

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MNISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
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**SESSION 94 –**  
**THE BELIEVER’S AUTHORITY - PART 2**

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**Seated With Christ**

**Matthew 28:18** is another verse where the word "authority" should have been used instead of "power." In the King James Version it reads, *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* It should read, *"ALL AUTHORITY is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*

When Christ ascended, He transferred His authority to the Church. He is the Head of the Church, and believers make up the Body. Christ's authority has to be perpetuated through His Body, which is on the earth. (Throughout Ephesians and elsewhere in the epistles, Paul uses the human body as an illustration of the Body of Christ.)

Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father—the place of authority—and we're seated with Him. If you know anything about history, you know that to sit at the right hand of the king or pope means authority. We died with Christ, and we were raised with Him. This is not something God is going to do in the future; He already has done it!

**God's Mightiest Work**

**EPHESIANS 1:18-23**

*"18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,  
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,  
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places,  
21 Far above all principality, 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:  
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,  
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."*

Notice especially the **nineteenth verse**: *"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power."* In other words, there was such an overwhelming display of God's power in raising Jesus from the dead that this actually was the mightiest work of God ever recorded!

The Resurrection was opposed by Satan and all his cohorts. However, his forces were confused and defeated by our Lord Jesus Christ, who arose, ascended, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, far above them.

Remember the text in **Colossians 2:15**? *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he [Christ] made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it [His death, burial, and resurrection]."*

These are the same demonic powers we have to deal with, but thank God, Jesus defeated them. Other translations say He "put them to nought" or "paralyzed them."

In ancient times, victorious kings bringing back captives would have a parade, making a show of them openly. Jesus did this with the devil, putting him on display before three worlds— heaven, hell, and earth—after He defeated him. God gave us this account in the Scriptures so we in this world would know what had happened.

God wants us to know what happened in the death, burial, resurrection, and seating of Jesus Christ. He wants us to know that He has set Christ *"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named...."* (**Eph. 1:21**).

### **The Source of Our Authority**

The source of our authority is found in this resurrection and exalting of Christ by God. Notice in the eighteenth verse that the Holy Spirit through Paul prays that the eyes of the Ephesians' understanding—their spirits—might be opened to these truths. He wanted all churches—all believers—to be enlightened. The truth of the authority of the believer, however, is overlooked by many Christians. In fact, most churches don't even know the believer has any authority!

You never will understand the authority of the believer only with your intellect; you must get the spiritual revelation of it. You must believe it by faith.

### **EPHESIANS 2:1-7**

***“1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;  
2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,  
according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the  
children of disobedience:  
3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our  
flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the  
children of wrath, even as others.  
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,  
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by  
grace ye are saved;)  
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in  
Christ Jesus:  
7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in  
his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”***

In the first verse we read, ***"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."*** Here the Holy Spirit is saying through Paul, "According to the working of the strength of His might when He raised Him from the dead and you when you were dead."

You see, the same verb in **Ephesians 1:20** that expresses the reviving of Christ from the dead expresses the reviving of His people in **Ephesians 2:1**. In other words, the act of God that raised Christ from the dead also raised His Body. In the mind of God, when Jesus was raised from the dead, we were raised from the dead!

Further into the second chapter we read, ***"Even when we were dead in sins, [He] hath quickened us together with Christ,.. .And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"*** (**vv. 5,6**). This passage deals with the conferring of this authority.

Notice that the Head (Christ) and the Body (the Church) were raised together. Furthermore, this authority was conferred not only upon the Head, but also upon the Body, because the Head and the Body are one. (When you think of a person, you think of his head and body as one.)

As far as I know, churches believe that we were raised up together with Christ. Why don't they believe that we've been made to sit together with Him? If part of this verse is so, the whole verse is so.

If the Church ever gets the revelation that we are the Body of Christ, we'll rise up and do the works of Christ! Until now, we've been doing them only in a limited manner.

When we realize that the authority that belongs to Christ also belongs to individual members of the Body of Christ and is available to us, our lives will be revolutionized!

