation of the Gospel, intercessory prayer and our testimony and witness of the living God.

It is the birthright of every born again Christian to be a priest unto the Lord. And as a priest we have the right to hold the rod, as did Moses against the Amalekites, to overcome the enemies of God.

We have the power to rebuke and bind the Devil and his demons. Authority is given us to thwart the physical, mental and spiritual attacks he wields against the sons and daughters of the Most High. But this doesn't happen automatically.

Every Christian must first grow into the fullness of knowledge and righteousness of Christ. This happens when we abide in Christ; in union in His death, His burial and His resurrection. Then, we are to clothe ourselves with the full armor of God. Now we are prepared for battle against the enemy. And once prepared, God has said victory is ours. "Be strong and of a good courage, and none shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life."

The Redeemed Man

Growing into the fullness of Christ is a process, like growing from a child to an adult. Some mature faster than others, as each experiences God in a different manner. However, there is a path most Christians historically have followed. It is not the order of events that is important, but the end result which brings us into the fullness of Christ.

The Redeemed Man

Repentance

Belief

Born Again

The Word

The Test of Faith

The Cross

The Reckoning

Baptism of the Spirit

Full Armor of God

Taking Authority

Ministry of the Son of God

Walking in the Spirit

First we came to an awareness of our need for God, which eventually led to Godly repentance and belief on the Lord Jesus Christ and God Almighty. Through the grace of the Lord we experienced the miracle of the new birth. The Lord witnessed to our souls that we were forgiven of sin and we knew we had changed. Suddenly, there was no desire for things that previously satisfied and gave us pleasure. We had a deep desire for the Lord and to know His Word.

As we grew in knowledge, and heard the voice of Jesus, we became sensitive to the things of God and wept out of joy, appreciation and love. “Amen and amen” came constantly from our mouths. We were like antelope prancing on high as we experienced this new freedom and fellowship with the Most High. We wanted to shout from the rooftop so everyone could hear, “God is real!”

Then trials, tribulations and temptation came. Periods where our faith was tested. It seemed we were stuck in our Christian journey, questions came and even periods of doubt. We became more aware of the depth of sin in our bodies. “Why are these ghastly thoughts still assailing my mind?” was the question. We hated the sin and dispositions of our old self.

We wanted the peace and joy we experienced when we first came to know Christ. Then it was back to the Word. There we learned the Lord was pushing us to the next phase of our growth. To the Cross we had to go, to be in union with Christ Jesus. Our minds had to be renewed and this involved reckoning, or seeing ourselves on the back of the Cross with Jesus.

When he died so did we, to our dispositions and desires. When he was buried so were we, to the lusts of the world. And when he was resurrected to the right hand of the Father, so were we, to take authority over principalities and powers.

As our minds were renewed and we committed ourselves to be in union with Christ Jesus, to abide in him, the Spirit of the Lord filled us anew. “This house is God’s house, no demon, no devil shall enter it!” we shouted with righteous indignation. More discernment came and we realized what we thought was rebellion in our children, or attitudes in our spouses, or unfair treatment at the office, or godlessness at church, was the work of the Devil acting through men.

Quietly, we uttered simple words, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you demon and command you to leave.” Suddenly, the rebellion left the children, the spouse became amicable and peace came at work. Then we left Godless places of worship; for the clean shall have nothing to do with the unclean.

Excited at what the Lord had done, we dug deeper into the Word. Every day we had to be equipped with wisdom for both protection and a sword of truth against the enemy.

The desire to be holy as He is holy was becoming real. More discernment came and you saw the world as it really is. You perceived that behind all the systems and things in the world that we take for granted, were the forces of evil; even the “American dream.”

You realized the constant barrage of things that entice men to fulfill their desires, to express themselves, and to do what makes them happy, brought them further away from God and into defilement. For the essence of sin is a desire to please oneself, to do what is right in one’s own mind; rather than obey God.

Entertainment reflected the filth and vileness of man’s corrupted spirit. Politics divided, drugs killed, every produce of society could addict man’s soul, and thousands of antichrists were everywhere. Terror and murder invaded quiet communities thought safe. You saw the darkness in the world.

The burden of Christ had already been upon us, a burden for those who are perishing. Christ had shared his heart with us earlier in our journey. We had witnessed before and had been used by God, but now the Lord wanted us to go further in battle.