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14,27**

***“12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. [We are the body of Christ]***

***13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.***

***14 For the body is not one member, but many ...***

***27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”***

Thank God we are the Body of Christ!

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:14,15**

***“14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?***

***15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”***

The believer is called "righteousness," and the unbeliever is called "unrighteousness." The believer is called "light," and the unbeliever, "darkness." The believer is called "Christ," and the unbeliever, "Belial."

**Seated With Christ**

**First Corinthians 6:17** says, ***"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."*** We are one with Christ. We are in Christ. We are seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. All things have been put under our feet.

The trouble with us is that we've preached a "cross" religion, and we need to preach a "throne" religion. By that I mean that people have thought they were supposed to remain at

the cross. Some have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, have backed up to the cross, and have stayed there ever since.

We've sung "Near the cross, near the cross." Yes, we need to come by the cross for salvation, but we don't need to remain there; let's go on to Pentecost, the Ascension, and the throne!

The cross is actually a place of defeat, whereas the Resurrection is a place of triumph. When you preach the cross, you're preaching death, and you leave people in death. We died all right, but we're raised with Christ. We're seated with Him. Positionally, that's where we are right now: We're seated with Christ in the place of authority in heavenly places.

Many Christians know nothing about the authority of the believer. They really don't believe we have any authority. They believe they're barely saved and they must go through life being dominated by the devil while living on Barely-Get-Along Street. They magnify the devil more than they do God.

We need to be delivered from the bondage of death and walk in the newness of life. We're not at the cross. We died with Christ, but He has raised us up together with Him. Glory to God, learn how to take your place of authority.

*The right hand of the throne of God is the center of power of the whole universe!* Exercising the power of the throne was committed to the resurrected Lord.

We know that Christ with His resurrected physical body is there in full possession of His rights, awaiting the Father's time when His enemies shall be made His footstool. Hebrews 1:13 says, ***"But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?"***

The elevation of Christ's people with Him into the heavenlies clearly points to the fact that we are to sit with Him, sharing not only His throne but also His authority. That authority belongs to us!

No wonder Paul said, writing to the Romans, ***"For if by one man's offence [spiritual] death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ"*** (Rom. 5:17).

Several translations, including The Amplified Bible, say "reign as kings in life." Are we just going to reign when we get to heaven? No! We're to reign as kings in life by Jesus Christ.

That's authority, isn't it? Whatever the king said was law; he was the last authority. We partake of the authority that Christ's throne represents.

Some of us have exercised a little more authority over the powers of the air than others because we have a little more spiritual comprehension, but God wants all of us to have that spiritual comprehension.

## **Maintaining Balance**

The Holy Spirit prayed through Paul that we all might have wisdom, understanding, and authority over the demonic powers and the problems they create through their constant manipulation of men's minds.

It seems like it's the most difficult thing in the world for the Church to stay balanced. You can take any subject—including the authority of the believer—push it to the extreme, and it becomes harmful and ceases to bless.

"Father Divine" was once saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. He had the real thing. Then he began studying these very Scriptures we have been studying. He reasoned, "If we are Christ, then I am Christ. Christ is God, so I am God." He founded a cult that was very popular. The people worshiped him. It's easy to get into the ditch on either side of the road—into excess, wild fire, and fanaticism. Let's go down the middle of the road and maintain balance.

John Alexander Dowie, a Scotsman who received a revelation about divine healing while ministering before the turn of the century in Australia, crossed the ocean many times during his lifetime. He encountered many storms, but said every time a storm came up, he did what Jesus did: He rebuked the storm and it always ceased.

We should not be amazed by this, because Jesus said, ***"...He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father"*** (John 14:12). Someone will ask what the "greater works" are. Well, let's just do the works Jesus did first and then think about the "greater works" later!

Jesus didn't say that only a select few would do these works; He said those who believe on Him would. As we study what the Word of God teaches and educate our spirits about the authority of the believer, I believe we'll be able to walk in this great truth more and more.

## **Breaking the Power of the Devil**

We see in **Ephesians 6:12** that *"..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"* [a marginal note calls them "wicked spirits in the heavenlies"].

The Word of God teaches us that these evil spirits are fallen angels who have been dethroned by the Lord Jesus Christ. Our contact with these demons should be with the knowledge that Jesus defeated them, spoiled them, put them to nought (**Col. 2:15**). And now that Jesus has dethroned them, we can reign over them!

### **Adam's Treason**

Originally, God made the earth and the fullness thereof, giving Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. In other words, Adam was the god of this world. Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan, and Satan, through Adam, became the god of this world. Adam didn't have the moral right to commit treason, but he had the legal right to do so.

Now Satan has a right to be here and be the god of this world until "Adam's lease" runs out. Satan had the right to rule over us until we became new creatures and got into the Body of Christ, as we see in **Colossians 1:12,13**). *"Giving thanks unto the Father... Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son...."*

That's why Satan has no right to rule us or dominate us. Yet the average Christian has more faith in Satan's authority and power than in God's!

The Bible not only talks about the first man Adam, but also about the second Adam, Jesus Christ, who became our Substitute. In **First Corinthians 15:45**, He's called *"the last Adam,"* and in the **47th verse** He's called *"the second man."* All that Jesus did He did for us.

Our trouble is that we relegate everything to the future! Most church people believe we will exercise our spiritual authority sometime in the Millennium. If that is so, why does the Bible say Satan will be bound during the Millennium? There won't be any need to exercise authority then, because there will be nothing here that will hurt or destroy.

### **Authority Now**

It's now, when there is something that will hurt and destroy, that we have authority. But many people believe we can't have much of anything now. They think Satan's running

everything down here. We must remember, however, that although we are in the world, we are not of the world. Satan's running a lot of what is here on earth, but he's not running me. He's not running the Church. He's not dominating us. We can dominate him. We have authority over him!

Jesus said, *"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy: and nothing [nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing] shall by any means hurt you"* (Luke 10:19).

Does the Church in this century have less authority than it did right after Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and seating at the Father's right hand? If it has less authority today, it would have been better for Jesus not to have died. But no, bless God, we **have** authority.

We need to build these truths into our lives by meditating and feeding upon them until they become a part of our consciousness. Naturally speaking, we eat certain foods every day because doctors tell us we need certain vitamins, minerals, etc., to build strong bodies. There are spiritual "vitamins" and "minerals," so to speak, we need to take every day, too, to be healthy Christians.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, *"...ALL POWER is given unto ME in heaven and in earth."* All the authority that can be exercised upon the earth has to be exercised through the Church, because Christ is not here in person—in His physical body.

We are the Body of Christ. Even though we have prayed, "Now, Lord, You do this and that," leaving everything up to Him, He has conferred His authority on the earth to His Body, the Church. Thus, many problems exist because we permit them to - we're not doing anything about them. We're the ones who are supposed to do something about them, but we're trying to get someone else, including God, to do something about them.

This became real to a preacher years ago when he was studying along this line. He couldn't explain it in his mind, but he knew it in his spirit. He began to understand this authority we have. While praying for his older brother's salvation, he heard the Lord, in his spirit, challenge him. The Lord said, "You do something about it!"

He had been praying for his brother's salvation for many years. He was what you would call the "black sheep" of the family. In spite of the preacher's prayers, he seemed to get worse instead of better.



He always had prayed, "God save him." He had even fasted. He was prone to slip back into praying this way, but after the Lord challenged him to do something about it—after He told him that he had the authority—he said, "In the Name of Jesus, I break the power of the devil over my brother's life, and I claim his salvation!"

He gave the order. He didn't keep saying it or praying it. When a king gives an order he knows it is going to be carried out.

The devil tried to tell him that his brother would never be saved, but he shut his mind off and started laughing. He said, "I don't think he'll be saved - I know it! I took the Name of Jesus and broke your power over him and claimed his deliverance and salvation." The preacher went his way whistling. Within ten days, his brother was saved. The Word works!