The gifts he had bestowed upon us were evident and clear. Some were to be pastors, some teachers, some evangelists, some healers of the Body. Now equipped and prepared, His Spirit led and we walked according to His steps. Not by ego or personal interest, but by His will and a desire to please Him. “Let not my will be done but thy will, heavenly Father.”

Praise God for what he has done. Day by day, hour by hour we yield to Him and walk not by sight but by the Spirit. Perfect? Not a chance, but grounded in love for God we bring light to dark places, cover our family, and bring good news so that some may be saved for the glory of God.

Amen.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In the Beginning

Why did God create man?

- To rule and subdue the creations of God
- Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1:26 (NIV)
- Psalm 8:5 – "Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Was God's purpose in creating man achieved?

- It was achieved, is being achieved and will be achieved. It was achieved through Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18) who was given authority over all God's creations, the first born of many brethren (Romans 8:29).
- It is being achieved through the repentance of men and women who surrender to God and are being conformed into the image of Christ and are called joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).
- And it will be achieved when the Son of God returns to put all enemies under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Why did the Lord Jesus come to earth?

- To save the repentant from their sins and prepare God's people.
- Matthew 1:21 – "He will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
- Titus 2:14 – "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do good works."
- The Son of God became incarnate, not merely that He might save men from their sins, but also that He might bring man to that place of dominion over the works of God which was planned in the counsels of eternity.

Was Christ's purpose in coming to earth achieved?

- Yes. (Romans 5:6-10) "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."
- (Romans 8:34) – "Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."
- (Hebrews 7:25) – "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."
- (Hebrews 9:24) – "For Christ did not enter a man-made copy of the true sanctuary, but He entered heaven itself, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God."
- (Romans 8:16) – "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children"
- (2 Corinthians 5:5) – "And God has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come."
- (Ephesians 1:4) – "The Spirit is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory."
- (Romans 8:23) – "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

Who is the spiritual enemy of man and what is his purpose?

- Satan, the Devil. His purpose is to kill and destroy man. He had determined to take the place of God before he was cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:13-14). He is now called the god of earth and ruler of unrepentant men.
- (2 Thessalonians 2:4) - "He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."
- (2 Corinthians 4:4) - "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God."
- (1 John 5:19) – "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

- (1 Peter 5:8) – “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- (Revelation 12:7-12) – “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him... But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”
- (John 8:44) – “You belong to your father the devil, and you want to carry out the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and has never stood for truth, since there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.”

What are the Lord’s promises for his people against the enemy?

- (Psalm 89:21-26) – “so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation

COMMENTARY

(1 Corinthians 15:24): “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him that God may be all in all.”

(Matthew 28:18) - “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

(Colossians 2:15) – “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

The Will of God for the Redeemed

What is the lifestyle the redeemed are to live? Why?

- A life of holiness, continual purification and growth in the knowledge of God
- (Leviticus 19:2) – “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”
- (Matthew 5:48) – “You shall be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.” The word “perfect” used here has the Greek definition of “complete in all parts, fully grown, mature.” What the Lord is saying is that the will of God for every born again Christian is to grow in maturity to the fullness of knowledge of God Almighty and be conformed to the likeness and image of Christ.
- (1 Peter 1:16-17) – “...for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives in reverent fear during your temporary stay on earth.”
- (2 Corinthians 7:1)- “Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God”
- (1 Peter 2:11-12) – “Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against your soul. Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us”
- (1 Peter 2:13) – “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to the king as the supreme authority, or to governors as those sent by him to punish evildoers and praise well doers. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men.”
- (1 Peter 2:21-23) – “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps: “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” When they heaped abuse on Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats, but entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.”

What are all redeemed, born again men and women, called to do by Christ?

- The universal commandment is to “follow” Him. “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, My servant will be as well. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:26)

- Next, He calls us to be a witness of Christ. (1 Peter 2:9) - “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”

COMMENTARY

(Colossians 3:5-24)

“Put to death, therefore, the components of your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. When you lived among them, you also used to walk in these ways. But now you must put aside all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.”

“Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all and is in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”

“Bear with each other and forgive any complaint you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body.”

“And be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and fear of the Lord.

“Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Whoever does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.”

The Ministry of Christ

What does it mean to follow Christ?

- The Lord tells us that to follow Him, means we must obey and love him more than anything else in the world. You are to sacrifice your personal desires, even your life for Him. (Luke 9:23) “Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- Using the negative, he says no one can call themselves Christian (defined as a follower of Christ) if they do not follow Him. “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26-27)
- The Greek definition of “disciple” is mathētēs (from math-, the "mental effort needed to think something through") – properly, a learner; a disciple, a follower of Christ who learns the doctrines of Scripture and the lifestyle they require.
- In the New Testament we see the word “Christian” used in Acts 14:5. The Greek is “Christos” which Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance defines as “a follower of Christ”
- Therefore, if a person is not a follower of Christ as defined by the Lord himself, he cannot lay claim to be a Christian.

Describe the earthly ministry of the Lord

- (Luke 4:18-21) – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- To save His people from their sins, the Lord preached the good news, that when Adam sinned all sinned and that God had decreed the soul that sins must die. Yet, the mercy and grace of our Lord has come so the spiritual blindness that covers the minds of men, set upon them by the god of this world, Satan, may be removed. And once removed, men can see and understand the glorious grace of the Lord and repent so their lives may be saved. And to demonstrate the grace and power of the Lord the people would be healed, demons would be exorcised, and sins would be forgiven. And the propitiation for sin, to satisfy the penalty of sin, would be the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the Cross at Calvary. Thus the captives, those who repented, would be set free from death and the bondage of Satan.

- (Matthew 11:15) “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”
- This is the same message foretold by Isaiah that would describe the Messiah: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

What is the ministry all Christians are called to perform?

- We are called to imitate the ministry of Christ. (Ephesians 5:1) “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”
- In Isaiah 58:5-10 the Lord describes what he calls acceptable worship. This worship is in essence the calling for every believer that imitates the ministry of Christ:
- “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?...If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday... you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

COMMENTARY

Discernment is needed here to see the remarkable message given by God Himself to the Israelites which details acceptable worship. This message is the calling for every believer. It describes how we are to imitate Christ as priests of the Most High.

Believers are called to free the oppressed from the bondages of wickedness and break the forces that yoke or keep the people in captivity. The bread is the Word of God and the hungry, naked and homeless are lost people. They are repentant sinners seeking the Kingdom of God. Believers are called to cover these (as intercessors) and not to hide from them. “Your own flesh” refers to one’s brothers or neighbors. Thus the commandment is fulfilled to love one’s neighbor and brother in Christ as God loves us.

We are commanded to remove the yoke from our midst, which is to rebuke the Devil and cleanse all evil from our own lives. Then we are to pour ourselves out for the lost as Christ poured himself out on the Cross for us. Those that fulfill this calling shall reconcile men unto God, they are repairers of the breach between man and God. They restore man to the position Adam and Eve once held in the Garden of Eden. The redeemed then will dwell in the Kingdom of Heaven forever. These believers that fulfill their calling will be lights in a world of darkness.

The Authority of the Believer

How does a Christian fulfill his calling described in Isaiah 58:5-10?

- It begins by abiding in Christ. Then we must seek, have a desire to receive, all that God has purposed and provided through Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).
- It is ours, as individual members of the body, to seek that the authority of Christ shall come with full acceptance into our spirits. It is not enough to know and acknowledge that He is our fullness; there must be as well the apprehension of the complementary truth that we are also His fullness (See Ephesians 1: 23)
- Christians are called heirs of God, and "joint heirs with Christ" (Romans 8: 17) which affords us certain privileges and authority

What authority is given to the Christian?

- To be a priest unto the Most High and reign on earth
- (Revelation 1:6) – "...and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."
- (Revelation 5:10) – "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."
- (Exodus 19:6) – "And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."
- (1 Peter 2:5) – "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
- (Ephesians 2:10) – "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life." – These "good works" refer to the works of Christ in His ministry, as we are to be imitators of Christ. It does not, in this context, refer to general good deeds that even the heathen can do. (Matthew 5:46). Even though it is accepted that the Christian will be kind and generous. However, kindness and generosity are not the signs of a genuine Christian, but he who follows Christ.

What power is given to the Christian?