### **How To Deal With the Devil**

As long as Satan can keep you in unbelief or hold you in the arena of reason, he'll whip you in every battle. But if you'll hold him in the arena of faith and the Spirit, you'll whip him every time. He won't argue with you about the Name of Jesus—he's afraid of that Name.

We have found that the most effective way to pray can be when you demand your rights. That's the way we pray: "I demand my rights!"

Peter at the Gate Beautiful did not pray for the lame man; he demanded that he be healed (Acts 3:6). You're not demanding of God when you demand your rights; you're demanding of the devil.

Jesus made this statement in John 14: **"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do... If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it"** (vv. 13,14). He's not talking about prayer. The Greek word here is "demand," not "ask."

On the other hand, John 16:23,24 is talking about prayer: **"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."** (The Father is mentioned here in connection with prayer, but He isn't mentioned in the passage from John 14.)

The Greek actually reads, **"Whatever you demand as your rights and privileges ...."** You've got to learn what your rights are.

Many years ago, when a man was pastoring a little church in Texas, a woman brought her violently insane sister to the parsonage to be prayed for. Because this woman had tried to kill herself and others, she had been in a padded cell for two years. However, her health had deteriorated, and doctors had recommended a furlough at home for her, because she was no longer considered dangerous.

When her sister introduced the man as a "preacher," scriptures started to roll out of this woman's mouth. She thought she had committed the unpardonable sin. The Lord told the preacher to stand in front of her and say, "Come out, thou unclean devil, in the Name of Jesus!" He did that, but nothing happened. She just sat there looking like a statue.

The preacher knew he had spoken the word of faith. You don't have to stand there all day long and command devils to come out. They're going to do it when you tell them to if you know your authority. They must go once the command is given in faith.

Two days later he was told the woman was having a violent attack similar to the kind she had had when she first lost her mind. This news didn't disturb him. In the Bible we read that when Jesus rebuked the devil in such cases, people would fall and the devil would tear them. He knew the devil was just tearing this woman before he left her for good. The preacher knew she wouldn't have any more spells, and she didn't. The doctors pronounced her normal and sent her home for good. Twenty years later she was happy and healthy, teaching a Sunday School class and working in a business.

### **Faith's Role in Authority**

Faith is involved in exercising spiritual authority. Yes, there are times when evil spirits come out immediately, but if they don't when you speak the word of faith, don't get disturbed about it.

We base our faith on what the Word says. Some people's faith is not based on the Bible because it is based on a manifestation. They operate outside faith in the sense realm. If they get certain manifestations, they think the devil's gone. But he isn't gone just because you get a manifestation. He's still there, and you need to know that and exercise your authority.

When circumstances don't change immediately, some people become discouraged and slip back into the natural. They start talking unbelief and they defeat themselves. They give the devil dominion over them.

As Smith Wigglesworth often said, "I'm not moved by what I see. I'm not moved by what I feel. I'm moved only by what I believe." So, stand your ground.

Before a young man received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, he was a young Baptist pastor. This was during the Depression, and he had a mother and a little brother to help support. His mother's small income paid the utilities, taxes, and insurance. His income bought their food. He owned only one suit and an extra pair of pants. During those Depression days, much stealing went on, and someone stole both pairs of his pants. They were stolen on a Monday, and he was to preach that Thursday. So, he prayed Tuesday as he left his job, "Lord, all I've got is a pair of khakis, and I can't preach in them. They are old work pants." He told the Lord that by Thursday he expected to see his stolen pants hanging right where they had been. He prayed that the person who had stolen them would be so miserable he would have to bring them back.

You see, it's a wrong spirit that makes someone steal. He was dealing with that spirit and not the person, because we have authority over spirits. He commanded the spirit to stop this action. When he came home on Thursday afternoon, he knew those pants would be there, and they were there.

So, we can—and should—rise up against the devil using our authority over him in the name of Jesus.