- To have dominion over principalities and powers, oneself, and to witness for Christ with power (effect). She will also have the protection of God against all things and be able to wield the power of God according to His will.
- (Exodus 14:15-16) “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. “As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.”
- (Matthew 21:21) - "And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen."
- (Acts 8:4-8) – “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. The crowds gave their undivided attention to Philip’s message and the signs they saw him perform. With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, and many of the paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city”
- (Luke 10:17) – “The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”
- (John 14:12) – “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”
- (Matthew 28:19) – ““Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,”
- (Mark 16:15) – ““Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well.”
- (Acts 1:8) – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

What is the Christian’s posture against the Devil?

- He is to have dominion over the defeated enemy. (Romans 16:20) –“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”
- (James 4:7) – “So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- (Ephesians 6:16) – “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;”
- (Ephesians 2:6) – “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,” Seated with Christ he imbues us with his strength and His power to defeat the enemies of God.
- (Ephesians 1:3) – “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ”

Is Authority a prayer?

- Authority is not prayer, though the worker who prays can alone exercise authority

Is Authority something only a few Christians can realize and experience?

- The purpose of the Father provides that each child of His may be a sharer of the throne and the authority of His risen and exalted Son. Over all the power of the enemy this authority extends. It is the believer's right to bind and loose in the name of Him who has appointed him. As the Psalm states it, God is Himself the Victory of the believer's countenance, so that he fears neither man, nor spirit, nor opposing circumstance (Psalm 44:3).
- It is the duty and privilege of every Christian to understand and enter into the divine desire for our perfecting, and to claim the place with Christ, both in His cross and resurrection and ascension, that the Father has appointed.

According to the Scriptures what is necessary for a Christian to wield the power of God as in the “rod of Moses?”

- Union with Christ Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection
- The believer does this through the renewing of one's mind; which is the reckoning or considering of oneself as abiding in Christ (seeing it, acknowledging it, living it). This will open the resurrection power of Christ in the Spirit-filled believer.
- The Apostle Paul states, “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, so that I may somehow attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:10)
- All who are raised up with Christ, and who have accepted the death of the cross, and the burial of the tomb, may attain the resurrection power of which Paul speaks. For them there is a fellowship with the Risen Christ in a larger sense than others know. To them the powers of darkness yield wherever their authority is exerted.

- The believer's acceptance of his seat with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2: 6) "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion," provides him with authority and power for full victory, so long as he maintains his place, wearing the defensive armor, and wielding the offensive weapons.
- A firm and positive refusal that the enemy shall have any right to work in the life, or the body, or the circumstances, will bring the foe to a standstill. And, as this attitude is maintained in quiet faith, a change will come, and the attacks will lose their force.

What conditions must be met by the Christian to take authority?

- The study and knowledge of the Word
- The Holy Spirit comes into these individual members in order to bring them into unity with the will and purposes of the Head
- Thus, unless the Word richly indwells for the instruction of the mind, the Spirit of God, although present in His fullness, has nothing to work upon.
- The impulses of the Head cannot be translated by Him into appropriate action through the Body, but are often like the immature motions of a child. The Head is thereby hindered because the Body has not grown up into the stature of a perfect man

How does a Christian command the lord?

- We proclaim in the **name of Jesus Christ** (John 14:13; 16:23; 15:7; 15:16, Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:14).
- "In the name of the Lord Jesus, I rebuke these [lying] spirits"
- "In the name of Jesus Christ I resist thee Satan" (spoken against personal attacks)
- "When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." (Mark 9:25)
- "And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour." (Acts 16:18)
- "The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan!" (Zechariah 3:2)

- “But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9)
- There may be unwillingness and delay on their part, and time may be required. But, once the word of authority is spoken, it is not necessary to repeat it. The believer must "stand" (Ephesians 6:13), and strengthen himself in God as he waits. He will learn with joy, as did the disciples of old, that "even the demons are subject unto us through thy name."

What are the signs of the works of Satan?

- A great and aggressive warfare is being waged against the Church and the world by unseen and powerful foes. The opposition is veiled, but it is real, and it is sometimes tremendous. Because its source is unrecognized, it is the more effective.
- However, the methods and evidences of the work of the Devil and his demons are well known, and have not changed over thousands of years.
- He is the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33); sends the spirit of fear; is the father of lies and deception; and the author of rebellion and dissension. When we observe such activity, whether in others or in ourselves (e.g., fear, confusion, or anger) beware and be alert.
- One of the oldest tactics of the Devil is to take away the fear of God. We observe this tactic in the Garden of Eden, when he persuades Eve that she will not die if she eats the fruit and that God didn't really mean what he said. A sure sign of false teachers, false preachers and false religion (placed by the Devil), is they try to take the fear of God away and nullify the Word. They may tell you there is no Hell, or God is all love, dismissing the wrath of God. Or they preach that no change or repentance is required to worship a holy God; just belief or good deeds. So according to these false teachers a person can walk in darkness, remain in their sins, and have fellowship with a holy God. Satan thus forges chains around the ankles of many, dragging them to perdition.

Describe the elements of the Full Armor of God

- (J.A. MacMillan) –“Let us note briefly the meaning of the various parts of the panoply: no item can be omitted. There is (1) "the **girdle of truth**," the clear understanding of God's Word, which, like a soldier's belt, holds the rest of the armor in place. (2) "The **breastplate of righteousness**," not, as often stated, the righteousness of Christ, but rather the active obedience to the Word which he has received. (3) The "**feet shod** with the preparation of the Gospel of peace," a faithful ministry in the heralding of the Word. (4) "The **shield of faith**" (*thureos*, the large door shaped shield covering the whole body), which indicates his complete refuge under the blood of Calvary, where no power of the enemy can penetrate. (5) "The helmet of salvation" (called elsewhere "the **hope of salvation**," I Thessalonians 5:8). It is a remarkable fact that the hope of salvation, the **coming of the Lord Jesus**, is the only helmet that seems able to protect the head in

these days of **apostasy** from the truth. (6) "The **sword of the Spirit**," which shows the Word of God used in an active sense, even as the "girdle" shows it in a defensive one. [7] "All-prayer," the training of the faculties God ward by constant approach to God."

- "Wherefore take up with you to the battle the whole armor of God, that you may be able to successfully withstand in the evil day, and having overthrown all foes, to remain unshaken." There is no suggestion of defeat. Secure within his armor, the believer may disregard the enemy, and give his entire attention to the exercise of the ministry to which he has been called
- He will encounter a constant stream of accusations in his own heart. These will trouble him, until he discovers that the purpose of the enemy is to turn him in upon himself, and, through the creating of a consciousness of personal unworthiness, draw him down from the place of perfect faith
- He learns to "**overcome him by the blood of the Lamb**" (**Revelation 12:11**). That is to say, he presents the Blood as his only answer to these accusations. "Yes, I'm all those things, but thank God for the Blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses me from all iniquity and unrighteousness! In the name of Jesus Christ I command thee to flee Satan!"
- The Blood represents, not only the cleansing from the guilt and power of sin, but it is also the witness of that overwhelming victory gained at Calvary, by virtue of which the Lord is now seated on high. Once this is grasped, the believer sees that he has not to fight against the foe, but simply to hold over him an already accomplished triumph, the authority of which he shares to the full.
- Let it ever be held in mind that the authority committed to the believer is over the powers of the air, and never over his fellow men or their wills. He is called to bind the unseen forces, but to deliver his brethren.
- Satan's constant aim is the subjugation of the human will to himself; God's' purpose is the full liberation of the will that the freed spirit, through glad acquiescence in the Divine Will, may glorify his Creator.

Who previously held the power of death? (Hebrews 2:14) Who holds it now and what does this mean?

- Satan previously held the power of death over man: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself (Christ) likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil”
- Christ holds the power over death through what he accomplished on the Cross. (2 Timothy 1:10). “And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel,”
- This means the child of God has nothing to fear, for our Lord is ruler of all things visible and not visible, and the Devil has no power over us.

Potholes on the path

What are the five things that if a Christian commits them, will forfeit his divine protection and make him vulnerable to the attacks of the Devil?

- (1) Loses humility

While belief thus introduces us to our place of throne-power, only humility will ensure our retaining it. One of the Devil's tested weapons is spiritual pride, and too often it proves effective. With believers, the consuming desire to be independent is something which even the regenerate heart does not fully overcome. Often, just after some signal victory has been gained, there comes the subtle whisper of the enemy, and the overcomer is swiftly shorn of strength through feeling that he is strong. "Wherefore he that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12)

- (2) Sinful anger

There is an intimate connection between sinful anger and the prince of evil, and sustained wrath will surely open the door to his entrance. (Ephesians 4:26) – "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."

- (3) Walks in the way of the ungodly

Walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. (Psalm 1:1) – "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

When people come to know Christ we must with boldness help them get rid of everything connected with their heathen past.

"Come out from among them and be ye separate, touch not the unclean thing" (2 Corinthians 6:17)

- (4) Idolatry

Steer clear of anything pertaining to idolatry. When the Christian fails to heed this exhortation he forfeits the blessing of God and leaves himself open to his adversary the Devil. Idolatry appears to be the tools of demons. Through idolatry they gain the worship they crave.

Those with idols in their hearts are at danger as well – "I, the LORD, will answer all those, both Israelites and foreigners, who reject me and set up idols in their hearts and so fall into sin... I will turn against such people and make a terrible example of them, eliminating them from among my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 14:7-8))

Covetousness, is considered idolatry. Any hobby, personal interest, sport, job, activity or loved one that occupies a place in your heart higher than Christ is an idol. Be cognizant of desires for power, politics, dissension, prosperity, or fornication. Behind such drives can be the demons

described in the Old Testament; Baal, Moloch and Ashtoreth. For the Christian, the Lord must be first in all things. “Little children keep yourself from idols (1 John 5.21).

There are some who in error, for example, ascribe their personal desires to hold position or political office, or for success, as a “calling” from the Lord. They believe, or tell themselves that once the goal is met they can do many good things for others.

However, in many cases the “calling” is not from God but from the Devil. It is an entrapment in gross idolatry. Ask yourself, “Does this desire lead to the glorification of Jesus Christ and holiness?” Or does it lead to personal gain and achievement? The Lord does not need your money or positions of power to accomplish His will. He uses those who are humble in stature, who know their unworthiness, and acknowledge they have no strength. Then and only then can God get the glory for nothing is attested to the effort or will of the man.

If your passion for an activity exceeds your love for the Lord – this is idolatry. And your heart will grow cold to the things of the Lord.

The Scriptures state the heart is deceitful and only the Lord can know it. Satan's constant aim is the subjugation of the human will to himself. Anything which leads to the exaltation of men is not from God but from Satan.

- (5) Yields to sins of the flesh

“Believers are open to attacks by evil spirits because they have in most cases unwittingly fulfilled the conditions upon which evil spirits work. Such attacks are the outcome of yielding to sins of the flesh, or any sin which gives evil spirits a hold in the fallen nature.” – Mrs. Penn-Lewis

Any willful sin invites every other sin. Thus when conscience is disobeyed and known sin willfully given access to the mind and heart, the protection of truth (Christ) is weakened or withdrawn and some spirit of evil may gain lodgment.

What are some of the “wiles” of the Devil that he uses to deceive seekers of God and lead them into perdition?

- *Exalts man.* One of the wiles of the Devil is to make the power of the Gospel seem like it comes from a man and not from the Lord. He makes the messenger a “god” which is what the people tried to do with Paul when he tore his garments in Lystra (Acts 14:11). We see this situation with celebrity preachers, “healing preachers,” cult leaders and denominations with exalted religious leaders. The people in essence now follow a man and not Christ. In this situation the man is feared but not necessarily heeded – such is the subtlety of Satan which leads men into idolatry and error.
- *Psychic services* viewed as entertainment or harmless are in actuality entrapments with the demonic. Ouija Boards, Palm reading, Tarot cards, séances, fortune telling, hypnotism, astrology, witchcraft, all involve summoning demons. Christians should have nothing to do with such things.

- (Leviticus 19:26) – “You are not to eat anything containing blood, engage in occult practices, or practice fortune telling”
- (Leviticus 19:31) – “Don't turn to psychics or mediums to get help. That will make you unclean. I am the LORD your God.”
- (Deuteronomy 18:10) – “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,”
- Good luck charms, images of Buddha, when used as charms or idols become a channel for the activity of evil spirits (*Roaring Lion*, Robert Peterson)
- Engaging in the traditions of men has led many into error. There are Christians that are members of Freemason societies that engage in ceremonies that pray to a “universal god” or “supreme being” alongside Muslims, Jews and others of various deistic faiths.
- These other members of their lodge deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, per their religion, and according to the Scriptures are antichrists (1 John 2:22). Therefore, the Christian prays alongside “sons of the Deceiver” – the Devil. (2 John 1:7). In these ceremonies the Christian is not worshipping Jehovah God, Father of Jesus Christ, but the Devil himself. **Satan gains worship of millions of intelligent people through counterfeit systems of truth, persuading them he does not exist.** Satan spares no effort in his desire for worship. He even sought the worship of the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:7).

God's warning is clear, “Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,” (1 Corinthians 6:17). Such a person who knows the Word and still participates in such ceremonies, has rebelled against the Word of God and forfeits divine protection and fellowship. He has found himself in gross sin.

What makes a Christian powerless to rebuke the Devil and demons?

- The Christian is powerless to cast out demons if he harbors sin in his life – he must confess sin and ask the Lord to cleanse his heart
- He must also banish all fear if he is to expect a victory over evil spirits – a sense of fear will result in diminished power
- Ask the Lord to take away all doubt and stand on the promise “greater is he in you than he that is in the world” (1 John 4.4) – renew your courage and strength. “...the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6-8)

- The armor of the Lord must be worn at all times, for the enemy only mocks when we try to do battle in our own strength. In victory give glory to God. In defeat, seek the reason why.
- (Ephesians 6:10-17)- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world’s darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

“Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

What are the reasons why a Christian missionary may experience defeat against the Devil?

- Exaltation of the Christian in the eyes of the heathen to be a sort of “god.” Brother Peterson in his missionary work abroad states, “As long as this was the case, we would be powerless in our personal conflict with the foe.”
- Defeat is assured when the battlefield is on Satan’s ground. Brother Peterson details stories of attending ceremonies at places of demonic worship. In these places, the nesting place of evil, idols and objects of idolatrous worship attracted the spirits and kept them in a frenzy of activity.
- One of the hard lessons that must be learned by every seeker after the deeper life in Christ is that each new appropriation of heavenly grace and knowledge brings him often into a more subtle conflict
- These spiritual enemies oppose every forward step of the overcomer; they will seek to confuse his mind, sometimes drawing him into error, or into extravagance in doctrine. They may even attack him in body, or in circumstances, or through his family or his friends.
- In the same manner today, by both inward and outward means, "the wiles of the devil" are directed to rendering fruitless the life and service of the individual Christian and of the aggressive church.
- The believer’s acceptance of his seat with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2: 6) "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion," provides him with authority and power for full victory, so long as he maintains his place, wearing the defensive armor, and wielding the offensive weapons

What conditions must be met for the Christian to have victory over the Devil?

- He must be a genuine, born again, Holy Ghost sanctified child of God
- He must have a clean heart (no unconfessed sin) – the lord will not hear you if there is iniquity in your heart. The person must confess all sin and be in right standing or fellowship with the Lord.
- Strong faith. Lack of faith, which is unbelief, brings defeat. You must know that victory is sure and have no doubts. True believers whose hearts are right find that the demons fear and flee from their presence.
- Must be fearless. A fearful heart goes hand in hand with unbelief. A strong faith gives courage which the demon respects. A weak faith produces fear, which the demon recognizes and takes advantage of. (Mark 4.40) – “Why are you so afraid?” He [Jesus] asked. “Do you still have no faith?”
- You must persevere in prayer and fasting before victory is realized (Mark 9.29)
- Resist the Devil (James 4.7). Not in your own strength but in Christ. Flee to the Rock and refuse to do battle in your own strength.
- Must accept Christ as Lord of our lives not just Lord of our salvation
- There must be a new and continuous awakening to the meaning of Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). A daily recognition of the indwelling Christ and that he is sufficient for every need and will give us strength and courage to stand against the wiles of the Devil.
- Satan and all his cohorts is a defeated army because of what the Lord accomplished on the Cross. All occult powers are made powerless by Jesus. Have the knowledge and assurance that Christ can never be defeated by Satan
- The possessed (those in bondage that we are attempting to set free) must completely surrender to Jesus without reservation. No man can serve two masters.
- As we yield to God’s direction (obedience) we enjoy complete protection and immunity against the assaults of the agents of evil
- As our faith learns to use the Name and the Authority of Jesus, we shall find the spiritual forces yielding obedience in ways that will surprise us, As we continue to abide closely in Him, our prayers for the advancement of the Kingdom will become less and less the uttering of petitions, and will increasingly manifest the exercise of a spiritual authority that recognizes no national boundaries, but fearlessly binds the forces of darkness in any part of the world.

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